



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN DIEGO, CA 92182-4614

August 17, 2004

To: California Performance Review Commission

Re: The Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment Task Force

I urge the Commission to reconsider its decision to eliminate the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment Task Force. This temporary task force is supported by non-governmental health agency funds. Thus no cost savings would be realized by its elimination. Further, the task force is positioned to allow California to be competitive in obtaining a \$1 million annual allocation from the CDC for a comprehensive cardiovascular health program.

As a citizen, I think the burden of paying for health care for victims of stroke and heart disease can be reduced through implementation of a comprehensive cardiovascular health program.

As a professor, I know that the quality of life of our citizens can be improved through implementing the educational programs that would occur as a result of CDC funding.

As a scientist and chair of the AHA research committee for the Western States, I know that the research that has led to our understanding of cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment can be translated into action that will save lives.

Please maintain the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment Task Force. Much is to be gained for California without the need to expend of state funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanford Bernstein', is written below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Sanford Bernstein, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology, San Diego State University
Chair, Research Committee, American Heart Association Western States Affiliate