

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Diane O'Connor
1405 Valley View Road
Chaska, Minnesota 55318

Dear Diane:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal creates a new adolescent health program to provide primary care services with an emphasis on outreach, prevention, health education, and health promotion, as well as mental health and substance abuse counseling. The program will target areas with high rates of poverty, adolescent pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, community or gang violence, and unemployment. New health care clinics will be established through the sponsorship of local schools, community health programs, and social service organizations, to promote healthy behaviors for young people.

In addition, my proposal builds on school-based and school-linked health clinics that have been proven effective in reducing teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and truancy. Additional funding will be available to help these clinics provide physical and mental health promotion and to increase awareness about high-risk behavior.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Laura Lussier
1508 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Dear Laura:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal recognizes the unique responsibility of the United States to provide health care to Native Americans. It strengthens the Indian Health Service and preserves the ability of tribes to operate their own health facilities. Tribal governments will have expanded flexibility to devise health care systems that work for them.

Under my plan a comprehensive benefits package provides services desperately needed by Native Americans, including a wide range of preventive services such as routine clinician visits, immunizations, mammograms, cholesterol screening, hospital and health professional services, home health care, and mental health care. In addition, Public Health Service programs will be expanded to improve access to available services in remote areas, expand public health and prevention activities, and provide health care that is sensitive to the diverse languages and cultures of Native Americans.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. Allen McKenzie
7340 Portland Avenue, South
Richfield, Minnesota 55423

Dear Allen:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Under my approach, members of Congress, federal employees, and federal retirees will join with other members of their communities and be able to choose from among a number of available health plans. Like other Americans, they will be guaranteed a comprehensive package of health benefits that can never be taken away, even if they get sick or change jobs.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1994

Mrs. Marian Biehn
83 Otis Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dear Marian:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal will reduce the growth of health care costs. The principal source of cost containment will be increased competition among health plans and providers. Because all health plans will offer a standard, comprehensive benefit package and charge all individuals the same rate regardless of their age or health status, health plans will compete for consumers by providing high-quality health care at affordable prices. For the first time, consumers will be given the information they need and -- because individuals will purchase coverage in groups -- the bargaining power they have lacked to make meaningful choices among health plans. If competition is lacking in an area, a "backstop" system of premium caps will ensure that average premiums in that area rise no faster than inflation.

Finally, my proposal will simplify reimbursement through standard claims forms, require all plans to offer a comprehensive benefits package, and streamline regulations, so that the same health care dollar will buy more health care and less paperwork.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Ame Wiger
1208 Selby Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dear Ame:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

On average, an individual's share of the premium for an average-cost plan will be between 1 and 2 percent of income. For most Americans who are now insured, this will be the same or less than they are currently paying for the same or better benefits. Subsidies are available for individuals under 150% of poverty. A ceiling of 3.9 percent of income was added to protect some people -- those with low incomes living in areas with high health care costs -- who would not get sufficient protection from the discounts on the price of insurance provided under my approach. The extra layer of security offered by the ceiling ensures those individuals that the responsibility to purchase health coverage will be manageable.

Reduced copayments are available to AFDC and SSI recipients -- 20% of lower cost sharing plan -- or \$2 rather than \$10 copayment in lower cost sharing plan.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Ruth Downing
2900 East 55th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal preserves and strengthens Medicare. Americans aged 65 and older will continue to receive Medicare benefits and see the same doctor or doctors they chose prior to the proposal becoming law. But they will also be given new help in paying for prescription drugs and opportunities to choose from among a broader set of health insurance plans.

In addition, my approach includes a proposal for a new federal-state home and community-based, long-term care program for people of all ages with severe disabilities. This program will support more than 3 million people with disabilities, to help them remain independent at home and in their community.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Clinton", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Gloria Allmon
Apartment 305
49 5th Avenue South
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Dear Gloria:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

The President's proposal guarantees every American coverage for prescription drugs. Individuals up to 65 years will pay either \$5 per prescription or 20 percent of the cost after meeting a \$250 annual deductible, depending on the health plan they choose. Individuals on Medicare will pay 20 percent of the cost of a prescription after reaching the \$250 deductible. In any case, annual out-of-pocket costs will be limited to \$1,000.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. James Fountaine
1701 13th Avenue South
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301

Dear Jim:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal gives America's veterans more choices about how and where they receive health care. The VA will form health plans open to all veterans, including those not currently able to access VA health care. Low-income veterans and those with service-connected disabilities who enroll will pay no premiums or cost sharing. Specialized services will be provided to all veterans currently eligible for those benefits and the flexibility of the veterans health care system will be increased.

Under the proposal, the VA is permitted to keep funds it recovers from third-party payers, including Medicare. The proposal will also reduce the paperwork burden on VA institutions and providers.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Mary Mangan
1260 Woodbridge Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55117

Dear Mary:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

On average, an individual's share of the premium for an average-cost plan will be between 1 and 2 percent of income. For most Americans who are now insured, this will be the same or less than they are currently paying for the same or better benefits. A ceiling of 3.9 percent of income was added to protect some people -- those with low incomes living in areas with high health care costs -- who would not get sufficient protection from the discounts. The extra layer of security offered by the ceiling ensures those individuals that the responsibility to purchase health coverage will be manageable.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Dede DeGrote
10437 Jay Street, N.W.
Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55417

Dear Dede:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal preserves and strengthens Medicare. Americans aged 65 and older will continue to receive Medicare benefits and see the same doctor or doctors they chose prior to the proposal becoming law. But they will also be given new help in paying for prescription drugs and opportunities to choose from among a broader set of health insurance plans.

In addition, my approach includes a proposal for a new federal-state community-based, long-term care program for people of all ages with severe disabilities. This program will support more than 3 million people with disabilities, to help them remain independent at home and in their community.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Denise Miller
1787 Jefferson Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Denise:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Under my proposal, all Americans, including children with disabilities, are guaranteed a comprehensive package of benefits at the same rates. Moreover, there will be no lifetime limits on care.

The comprehensive benefits package includes prenatal care, and a schedule of preventive services at no cost, including immunizations, and regular checkups. The proposal includes many benefits for children with disabilities, such as outpatient occupational therapy, outpatient physical therapy, and outpatient speech pathology services.

In addition, the benefits package will cover durable medical equipment and prosthetic and orthotic devices. In addition, the plan includes the fitting of equipment and devices and training for the use of these items if they improve the child's functional abilities or prevent further deterioration of their abilities. There is no specific limitation relating to customization.

