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January 31, 2003

My fellow Alphas, Members, Friends and Supporters of the Alpha-1 Association,

Someone asked a question about the scheduled national conference in Chicago and I posted what has been on the A1A website all along and it's as if I've personally offended some of you somehow. The question was... will there be a conference... the answer was that I hope to see you all there. Details are being worked on. Yes, I realize it is late to be working out the details but the staff was fired, the CEO quit, etc. We have been busy...

Let me speak for a moment to current events. As most of you know, the Alpha-1 Association has been faced with some very, very hard choices in the past few months. Since the end of November the A1A has been forced to rely on the volunteer efforts of its board of directors and a single part time employee to keep functioning. We have actively decided to try to keep the organization going. This is by no means the easiest solution. Many have suggested that we simply walk away. Those of us who are on the board have chosen not to. This option may not be the easier choice to make but, in my opinion at least, it is the right, and only honorable one we can make.

The Alpha-1 Association has been around since 1991 and the board feels there is value in what we have been doing for the past 12 years and that that value is worth fighting to hold onto. We are trying to restructure our organization from within so that we can continue to offer the real services you have grown to expect. I hope to be able to share the details with you very soon.

We continue to work with our financial advisors in an effort to clarify, understand and document our recent financial history and determine our current fiscal health.

We, with the help of legal counsel, will fight to protect the Alpha-1 Association's good name and reputation. Let me share this with you - We on the board intend to get to the bottom of what has happened and **to pursue appropriate legal action**. We intend to make a full and complete public disclosure of how things got to this point. No whitewash. No double talk. No fancy words obfuscating the facts. Just the facts. The truth, as the saying goes, will set us free.

It just strikes me as terribly, terribly sad that we have to take our time and energies away from looking for a cure and providing services to our members to deal with the practical legal and financial issues that we now have to deal with. What a terrible, terrible waste.

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times. Your ongoing support, trust and faith in our Alpha-1 Association is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Morton
Chair, Board of Directors
Alpha-1 Association