ASHA

Board of Directors

2200 Research Boulevard

Rockville, MD 20850

Mark Utter

114 Belair Dr.

Colchester, VT 05446 June 21, 2018

Dear ASHA,

My name is Mark Utter but, contrary to my name, I am someone who types to communicate. I use Facilitated Communication (FC) to say what I am thinking.

Throughout my youth I was overlooked so I had no access to communication. FC was introduced to me in my early 30s. When I realized I could use it to connect my mind with others I took on the challenge to become proficient at using it.

I have used FC to write a screenplay about my life that shows how FC dramatically increases how well people understand me. My movie is joyfully called ***"I am in here; a view of my daily life with good suggestions for improvement from my intelligent mind."*** It 'outed' me as an intelligent man. Not having access to FC or Rapid Prompting Method (RPM) would return me to being 'a glorified pet.'

I am disappointed that the ad hoc committee of ASHA refused to consider input from FC and RPM users when making their proposed statements. I hope you will not accept these statements created on FC and RPM.

Furthermore, I want a new committee created with more broadminded members to make statements that more accurately reflect what these two communication forms do to improve the lives of those who need alternative methods of communication to access their minds.

Sincerely,

Mark Utter