A new community-based long-term care benefit will help children with severe physical or mental disabilities, regardless of their family's income. The proposal also improves Medicaid benefits and eases Medicaid eligibility conditions for children with disabilities. These programs will provide families with the support they need in order to take care of their children.

Finally, my proposal includes long-term strategies for prevention and for helping children with disabilities. Under the plan, the National Institutes of Health will receive additional funding for research on prenatal and perinatal health, birth defects, childhood diseases, unintentional injuries, and learning and cognitive development.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Ben Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. James Cavaleri
5711 Sandor Drive
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Dear James:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

For too long, people with disabilities have faced discrimination in the health insurance marketplace. Many are prevented from purchasing insurance because they have a so-called "pre-existing condition." Those able to obtain insurance are often forced to pay the highest rates. And many reach lifetime limit on benefits just when they need coverage the most.

My health care reform proposal will guarantee every American private insurance coverage that can never be taken away. In addition, the proposal outlaws unfair insurance practices. It will be illegal for insurance companies to drop coverage or cut benefits, increase your rates if you get sick, use lifetime limits to cut off your benefits, and charge higher premiums based on health condition or age.

The comprehensive benefit package that will be available to every American includes health professional and hospital services, prescription drugs, clinical preventive services, mental health care and substance abuse services, home health care, extended care, rehabilitation services, durable medical equipment, and many other services that are essential to people with disabilities.

In addition to the services in the comprehensive benefit package, my proposal expands long-term care services for people with severe disabilities, regardless of age or income. This new program will provide home- and community-based supports for up to 3.1 million people. People who live in nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded will be permitted to keep more of their monthly income for personal expenses. The long-term care program also helps people with disabilities who work by authorizing a 50 percent tax credit, up to \$15,000 each year, for work-related personal assistance and other services.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. Michael Raines
14041 Meadow, N.E.
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372

Dear Michael:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My approach to health care reform guarantees every American, including people with HIV or AIDS, private insurance coverage that can never be taken away. In addition, unfair insurance practices now used to exclude people with HIV or AIDS will be illegal. Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions, charge higher premiums based on health condition, or use lifetime limits to cut off benefits.

Persons with HIV or AIDS will be able to enroll in any health plan and receive the comprehensive benefits package at the same community rates paid by everyone else within their area. The comprehensive benefits package includes coverage of prescription drugs, home care, and long-term care. It limits the amount patients may be required to spend out-of-pocket each year to \$1,500 per individual and \$3,000 per family. My approach supports the Ryan White programs and other related programs. In addition, it expands funding for research, education, and prevention efforts related to HIV transmission and provides new resources for other public health initiatives.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. Don Forte
14327 Embry Path
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124

Dear Don:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My approach to health care reform guarantees every American, including people with HIV or AIDS, private insurance coverage that can never be taken away. In addition, unfair insurance practices now used to exclude people with HIV or AIDS will be illegal. Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions, charge higher premiums based on health condition, or use lifetime limits to cut off benefits.

Persons with HIV or AIDS will be able to enroll in any health plan and receive the comprehensive benefits package at the same community rates paid by everyone else within their area. The comprehensive benefits package includes coverage of prescription drugs, home care, and long-term care. It limits the amount patients may be required to spend out-of-pocket each year to \$1,500 per individual and \$3,000 per family. My approach supports the Ryan White programs and other related programs. In addition, it expands funding for research, education, and prevention efforts related to HIV transmission and provides new resources for other public health initiatives.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Alice Johnson
4318 Grand Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

Dear Alice:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My approach to health care reform increases competition, requiring health plans to compete on price and quality, instead of on the basis of which does the best job of excluding sick people and old people. Health care providers will have an incentive to provide high-quality care and control costs to attract more patients. As a result, my proposal would produce savings. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the total cost that all businesses would pay for health insurance under my plan would be about \$20 billion less in the year 2000.

International competitors spend much less than we do on health care -- yet they insure all of their people, provide better benefits, and have similar outcomes in terms of health. In this country, evidence from communities, companies, and regions illustrates that health care providers can and will cut costs substantially and quickly if there are appropriate incentives. Providing incentives to deliver more cost-effective care and reducing administrative costs will free up dollars to make health care more affordable for all Americans.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Linda Hopkins
6836 Buckingham Court
Woodbury, Minnesota 55125

Dear Linda:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My approach to health care reform increases competition, requiring health plans to compete on price and quality, instead of on the basis of which does the best job of excluding sick people and old people. Health care providers will have an incentive to provide high-quality care and control costs to attract more patients. As a result, my proposal would produce savings. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the total cost that all businesses would pay for health insurance under my plan would be about \$20 billion less in the year 2000.

International competitors spend much less than we do on health care -- yet they insure all of their people, provide better benefits, and have similar outcomes in terms of health. In this country, evidence from communities, companies, and regions illustrates that health care providers can and will cut costs substantially and quickly if there are appropriate incentives. Providing incentives to deliver more cost-effective care and reducing administrative costs will free up dollars to make health care more affordable for all Americans.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. Doyle Biggs, Jr.
Gulden's Supper Club
1807 Southeast Beach
Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025

Dear Doyle:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Under the current health care system, small businesses like yours pay much higher insurance rates due to underwriting and administrative costs. Under my proposal, small businesses will be able to provide affordable coverage for their employees and, as a result, will no longer face disadvantages in the marketplace. They will join together with other consumers in regional health alliances to achieve the bargaining power and administrative simplicity that big businesses have today.

