

DEL NORTE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 2034 • 550 East Washington Blvd., Ste. 400 • Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-9494

March 26, 2021

Mitch Hanna
Sutter Coast Hospital
800 E. Washington Blvd.
Crescent City, CA. 95531

Dear Mitch Hanna:

We are in receipt of your letter regarding our recent newsletter related to the *60 Minutes* story, *The Sutter Effect*. We would like to thank you for reaching out to us and for expressing your feelings.

Unfortunately, our board is not in agreement with your response to our newsletter. In your response, you indicated that we had not raised our concerns with you directly before sending out the newsletter. While we appreciate your desire to collaborate with us in good faith, it is important to note that the issue of inflated fees for services provided by your hospital has been ongoing: in the history of our board meetings and correspondence, we have been extremely direct with you and your board about this particular concern.

You also pointed out the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and stated that the timing of our newsletter was offensive. As we strive to honor our mission in promoting health through education, prevention, and healthcare services to residents of Del Norte County, we strongly feel it is our responsibility to continue to educate and empower the public through information and advocacy. Taking a rest from our mission due to the pandemic is not an option we feel is beneficial.

While we are not in agreement about your views on our newsletter, we do appreciate your devotion to your staff and to your patients and we would like to continue to dialogue with you from that place.

Please feel free to reach out to us to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Del Norte Healthcare District Board of Directors
Kevin Caldwell, M.D., Chair
Mike Young
Elizabeth Austen
Tonya Pearcey, R.N.