

January 27, 2016

Al Ortiz, Executive Director  
CBS Network  
51 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019  
Via email: ARO@cbsnews.com

Re: CBS Stories re: Wounded Warrior Project, Inc.

Dear Mr. Ortiz,

This is a follow up to the original letter Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) sent to you on January 25, 2016 regarding our concerns about a story that CBS intended to run regarding WWP. We are outraged to see that CBS chose to run the story despite our ongoing efforts to set the record straight.

We can only deduce that CBS willfully set aside the information WWP provided in favor of the false statements made by a handful of former, disgruntled employees. At a minimum, prior to running the story, CBS could have contacted one of its own senior executives, Richard M. Jones, CBS Executive Vice President, General Tax Counsel, and Chief Veteran Officer, by calling him at extension 2978. You are fully aware that Mr. Jones is a WWP Board Member and WWP's Audit Committee Chair and has the ability and insight to provide you with accurate and truthful information regarding WWP's financial documents.

Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to notify you of the false statements contained in the news stories about WWP that aired on CBS Evening News on January 26, 2016, and on the CBS Morning Show on January 27, 2016.

**1. FALSE STATEMENT BY CBS:** WWP spends 60% on veterans.

**TRUTH:** Based on our most recent independently audited financial statements, 80.6% of total expenditures went to provide programs and services for wounded service members, their caregivers, and families. As stated above, WWP's Board Member and Audit Committee Chair, Richard M. Jones, CBS Executive Vice President, General Tax Counsel, and Chief Veteran Officer, reviews and approves all of WWP's financial documents and audits.

**2. FALSE STATEMENT BY CBS:** WWP spends \$26,054,363 on conferences and meetings for staff.

**TRUTH:** CBS falsely reported our conference and meeting expenses. 94% of the figure CBS reported as conference and meetings for staff was actually a program expense for warriors and their families to participate in services such as mental health programming.

- 3. FALSE STATEMENT BY CBS:** WWP spent \$3 million on an annual training conference that was nothing more than a lavish party.

**TRUTH:** Budget figures reported by CBS for the annual training are absurd and patently false. The annual training conference costs an average of \$1,500 per person, which includes all expenses for travel, meals, accommodations, and materials for four days. During WWP's annual training session, WWP conducts strategic planning and program development to ensure we are operating effectively as an organization. No alcohol is purchased by the organization at the training.

- 4. FALSE STATEMENT AS AIRED BY CBS:** "We don't call warriors. Warriors call us."

**TRUTH:** Warriors and caregivers are continuously contacted by WWP via multiple channels including in-person, weekly emails, and regular phone calls. In addition to these regular communications, in 2015, WWP staff members conducted 76,942 documented, outbound wellness checks and outreach calls to warriors and caregivers.

**We demand that CBS immediately correct the record, issue a retraction of the false statements, and issue an apology to the public and the tens of thousands of wounded veterans and their families who have been offended by these false statements.** We expect your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ayla Tezel  
Executive Vice President, Communications