Firms participating in regional health alliances pay premiums for their workers, but no firm will have to pay more than 7.9 percent of payroll toward those premiums. Small businesses -- those with 75 or fewer employees -- will receive discounts that cap premiums at as low as 3.5 percent of payroll depending on their size and average wage.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Jeweleen Jackson
1618 Fremont Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

Dear Jeweleen:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

I believe that every American should have the security of comprehensive health benefits that can never be taken away. Interim insurance measures will be enacted to reduce the potential for disruption during transition to the new system. These measures will prohibit insurers from dropping people or failing to renew their coverage, limit allowable premium increases, and limit the ability of insurers to exclude consumers with pre-existing conditions.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Dr. Gerald P. Brost
2840 County Road 24
Medina, Minnesota 55356

Dear Gerald:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

My proposal provides coverage for a comprehensive benefit package, including services of health professionals. The proposal defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or those services that could be performed by a physician and that are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide those services in the state. The proposal does not specify particular items or services within these broad categories, nor does it identify specific providers of services. Improved competition among health plans will likely create new incentives for effective use of a range of providers, including chiropractors. Plans will be free to use any mix of providers to meet the needs of their enrollees.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Kimberly Hostrawser
12920 Zachary Circle, North
Dayton, Minnesota 55327

Dear Kimberly:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Under my proposal, all American citizens and legal residents will be guaranteed a comprehensive package of health benefits that can never be taken away. Included in this package will be prevention and diagnosis of dental disease, including oral dental examinations, radiographs, dental sealants, fluoride application, and dental prophylaxis. Prior to January 1, 2001, this coverage will be available for individuals under the age of 18. After this date, all of these services, except sealants, will be covered for all Americans.

Treatment of dental disease, including routine fillings, prosthetics for genetic defects, periodontal maintenance, and endodontic services, will also be included. This too will be available only for individuals under the age of 18 until January 1, 2001. After this date, all of these services except endodontic services will be covered for all individuals. Endodontic services will continue to be covered only for individuals under the age of 18.

Everyone will have coverage for emergency dental treatment, including simple extractions, treatment for acute infections, bleeding, and injuries to natural teeth and oral structures.

In addition, space maintenance procedures, to prevent orthodontic complications will be included for children from 3 to 13 years of age. Interceptive orthodontic treatment to prevent severe malocclusion will be covered beginning in the year 2001 for individuals between the ages of 6 and 12.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Dr. Kimberly A. Harms
1409 Lower Heritage Way
Farmington, Minnesota 55024

Dear Kimberly:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Under my proposal, all American citizens and legal residents will be guaranteed a comprehensive package of health benefits that can never be taken away. Included in this package will be prevention and diagnosis of dental disease, including oral dental examinations, radiographs, dental sealants, fluoride application, and dental prophylaxis. Prior to January 1, 2001, this coverage will be available for individuals under the age of 18. After this date, all of these services, except sealants, will be covered for all Americans.

Treatment of dental disease, including routine fillings, prosthetics for genetic defects, periodontal maintenance, and endodontic services, will also be included. This too will be available only for individuals under the age of 18 until January 1, 2001. After this date, all of these services except endodontic services will be covered for all individuals. Endodontic services will continue to be covered only for individuals under the age of 18.

Everyone will have coverage for emergency dental treatment, including simple extractions, treatment for acute infections, bleeding, and injuries to natural teeth and oral structures.

In addition, space maintenance procedures, to prevent orthodontic complications will be included for children from 3 to 13 years of age. Interceptive orthodontic treatment to prevent severe malocclusion will be covered beginning in the year 2001 for individuals between the ages of 6 and 12.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bin Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Carol Braaten
2056 Bradley Street
Maplewood, Minnesota 56117

Dear Carol:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Under my proposal, the unfair insurance practices that prevent many Americans from obtaining health insurance will be illegal. Insurance companies will no longer be able to drop coverage or cut benefits, increase rates because of sickness, use lifetime limits to cut off benefits, or charge higher premiums based on health condition or age. In addition, the proposal will guarantee every American, including those without insurance, private health insurance that can never be taken away.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Judy Hogan
5501 Morgan Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

Dear Judy:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Today, self-employed individuals are discriminated against in our tax system and are allowed to deduct only 25 percent of their health care premiums from their taxes. Under my proposal, they will finally be able to deduct 100 percent of their health care premiums from their taxes, as all other businesses do today.

As with any business, the self-employed pay the employer's share, and are eligible for any discounts that apply. Under my reform proposal, self-employed individuals are treated the same as small business owners, and their costs may be capped to as low as 3.5 percent of payroll.

Finally, my proposal will outlaw insurance company practices that make it impossible for self-employed individuals to get insurance today. These practices include charging excessively high prices and refusing to insure entire industries.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Terri Hagenah
3331 West Tischer Road
Duluth, Minnesota 55803

Dear Terri:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Today, self-employed individuals are discriminated against in our tax system and are allowed to deduct only 25 percent of their health care premiums from their taxes. Under my proposal, they will finally be able to deduct 100 percent of their health care premiums from their taxes, as all other businesses do today.

As with any business, the self-employed pay the employer's share, and are eligible for any discounts that apply. Under my reform proposal, self-employed individuals are treated the same as small business owners, and their costs may be capped to as low as 3.5 percent of payroll.

Finally, my proposal will outlaw insurance company practices that make it impossible for self-employed individuals to get insurance today. These practices include charging excessively high prices and refusing to insure entire industries.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Kay Harkins
10208 Scarborough Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437

Dear Kay:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

Today, self-employed individuals are discriminated against in our tax system and are allowed to deduct only 25 percent of their health care premiums from their taxes. Under my proposal, they will finally be able to deduct 100 percent of their health care premiums from their taxes, as all other businesses do today.

As with any business, the self-employed pay the employer's share, and are eligible for any discounts that apply. Under my reform proposal, self-employed individuals are treated the same as small business owners, and their costs may be capped as low as 3.5 percent of payroll.

Finally, my proposal will outlaw insurance company practices that make it impossible for self-employed individuals to get insurance today. These practices include charging excessively high prices and refusing to insure entire industries.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. Smith Schuneman
Chairman
Media Loft, Inc.
10720 40th Avenue, North
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Dear Smith:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

In an effort to give Americans the health security they deserve, I want to strengthen what's right about our health care system and fix what's wrong. My proposal works the following way:

Guaranteed private insurance. Every American will be guaranteed private comprehensive insurance coverage that can never be taken away.

Choice. All Americans will have the right to choose their own doctor and health plan. It will be the individual, not the employer or insurance company, who will make this important choice.

Outlaw unfair insurance practices. It will be illegal for insurance companies to drop coverage or cut benefits; increase rates because of sickness; use lifetime limits to cut off benefits; or charge older people more than the young. This will make it possible for all Americans to obtain dependable and affordable insurance.

Preserve Medicare. Older Americans have a right to depend on Medicare and choose their own doctors. My proposal will protect and strengthen Medicare by covering prescription drugs and providing new options for long-term care in the home and the community.

