**Sample Letter to the Editor**

To the Editor:

Sequestration is not strategic budgetary planning, rather it hits almost all programs equally (estimated 5.2% for FY 2013, greater cuts in following years). Among the many good, cost-effective programs that will be cut will be funding for supportive housing programs. These programs house people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in this state and throughout the nation. Studies show, that they are a very wise use of taxpayer dollars particularly versus the nightly cost of an emergency room or a jail.

I want to note the following outstanding projects that are in the district: **XX.** These projects specialize in helping those constituents who are **XX.** These projects help support many of the **insert name of legislator** constituents.

I want **insert name of legislator(s)** to know that I and many others in the community feel strongly about the value of supportive housing programs and ask for there to be a balanced and compromised approach that avert the worst of what sequestration could bring. It is easy to get lost in the numbers, it is very important to know that this is people’s lives we are dealing with, and indecision in Washington can cause a great deal of harm to these people in our community.

 **Sample Letter to Senator/Member of Congress**

Dear Senator/Member of Congress:

Sequestration was never meant to be a fiscal or budgetary policy but rather a worse-case scenario for both sides to come to the negotiating table. Thoughtful negotiation must happen, as instead of being a strategic form of cuts, sequestration hits most programs indiscriminately. Among the many good, cost-effective programs that will be cut will be funding for supportive housing programs. These programs house people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in this state and throughout the nation. Studies show, that they are a very wise use of taxpayer dollars particularly versus the nightly cost of an emergency room or a jail.

I want to note the following outstanding projects that are in your district: **XX.** These projects specialize in helping your constituents who are **XX.** It is imperative to the well-being of those constituents that sequestration is not allowed to go through.

I would like you to know that I and many others in the community feel strongly about the value of supportive housing programs and ask for there to be a balanced and compromised approach that averts the worst of what sequestration could bring. It is easy to get lost in the numbers, it is very important to know that this is people’s lives we are dealing with, and indecision in Washington can cause a great deal of harm to your constituents.