

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Response to current health budget cuts  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:46:55 AM

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**From:** Marije Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 7:44 AM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Response to current health budget cuts

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent meeting on proposed reductions to health services within our county, particularly the decision to close the Gemma House and significantly curtail mental health services.

These reductions come at a time when the need for such support is greater than ever. Governor Newsom's recently released plan empowering cities to ban homeless encampments requires that counties provide realistic and compassionate alternatives—namely, increased access to housing and mental health care. Reducing these essential services directly undermines the success of this initiative and places our most vulnerable residents at even greater risk.

The closure of the Gemma House and cuts to mental health support will only serve to worsen conditions on our streets, burden emergency services, and push struggling individuals further into crisis. Rather than reduce these programs, we should be working toward expanding and improving them.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your plans and explore alternative solutions that prioritize public health and community stability. Please seek increased budgets or reallocation of funds to preserve and enhance vital health and mental health services in our county.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Marije Miller

Marije Miller, PCC Certified Coach &  
Human Design Teacher

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