

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

California Association for the Deaf  
4749 Denny Ave. #4  
Toluca Lake, CA 91602

Dear CAD Board Members;

On behalf of concerned citizens, we are writing in regards to Ella Mae Lentz, a Board Member of CAD.

Her involvement with CAD, Deaf Bilingual Coalition and Deafhood Foundation were brought to our attention. There appears to be issues such as conflict of interest, abuse of privileges within CAD related to her financial interests else where.

It is our understanding that Ella and her Deafhood Foundation profits from providing deafhood workshop and trainings. We have evidences to show that Deafhood Foundation also controls Deaf Bilingual Coalition. Ella is the Operations Director of DBC. It is our understanding that DBC tapped into CAD's tax exempt status for the purpose of raising funds. It alarmed us to see that Ella was also one of CAD Board Member.

In short, Ella has a vote within CAD and perhaps even the political clout from within the organization. She votes for and approves DBC's movement and allowed DBC to raise funds using CAD's tax exempt status. Ella, in the same breath, promoted DBC's movement and raised funds for the cause. And when she did it she instilled deafhood movement into DBC's movement to promote her Deafhood Foundation, in which she profits from.

Based on these factual findings we stand prepared to report our concerns with the Internal Revenue Service for possible violations.

Furthermore, Ella participated in a meeting with DBC Core Group and participated in discussion which degraded children who wore cochlear implants and people who choose to use it. We, concerned citizens wondered if California Association for the Deaf tolerates such radical languages and views. Based on the contents of the discussion Ella, Operations director of DBC did not make any effort to discipline or correct those who made radical comments. We felt alarmed and concerned for deaf children and hearing parents residing in the State of California. Such comments have no business in the public.

Respectfully Yours,

Cc: National Association of the Deaf – 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 820 – Silver Springs,  
MD 20910-3819