Health benefits guaranteed at work. Every job should come with health benefits. The government will provide discounts for small businesses and help cover the unemployed.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton" with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Ms. Rosemary Kostick
6508 West Shore Drive
Edina, Minnesota 55435

Dear Rosemary:

Thank you for joining us in Minneapolis on April 8. I am sorry there was not enough time to answer your question. This issue was carefully considered while formulating my health care reform proposal.

In an effort to give Americans the health security they deserve, I want to strengthen what's right about our health care system and fix what's wrong. My proposal works the following way:

Guaranteed private insurance. Every American will be guaranteed private comprehensive insurance coverage that can never be taken away.

Choice. All Americans will have the right to choose their own doctor and health plan. It will be the individual, not the employer or insurance company, who will make this important choice.

Outlaw unfair insurance practices. It will be illegal for insurance companies to drop coverage or cut benefits; increase rates because of sickness; use lifetime limits to cut off benefits; or charge older people more than the young. This will make it possible for all Americans to obtain dependable and affordable insurance.

Preserve Medicare. Older Americans have a right to depend on Medicare and choose their own doctors. My proposal will protect and strengthen Medicare by covering prescription drugs and providing new options for long-term care in the home and the community.

Health benefits guaranteed at work. Every job should come with health benefits. The government will provide discounts for small businesses and help cover the unemployed.

Your participation in our town hall meeting reflects a concern for the important issues our nation faces, and is vital to the public discussion that keeps our democracy alive. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

6 ST

To Buddy, for review; 3/22/94

Dear Volunteer:

Thank you for your previous interest in volunteering for the White House on health care issues.

Recently, the Health Care Reform Information Center was established to disseminate timely information about the Health Security plan to the American public, Congress, and interested organization.

There are exciting opportunities available for those who would like to help promote reform of our nation's health care system. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call or write:

Volunteer Coordinator
Health Care Reform Information Center
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
202-435-6060

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Roger Goldblatt
Director
Health Care Reform Information Center

Ann -

The attached letters have been reviewed by Pres. Correspondence and White House Counsel. Please review and give me a call

Thank you -

Buddy

I - have you seen these?

3/23- Greg has seen

Buddy, to review; 3/22/94

Dear Program Director:

The Clinton Administration recently established the Health Care Reform Information Center in response to the growing need for clear and concise information concerning the President's Health Security plan.

The purpose of the Health Care Reform Information Center is to disseminate timely information about the Health Security plan to the American public, Congress, and interested organizations.

There are opportunities available for volunteers, interns, and fellows to assist this historic effort to provide quality health care for all Americans. Individuals intersted in participating should write or call:

Intern and Fellow Coordinator
Health Care Reform Information Center
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
202-435-6060

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Goldblatt
Director
Health Care Reform Information Center

- G. Street - 4/5/94

- Poughkeeween
- Penn
- Ichr

30,000 per y m and

- 60% ARC
- 3 general letters
- 1/2 - 93 } all answered -
- 1/2 - 94 } to be answered
- Now have 39 from letters for 94 letters
- Up to 94 letters

- Phone bank - no info - only letters -

• 14 plans ±

•

• 2,500 letters / week

- Need volunteers -

- Some letters get referred to owners -

APR-24-1994 20:55 FROM BOOZ ALLEN&HAMILTON

TO

92024356369 P.02

Health Care Reform Information Center
Automated Voice Response System Flow Chart
(menu-driven phone system)

Greeting

Thank you for calling the White House Health Care Reform Information Center...

Touch Tone vs. Rotary

If you are calling from a touch tone phone, please press 1 now.

If you have a rotary phone, please stay on the line for assistance. Thank you.

Wait 5 Secs...

435-6094

Main Menu

For specific questions or comments concerning the President's Health Care Reform Proposal, press 1 now.

For the mailing address of the HCRIC, press 2 now.

For the Center's hours of operation, press 3 now.

For information on how to obtain the President's HCRP, press 4.

To repeat the preceding options, press *.

To end call, press #

1 → To Comments or Questions Menu

* → To Main Menu...

→ To Goodbye...

2

HCRP Copy Info

Correspondence for the HCRIC...

3

Hours of Operation

The HCRIC is open...

4

Mailing Address

The following items...

Repeat Message Menu

To repeat this message, press 1

To return to the main menu, press 2

1

Repeat Message...

2

To Main Menu...

APR-24-1994 20:55 FROM BOOZ ALLEN&HAMILTON

TO

92024356069 P.03

**Health Care Reform Information Center
Automated Voice Response System Flow Chart
(menu-driven phone system)**

Specific Questions or Comments Menu

For questions or comments on benefits provided and choice of health providers, press 1.

For questions or comments on unfair insurance practices, press 2.

For questions or comments on employer requirements, press 3.

For questions or comments concerning health care professionals, press 4.

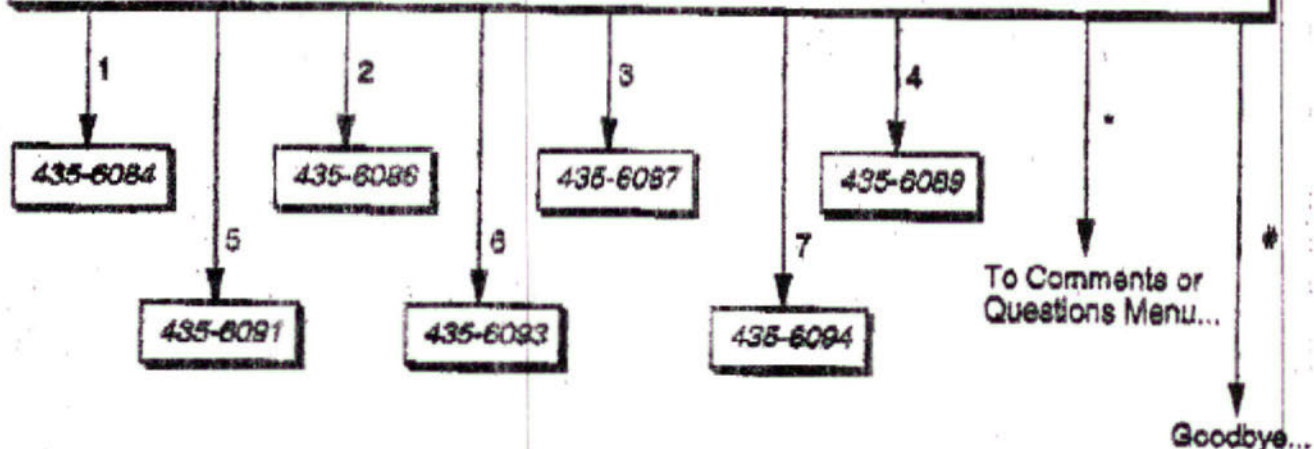
For questions or comments on either Medicare or Medicaid, press 5.

For questions or comments on coverage of Veterans, military, and federal employees, press 6.

For any other areas not specified previously, please press 7.

Please press * to repeat all of the available options.

To end call, press #.



435
6056
301
973
3183

NOTE TO: Harold Ickes

SUBJECT: Health Care Information Center Phone Bank

Attached for your review are documents prepared by the Health Care Reform Information Center relating to the proposed phone bank operation.

Document A is the script each operator will be required to follow. The script includes instructions for handling a caller with a question or one with a comment. The operators will be prohibited from disseminating information over the phone. All operators will be required to attend a training program before working the phones.

Document B is the letter classification system. This document will be used by the operators to match up the appropriate response letter for the incoming call.

Document C is the intake summary sheet. At the end of the day a tally of the calls will be compiled by issue and state. This information will be presented to the War Room each day at the 6:00 P.M. meeting.

Document D is a graph depicting the volume of calls on the new "preserve Medicare" message by targeted states. This data can be compiled weekly or monthly, and for each of the five new message points.

Buddy
Buddy Mann

CC: Janice Enright
Ann Cahill
Greg Lawler

J- Info from
Buddy re: 6 st.
other thoughts?

3:45 Tues
Maggie's WW office

HEALTH CARE REFORM INFORMATION CENTER

Telephone Script

A

Good morning (afternoon). This is the Health Care Reform Information Center. How may I help you?"

Friendly greeting. Avoid giving out your name.

Caller with a question: "Yes. I have a question. I'd like to know if Clinton's plan will cover illegal immigrants?"

Caller with a comment: "Yes. I'm calling to let you know that I don't think it's fair that we should have to pay for the health care of people who illegally immigrate to this country."

"You're looking for more information on how the Health Care Reform proposal addresses the issue of illegal immigrants, is that correct?"

Response to caller with a question. Avoid answering the caller's direct question. Reframe the question into an issue that can be responded to in writing.

"... you're saying you'd be opposed to that."

Response to caller with a comment. Reflect the caller's opinions back to him/her.

Caller w/ question: "Yes. That's correct."
Caller w/ comment: "Yes. That's right."

"I can see this is an area of concern for you. What I'd like to do is forward your question to one of our staff, so that you can receive an informative response. May I have your name and address?"

Re: caller with a question: Acknowledge and validate the caller's concerns. Maintain control of the call and obtain pertinent information.

"I can see this is an area of concern for you, and appreciate your taking the time to share your views with us. In noting your opinions, may I have your zip code and state?"

Re: caller with a comment: Validate the importance of caller's opinions. Obtain data needed to identify and track opinions nationally.

Caller w/ question: "Why do you need my name and address. I've asked a simple question, can't you just answer it?"

Caller w/ comment: "I'm from California, and my zip code is 92545."

"Our purpose is to help identify the issues about health care reform that are important to the public. With your name and address our staff will be able to send you some very helpful information on (topic). Can we begin with your first and last name?"

Refocus the question to maintain control of the interaction. Remember that people will ask questions for many reasons other than to get info. (i.e. a question like this serves to measure your poise)

Caller w/ question: "Oh, alright. It's Mary Smith. and my address is 868 Old West Way, Tucson AZ, 85337."

TO END INTERACTION

"Mary, thank-you for calling to share your question with us. Your support and participation in this process are invaluable. You can expect to hear from our office very soon. Good-bye."

Closing remarks for caller w/ a question.

"Sir, I'd like to thank you for sharing your views on (topic). Your willingness to participate in this process is invaluable. Good-bye."

Closing remarks for a caller w/ a comment.

B

PROPOSED LETTER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

allows volunteers to consistently classify calls

HEALTH BENEFITS (guaranteed at work)

CV 100	Coverage (benefits)	HE 150	Envir. Hlth
PR 100	Preventive Health Care	HE 150	Fam Plan
HE 100	Health Education	HE 170	Nutrition
PE 100	Pre-existing condition		
AB 101	Abortion- Pro	IF 101	Infert- pro
AB 102	Abortion- Con	IF 102	Infert- con
CH 100	Children/chronic illness	MH 100	Ment. Hlth
CH 110	Children/ disabilities	MH 110	Psychother.
		SA 100	Substance Abuse

GUARANTEED PRIVATE INSURANCE

CV 120	Coverage- Uninsured	LE 100	Lg Emplrs
CV 130	Coverage- P/T workers	SE 100	Self-empld
CV 131	Coverage- P/T workers (women)	UN 100	Unions
RT 100	Retirees	SD 100	Coll. stdnts
SN 100	Senior Citizens	SD 120	Med Stdnts
US 100	Underserved populations		
US 110	Rural populations		
UP 100	Undocumented persons		
PH 100	Public Health (spec. pop)	GP 100	Gvt Pgms
PH 110	Adolescents	GP 110	COBRA
PH 120	African-Americans	GP 120	CHAMPUS
PH 130	AIDS/HIV	GP 130	FEHB
PH 140	Native Amer/Alaskan natives	GP 140	Ind. Hlth.Svc
PH 150	Asian/Pacific Islanders	GP 150	Medicaid
PH 170	Latino/Hispanics	GP 160	Medicare
PH 180	Women (cancer)	GP 170	VA

ORGANIZATIONAL/ COST ISSUES

IN 100	Insurance practices	MC 100	Costs, Med
PW 100	paperwork	MC 110	Dr fees
HA 100	Health Alliances	MC 120	Fraud/Abuse
HB 100	Health Alliance Boards (state)	MC 130	Hosp Chgs
NH 100	National Health Board	MC 140	Med Equip
		MC 150	Prescriptions
TR 100	Transition	MC 160	Cost Contain
AU 100	Auto Insurance Integration	MC 170	Inadeq. Care
WC 100	Workers Comp integration	FI 100	Financing
WH 100	Welfare/ HCR relationship	ST 100	Sin tax
		SU 100	Subsidy
		SV 100	Savings

CHOICE

AR 100	Antitrust Reform
CN 100	Confidentiality
CC 100	Consumer Choice- Plan
CC 110	Consumer Choice- Dr
HE 110	Academic Health Ctr
HE 120	Cmty Health Ctr
QA 100	QA report card
QC 100	Quality Care
RE 100	Research

HP 100	HCP
HP 110	Chiropract.
HP 120	Dentist
HP 140	Nurses
HP 160	Dr
HP 160	Psychiat
HP 170	Alt Med
HP 180	Prim vs Spec
HP 190	SocWk/Psych
HP 200	Pediatric

PREREQ MEDICARE

GP 180	Medicare
RT 100	Retirees
SN 100	Senior Citizens

MISCELLANEOUS

HR 101	HSA- pro
HR 102	HSA- con
GF 100	Gift/Advice
HF 100	Heartfelt
RI 100	Req for info
OP 100	Other plans
OT 100	Other issues

C

HEALTH CARE REFORM INFORMATION CENTER TELEPHONE INTAKES SUMMARY SHEET

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Comments : _____
Questions: _____
Other : _____
TOTAL CALLS: _____

ACTIVITY BY "HOT" ISSUE:

ISSUE	PRO	CON
BC's Hlth Care proposal	_____	_____
Other plans*	_____	_____
Employer Mandates	_____	_____
Abortion	_____	_____

ACTIVITY BY STATE:

AL	NE
AK	NV
AZ	NH
AR	NJ
CA	NM
CO	NY
CT	NC
DE	ND
DC	OH
FL	OK
GA	OR
GU	PA
HI	PR
ID	RI
IL	SC
IN	SD
IA	TN
KS	TX
KY	UT
LA	VT
ME	VI
MD	VA
MA	WA
MI	WV
MN	WI
MS	WY
MO	Other:
MT	

ACTIVITY BY GENERAL ISSUE:

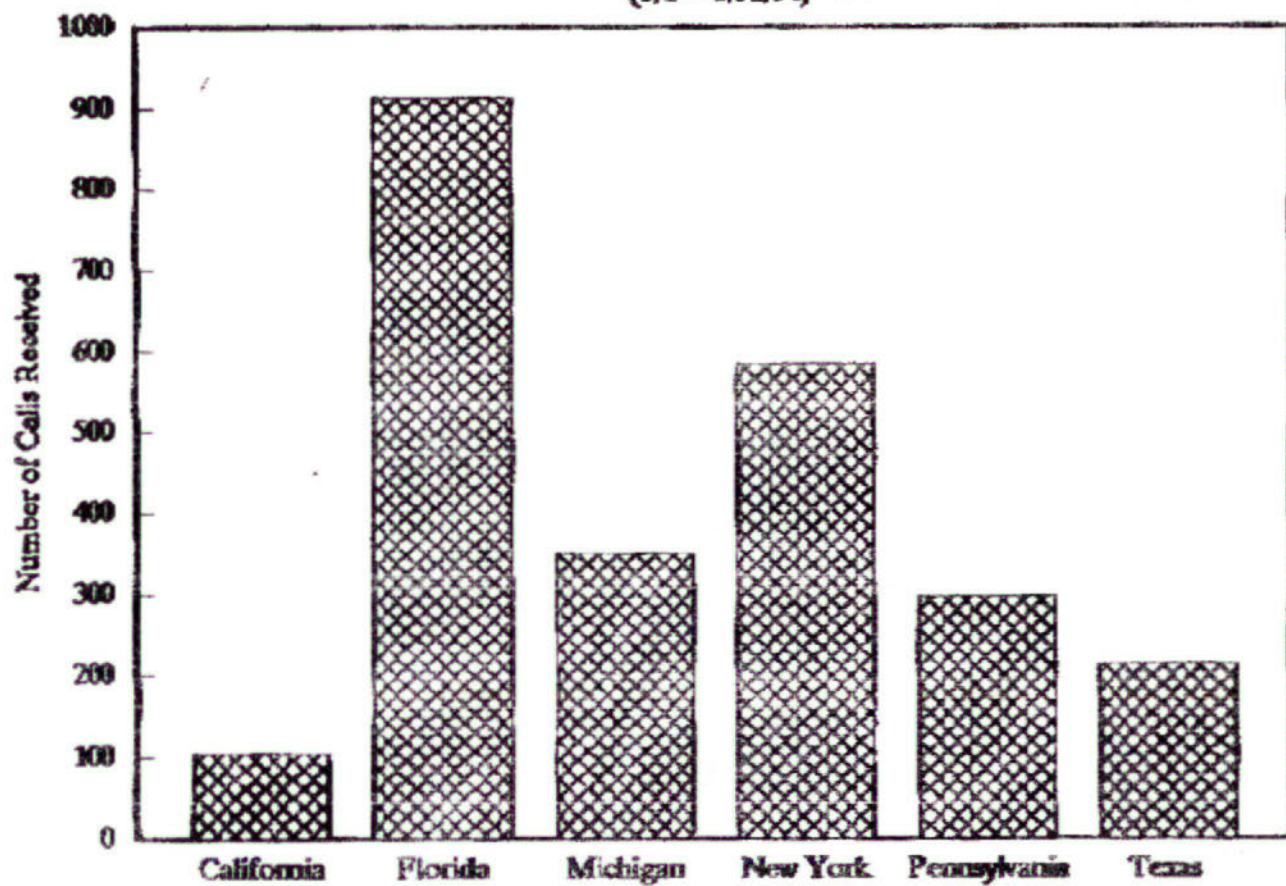
ISSUE	TOTAL #
Preventive care	_____
Pre-existing conditions	_____
Unfair insurance practices	_____
Prescription benefits	_____
Medicare	_____
BC's impact/ sm. business	_____
Cost containment: hospital	_____
Cost containment: doctor	_____
Malpractice issues	_____
Benefits/BC's proposal	_____
Consumer choice re: plan	_____
Consumer choice re: dr	_____

*** COMMENTS**

A

MEDICARE

(3/1 - 3/31/94)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

28-Mar-1994 02:57pm

TO: Janice A. Enright

FROM: Alice J. Pushkar
Presidential Correspondence

SUBJECT: RE: Buddy Menn

I met with Buddy this morning. It looks like things are moving along at 1800 G. The big push this week, as I understand it, is to get all 1993 letters out by Friday. I have sent one of my interns over today to help out with data entry. I understand that Buddy has made a similar request of Presidential Correspondence, the War Room and Ira's office to get as many interns as possible over there this week to help with the data entry.

