

CHRIS NIEHAUS

P.O. Box 121
Arcata, CA 95518

November 15, 2017

Hon. Jim Wood
Assembly Member AD 2

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2017. Be assured it will be shared with the members of the **Humboldt Progressive Democrats** at our meeting this evening.

You state in your letter: "I am surprised and disappointed that no one has reached out to me on this." The fact of the matter is that your constituents have gone to great lengths to reach out to you and to engage in dialogue on the matter of health care and SB 562.

There have been demonstrations, town halls, letters to the editor, canvassing of voters by supporters, and hundreds, if not thousands, of phone calls and emails to your office pleading with you to do something, anything, to move the bill along and engage in the act of legislating. Yet, since the unilateral decision of the Speaker to hijack the bill and lock it up within the Rules Committee, where no action on the bill is possible, your position to do nothing to move this bill has not changed.

You state in your letter: "...I am **not** working in opposition to SB 562." (emphasis yours) The fact is, Mr. Wood, you are **not** working to achieve passage of SB 562. As Deborah Burger, a registered nurse and one of your constituents wrote in the Eureka Times Standard back on September 2nd, "Assemblyman Wood and Speaker Rendon should do the job they are elected to do. Hold legislative hearings and make any fixes on actual legislation that immediately addresses an overwhelming public need."

I whole-heartedly agree.

Humboldt Progressive Democrats was founded to provide a home for Democrats who want to take back control of our Party. Our purpose is spelled out in our By-Laws:

*The Club shall focus its efforts within the County of Humboldt to work toward restoration of citizen ownership of our democracy by mobilizing grassroots participation in the political process; to support candidates and issues through a combination of education, community organizing, and direct action at the local, state, and national levels; **to hold elected officials accountable to the electorate**; and to promote progressive policies; to advance the goals of the Democratic Party (hereinafter called the Party), through coordination with other Democratic groups, and other activities to benefit the Party.*

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We are engaged in a democratic process; one that is enshrined within the By-Laws of the California Democratic Party, as well as the By-Laws of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee.

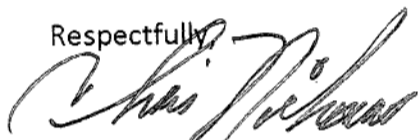
Tonight's meeting Agenda has stirred a response of outrage from those who insist that loyalty to Party, and loyalty to elected officials who are members of the Party, outweighs the rights of citizens to hold their elected representatives accountable. We are browbeaten by former elected officials and Party functionaries for believing that *good governance will sometimes require that we challenge Party leaders.*

As you stated in your letter: "Revamping our entire health care system could be the single most complicated endeavor the state of California has ever undertaken." I agree, completely. The need to provide health care, as a human right, to every resident of California, is too great to waste time rhetorically bashing each other.

Do what *you* can; what I believe you know is right. Use your position as Chair of the Assembly Health Committee to free the bill. Free SB 562. Let's begin, now, doing the work of the people of California.

Thank you for your letter. And, thank you for the attention you have brought to our little club.

Respectfully,



Chris Niehaus
Chair, Humboldt Progressive Democrats

cc: Bob Service, Chair, Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee