

Meeting Date: June 24, 2026
Agenda Item No.: IA01
Distribution Date: June 22, 2026
Batch No.:01

From: [Potter, Andrew](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Fwd: To the Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and county CAO - a mothers witness
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026 5:22:38 PM

Team,

Please add the email below to IHSS item 1 on June 24, 2026. You'll need to print the attachments and organize them using the page numbers at the bottom of the document. Before posting publicly in Legistar, please add a document that the attachments are confidential and are on file with the Clerk of the Board.



Andrew Potter, Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Pronouns: he/him/his
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
O: 619-531-5431 | [REDACTED]

From: sheryl nitschke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Potter, Andrew <Andrew.Potter@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Fwd: To the Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and county CAO - a mothers witness

Please include the following public comment (with attachments-please check order; 29 pages are numbered) for IHSS meeting (Agenda File 26-450) to be held next Wednesday, June 24, 2026.

Thank you

Sheryl Lee Nitschke

----- Forwarded message -----

From: sheryl nitschke [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jun 18, 2026 at 2:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: To the Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and county CAO - a mothers witness
To: sheryl nitschke [REDACTED] >

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **sheryl nitschke** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, Jun 18, 2026 at 2:29 PM

Subject: To the Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and county CAO - a mothers witness

To: sheryl nitschke [REDACTED]

To the Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and county CAO

I am submitting this statement as a mother, an IHSS caregiver, and a firsthand witness.

On June 17, 2026, I sat in a courtroom and witnessed my daughter Christiane Nitschke stand before a judge and try to tell her story .

She had prepared her statement and wanted to read it out loud in court.

But she wasn't allowed.

She was told by the judge that she had already filed it with the Clerk's Office and didn't need to read it out loud.

Sitting in that courtroom, I realized that what I was witnessing was not simply a legal proceeding but something far more significant.

I was witnessing the culmination of years of pain carried by a person who wanted nothing more than to know that the rule of law mattered.

It was about whether someone who is vulnerable, disabled, and struggling is truly seen and heard when she reaches out for help.

That her constitutional and civil rights be respected.

For many years, I have watched my daughter struggle to find dignity, respect and a place where her voice would be heard.

She lives with bipolar disorder, yet she possesses extraordinary intelligence,

determination, and resilience.

Throughout the years, I have watched her endure disappointment, rejection, emotional anguish that comes from believing that nobody in a position of authority is willing to listen to her.

She was not asking for special treatment.

She was not asking for favors.

She was simply asking for a housing voucher as a reasonable accommodation for her disability under Supreme Court Precedent *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 US 581 (1999).

A chance at greater independence.

A chance at stability.

A chance at dignity.

As her mother and longtime IHSS caregiver, I have witnessed the consequences firsthand.

I have seen the sleepless nights.

I have seen the anxiety.

I have seen the tears.

I have seen the frustration of a person who continued to follow every process available to her, only to feel as though she had become invisible.

I have watched her submit applications, gather documentation, write letters, and pursue every avenue she could find.

Again and again, she asked for fair application of the law.

Again and again, she felt ignored.

What continues to trouble me is what I have continuously witnessed from County government over the past many years.

I have listened to countless county presentations about helping vulnerable residents.

I have listened to promises about equity, inclusion, disability rights and ensuring that no one falls through the cracks.

I have listened to speeches about increasing and furthering housing efforts.

These are important commitments.

But words are tested when they encounter a real person.

My daughter was that person.

She submitted applications.

She provided documentation.

She wrote letters.

She pursued every avenue available to her.

Again and again, she asked to be heard. Just like the United States Supreme Court heard Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson.

As *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 US 581 27th Anniversary approaches on June 22, a day intended to recognize the rights, dignity, independence, and inclusion of people with disabilities, I ask County leadership to reflect on what those principles mean in practice.

Because inclusion is not measured by proclamations.

Compassion is not measured by press releases.

Humanity is not measured by mission statements.

They are measured by how institutions respond when a vulnerable person is standing in front of them asking for help.

The legal outcome in her case is now a matter of record.

But the human story remains unheard.

Behind every case file is a person.

Behind every policy is a life.

Behind every denial is a human being who must live with the consequences.

My daughter entered federal court seeking relief.

She entered state court seeking to be heard.

What cannot be disputed is that she spent years attempting to navigate systems while her voice was not being heard.

The rule of law was not heard.

I ask that you read her statement.

Not as politics.

But as the story of a human being.

A daughter.

A person with a disability.

Someone who spent years asking her government to listen and follow the law.

And then ask yourselves one simple question:

When she was asking to be heard, did anyone truly hear her?

Respectfully,

Sheryl Nitschke

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CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.