On the phone front--I believe that the phone text has yet to be completed, but that one of the Agency Reps has been assigned to get it done. I think we need to repeatedly make it clear that even with a phone text, the volunteers who are answering the phones must have an agency rep or two as managers/monitors. I think the temptation to give out information will always be there.

I think that they need to get working on recruiting volunteers. They do not have as many as they need. Even though the agency reps have indicated to us that they have been working on this all along (by telephone and now by letter), their efforts do not seem to have been as fruitful as we had been lead to expect. Buddy is aware of this.

Will they be operational this week? Yes, as outlined above. I do not think we can consider it full operational, however, until the additional agency reps arrive and they have more volunteers than they know what to do with. I think great strides have been made in establishing responsibility and accountability and, hopefully, common sense.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: H.I.
FROM: J.E.
DATE: 26 February 1994
RE: G Street operation/legislative person - HHS

As we discussed last night, Kevin Thurm has been pursuing our request to add a legislative person to our health care operation as well as finding the appropriate person to oversee (on what may be a full time basis) the new information center on G Street. This operation is virtually ready to roll, but is waiting for this key person. (I will not detail the qualifications needed since that is not the purpose of this memo.)

After discussions with Jerry Klepner, Kevin has determined that Buddy Menn, who works at FDA (legislative), which is part of HHS, should be detailed for 6 months (which means that HHS would pick up the salary and the WH would not be charged with a F/T/E) to replace Steve Edelstein, who is currently working closely with Jack Lew and Chris Jennings.

Menn is a 30 year old, white male lawyer, with good political experience, campaign experience, some health care background and some legislative background.

In the meantime, Kevin tells me he is still "leveraging" Jerry for another person, who would supplement Menn as well.

That leaves Edelstein free to do the G Street job.* Kevin is firm on the fact that that's where Edelstein should be utilized. (If, however, those who view the G Street operation as not a full time job, he would also be available for other responsibilities with legislative.)

In any event, because it is not safe to assume that the "detail" can be worked out, Kevin is willing to go back to Klepner and leverage the other person from him so that we can have a legitimate Agency Rep. (Menn does not meet the criteria, because he is coming from FDA, to be a legitimate Agency Rep. Or, at least Kevin thinks not.)

This process is ongoing and the clock is running for G Street to get started. As you know, HRC is anxious to go over there and see this set up.

* I know you have your own view of where Steve should be.

Information Center
HC

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM: FOR DANA HYDE, OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS
FROM: ALICE PUSHKAR, OFFICE OF FIRST LADY'S CORRESPONDENCE
SUBJECT: ROTATION OF AGENCY REPS
DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 1994

Several of the Agency Representatives, who are staffing the Health Care Reform Information Center, are ending their rotations within the next several weeks. Attached is a list of departure dates. As we determined in our initial discussions, the agencies will need to send replacements prior to the on-site reps' departure so that the current agency reps will train the incoming reps. Needless to say, this is essential to keep the operation running smoothly.

CC: MARGARET A. WILLIAMS, MARSHA SCOTT, JANICE ENRIGHT, MARJORIE TARMEY

REP	AGENCY	PROJECTED DEPARTURE DATE
Seileen Mullen	DOD	2/25/94
Dorothy Mckelvin	HHS	2/28/94
Scott Stiens	VA	3/15/94
Anna Lopez	HHS	3/31/94
Victor Harris	VA	Indefinite
Helene Benson	DOL	Indefinite
Kevin Cooper	DOD	Indefinite

Agency representatives who have not been replaced as of 2/22/94

REP	AGENCY
Anita Fogan	Treasury
Maria Stephens	Treasury
Debby Goldberg	DOL

2/17/94 -

re 1800 G Street - GSA note -

- Rhea Purkait
- J. Eryht
- G. Lander
- Schen - common
- Schen

consequence and + phone calls re health care

- use volunteers
- original reps
- phone notes by end of week
- computer notes is being worked on -
 - letters to be printed in @EOD
 - 20 - 30,000 letters

1 full ^{time system} ~~time~~ ^{page} ~~page~~ ^{good} ~~good~~ ^{blat} ~~blat~~ -
+ 7 copy reps
30 volunteers

30 from letters; none of which have been approved
• all are from first letter

- Turkey Wagon from HHS - & p
- perhaps
- Stan Edelstein -

- 10 phones
- 7 copy reps
- 30 volunteers

30
2
32
27

→ Plan 14 off

- less in
wa form
- return to HHS
- work for Turkey

Wag -
Wag - Eggs and

MEMORANDUM

TO: Harold
FROM: Janice
DATE: 21 March 1994
RE: Responsive letters for correspondence unit at G St.

Attached are letters which are in the final stage of revision which Buddy Menn (the new G. Street policy liaison) brought over in case you wanted them to have a political vet.

Do you? If so, who should do it? If not, is it o.k. to send them back to Jennifer Klein (the counsel woman who works for HRC in connection with health care). It is her handwriting that you see all over these letters based upon the various points of approval (counsel's office and policy) which they have gone through.

Let me know ASAP, they are pushing to get these things approved as quickly as possible.

3/22 - Greg is reading these
although he says his
changes, if any, will be
minimal. He has full
confidence in Jennifer Klein
(the attorney on First Lady's staff)
who has vetted them.
They have also been ok'd by
policy + Jason Solomon.

Lynn Margherio's comments have not been included. As I noted before, if this letter is designed to respond to questions about funding for academic health centers, it must address AHC pools, residency training, requirement that health plans contract with AHCs for specialized care.

DRAFT**ACADEMIC HEALTH
CENTERS**

Revised: 2/28/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about funding for academic health centers under the President's Health Security Act. This is an issue which both the President and his Administration considered carefully in formulating the Act.

that the

The history of American medicine is in large part the story of tremendous advances in medical research that has saved lives, improved the quality of care and helped reduce health care costs. Advancing research and technology increases the potential for more effective, low-cost treatments, and so is an important facet of the Health Security Act. Advances in medical science and technology, the development of new medications, and innovations in the way we get health care will lead to increased efficiency in the health care system, and a higher standard of living.

