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**From:** Margot LeBlanc-Barton [margot@sierrahealth.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2004 1:23 PM  
**To:** Director - FASB  
**Subject:** Share-Based Payment Exposure Draft

**Letter of Comment No: 4106**  
**File Reference: 1102-100**

Margot LeBlanc-Barton  
3300 Penfield Cr.  
Reno, NV 89502

June 14, 2004

Ms. Suzanne Bielstein  
Financial Accounting Standards Board  
401 Merrit 7  
Norwalk, CT 06856-5116

Dear Ms. Bielstein:

Re: Share-Based Payment Exposure Draft

I work for a company that allows employees to purchase my employer's stock at a discount through an Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP). I understand that the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has proposed a change to accounting standards that would require my company to count this discount as an expense against its earnings (Share-Based Payment exposure draft). I respectfully request that you reconsider this proposal and not require expensing of the discount allowed in ESPPs.

I am concerned that required expensing of the discount in the ESPP may make this valuable benefit plan less attractive to my employer, potentially causing my employer to either discontinue the plan, or reduce or eliminate the current discount. If the discount is greatly reduced or eliminated, buying company stock through the ESPP would no longer be much of a benefit. Unlike benefits aimed only at high-paid executives, this is a valuable benefit for employees across the company.

The ESPP is a very important benefit to me. Being able to participate in an ESPP has enabled me to invest in my financial future and experience a sense of ownership in my company. This benefit helped attract me to and serves as an incentive for me to remain with my employer. I could even say I continuously strive to perform to the best of my ability because I am an owner of the company.

I work for Sierra Health Services for 15+ years and being able to buy stock with a discount through the employee stock purchase plan is the only way I can make a little extra money. This money helps the economy because I am able to purchase extra things that I would normally not be able to do. Also, it helps pay for my son's education. I will not be able to purchase stock if the ESPP changes in 2005. I'm sure I will not be the only employee that this change will effect. This is the only time I can make some extra money if the stock is doing well. I hope this change does not go into effect 2005 or this will be the last time I buy any stock. The average person has a litte chance of making some exta money and then we have to pay taxes on it.

Millions of workers like me in companies across the country are able to purchase their employer's stock through ESPPs. This builds company loyalty and helps to promote high standards of work when employees have a sense of ownership.

I strongly urge FASB to consider the negative impact the proposed rule would have on the nearly 16 million workers like me and eliminate the expensing requirement for ESPP discounts in the final rule.

CC:

SEC, Chairman, William Donaldson

SEC, Chief Accountant, Donald Nicolaisen

Employee Ownership Coalition (eoc@vennstrategies.com)

Sincerely,

Margot LeBlanc-Barton