Jan. 19, 05

EXHIBIT 15
DATE Jan 19, 200
HB

To: Chairperson of the
Human Services
Appropriation's Committee

I would like to begin this by stating, "thank-you". Thank you for providing a program that has empowered, supported, and guided me through the tunnel of desperation and loneliness, towards hope for tomorrow.

I am mentally disabled.
I can not cope, I am learning.
I can not work, I am trying.
I can not grow, I am.

My illness tells me one thing and the PACT team tells me another. I can become a fully functioning member of society and they are, helping me, prove that I can.

PACT is there with frequent contact, independent living support, job opportunities and training, counseling, and all with smiles and encouragement.

Since I have been in the program, for the past five years, I have begun to build a life for myself. For years I wandered and drifted. And was the victim of abuse.

Today, I am living in a safe environment. I have worked. I have had job training. I am no longer the victim, of my mental illness, and at the hand's of another. I've been shown respect and understanding.

I may not get any further than where I'm at today. I will just continue to grow, live, and learn with peace and security. Knowing, there are programs that care, support, and watch out for our health and human rights.

Truly, a light shines in the darkness.

If all of us could be given the gift of hope it would, in fact, be a better world.

I will always remember the screams and sorrow of an institutionalized life. PACT lets me know I am not alone. I can speak and be heard. That is the most terrifying aspect of my mental illness. I was not heard for seventeen years.

Thank-you for your time and consideration. Please, let us continue this process of

supported living.
Without PACT where would the hope be? Without hope homelessness, loneliness, and despair.

Respectfully,

Theresa M. Ross

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