Romany Sutherland

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Dear Mr President

I would be honoured to address you on the following:

- 1. My relationship with WCDoH, as a plaintiff's attorney specialising in medical negligence matters; the Expert Opinion Committee; an invitation by the head of the WCDOH for open discussion makes the model used by WCDoH workable to protect patient rights and the State's best interests to resolve disputes quickly and cost effectively.
- 2. Addressing Physician suicide, Burnout and PTSD suffered by medical students, doctors and nurses. I believe this would lower the number of adverse incidents culminating in claims.

I have a team that can make a difference at medical school where students are crying out for help. Discovery health and SA Depression and anxiety group have established a suicide hotline only for medical students but they need support to assist students before this "call" becomes necessary. Sometimes they receive over 400 calls a day; these students need to be educated on ways to cope and manage the vast stressor they face daily and will continue to endure.

My team and I are hosting the "Do No Harm" documentary film screenings throughout SA in 2020, government endorsement of this initiative is needed as well as sponsorship: <u>http://www.donoharmfilm.com/</u>.

Funding needed to rehabilitate traumatised nurses – we know how, we just need support.

Yours sincerely

**Romany Sutherland** 

Attorney, Mediator, Director & Branch-Chair SAMLA Western Cape

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