

COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CLINICS

June 2, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: Uniting Neighborhoods of Southeastern San Diego

Dear Commissioners:

Our organization is comprised of the 16 private, non-profit community clinics that provide vital primary care services to the uninsured and underinsured in our region. Each entity is mission driven and community rooted. This community rootedness continues to inform not only our work, but also our appreciation of the history of the communities in which our clinics provide services.

Established in 1895, the National Medical Association (NMA) is the collective voice of more than 30,000 African American physicians and the patients they serve. The NMA was founded in 1895, during an era in US history when the majority of African Americans were disenfranchised. The segregated policy of "separate but equal" dictated virtually every aspect of society. Racially exclusive "Jim Crow" laws dominated employment, housing, transportation, recreation, education, and medicine. Black Americans were subjected to all of the injustices inherent in a dual medical care system. In the early 1970's, during a time when access to health care for the underserved was significantly threatened, the San Diego chapter of NMA made a remarkable historical move by founding the first ever community clinic---the NMA Comprehensive Health Center. The history of this proud and groundbreaking institution, with three clinics in the community, continues today under the guidance of the San Ysidro Health Center.

The uniqueness of this medical institution and its clinics mirrors the continuing unique community that it serves – including the residents of Mt. Hope, Mountain View, Southcrest, Shelltown, Chollas View, Ridgeview, Webster, Oak Park, Lincoln Park, Emerald Hills, Broadway Heights, Valencia Park, Alta Vista, O'Farrell Park, Skyline, North and South Encanto, North and South Bay Terrace, Jamacha, Lomita Village, and Paradise Hills.

I ask that you consider the unique community and preserve these neighborhoods in one district at all levels of representation – Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, and Board of Equalization – as you compile your redistricting plans.

Sincerely,



Gary S. Rotto

Director of Health Policy and Strategic Communications