Understanding the crucial relationship between continued biomedical research and increased efficiencies in health care delivery, the President's Health Security Act will expand prevention research through increased funding to the National Institutes of Health. Funding will be increased for research leading to advances in promoting health and preventing diseases, disorders, and other health conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, breast cancer, heart disease, and stroke. The President's commitment to increase funding in prevention research is tied to one of the underlying principles of the Act, namely the goal of promoting a healthier population which maintains an overall higher standard of health.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: This letter is really only about research. There are other AC. Health Center issues -- like residency slots, IME and DME etc. The language in the last line of the second paragraph is in most of the letters.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Ask Lynn Margherio to review letter -- 6-2216. Also, with regard to the last sentence of the first paragraph: "This is true of most of the letters."

Lynn's comments: see attached

DRAFT

ANTI-TRUST REFORM

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you very much for writing about health care reform. The President and his Administration considered antitrust reform carefully in the process of formulating the Health Security Act.

The proposed Health Security Act does not include any antitrust exemptions.

In your letter, you express concern about preserving competition in the health care industry. In many circumstances, ~~however~~ competition is actually promoted by mergers, joint ventures and other cooperative activities among hospitals and other health care providers. For example, lower health care costs ~~could~~ be achieved through mergers of small, inefficient hospitals or joint purchases by hospitals of expensive equipment, such as MRI machines.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which enforces antitrust laws, and the Justice Department, are working to reduce uncertainty regarding the application of antitrust laws to these activities. For the first time, both these agencies have issued antitrust enforcement policy statements for the health care industry. The policy statements provide "safety zones" in which the FTC and the Justice Department will not challenge, for example, hospital mergers, hospital joint ventures involving high-technology or other expensive medical equipment, or physician network joint ventures. These agencies have also established an expedited review procedure for businesses regarding antitrust issues.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

A's EDITS: In the second paragraph it doesn't say how competition is promoted. And what is being addressed in paragraph two seems different than paragraph three.

The Health Security Act encourages providers and health plans to compete on the basis of price, quality and innovation.

DRAFT

AIDS

Revised: 2/28/94

Dear:

You asked specifically about provisions in the President's plan that effect people living with HIV or AIDS.

Thank you very much for writing about health care reform.

~~The President's Health Security Act guarantees every American a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away.~~

~~President Clinton shares your concerns about the difficulties experienced by persons living with HIV and AIDS.~~

~~The Health Security Act ensures that people with HIV or AIDS can get and keep health care coverage by preventing pre-existing condition exclusions, prohibiting plans from charging higher premiums for individuals with poor health status, and not allowing lifetime limits on coverage. Persons with HIV or AIDS will be able to enroll in any health plan and receive the comprehensive benefits package at the same community rates paid by everyone else within their area. In addition, the benefits package is guaranteed regardless of whether a person changes jobs or loses his or her job.~~

~~The Act includes coverage of prescription drugs, home and hospice care, and long-term care. It limits the amount patients may be required to spend out-of-pocket each year to \$3,000 per family and \$1,500 per individual. The Act also expands funding for research, education, and prevention efforts related to the virus that causes AIDS.~~

~~The Clinton Administration believes that health care reform is the most important step this nation can take toward insuring the security and well-being of its citizens now and in the future. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.~~

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Other good things to mention include 1) coverage for off-label uses of prescription drugs; and 2) Ryan White providers are automatically designated as essential community providers.

A's EDITS: I think that the research funding is directed to chronic diseases rather than AIDS persay.

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: Replace the word "for" (first "for") with the word "from".

Providers funded under the Ryan White Act are automatically designated as essential community providers during a five year transition period, meaning that all health plans must provide access to them.

DRAFT

CHIROPRACTORS
HP110

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing regarding the President's ^{health care reform} ~~Health~~ _{proposal} Security Act, and specifically about the issue of chiropractic coverage.

The Health Security Act provides coverage for a comprehensive benefit package. ^{including} ~~A broad range of medically necessary or appropriate services are covered, including hospital care, clinical preventive services, mental illness and substance abuse services, home health care, and services of health professionals.~~ _{Outpatient rehabilitation,}

The Act defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or those services which could be performed by a physician and which are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide those services in the state. The Act does not specify particular items or services within these broad categories, not does it identify specific providers of services. Improved competition among health plans will likely create new incentives for effective use of a range of providers, including chiropractors. Plans will be free to use any mix of providers to meet the needs of their enrollees.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

A's EDITS: In paragraph two, if the question is about chiropractors, why are all these (clinical preventive services, mental illness and substance abuse, etc) included?

DRAFT

CONFIDENTIALITY

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the need to protect the privacy and security of health care information under the President's Health Security Act. This is an issue ~~which both the President and his Administration~~ ^{that} considered carefully while formulating the Health Security Act.

The Act establishes advanced information systems to ensure that medical providers have timely data to deliver high quality and efficient care. The President's plan provides measures to protect computerized personal medical information including the following:

- o Every patient ^{has} ~~shall have~~ the right to know in what locations any identifiable information is maintained and the purpose for which such information could be disclosed.
- o Every patient ^{has} ~~shall have~~ a right of access to their individually identifiable information in order to see, copy, or correct such records.
- o Anyone using information for any improper purpose ^{is} ~~will be~~ subject to criminal penalties.
- o The national privacy policy ^s ~~will~~ explicitly forbid ^{the} linking of health care and non-health care information through health identification numbers ^{will}.
- o The National Health Board ^s ~~shall~~ promulgate standards to protect the privacy of information which is collected and or reported as a part of the new health care system.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

CONSUMER CHOICE:
HEALTH PLANS

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. You ^{have} ~~expressed the opinion~~ ^{the} that consumers should ~~retain their~~ ^{noted} ability to choose their own doctors and health plans. The President's Health Security Act does not decrease the ability of consumers to make choices. ~~On the contrary,~~ ^{It does} in fact, increase choices for individuals.

Currently, only 3 out of every 10 ^{not employers,} employers with fewer than 500 employees offer any choice of health plan. Under the Health Security Act, families will choose their health plans. Also, a "point of service" feature gives consumers the choice to belong to an HMO-type plan but maintain the option to see any doctor outside the plan by paying a bit more. ^{to} All individuals will have the option to choose a "traditional, fee-for-service" plan. ^{all HMO-type plans must provide}

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: May want to add 1) opportunity to choose any plan in an area if in regional alliance [alliance can exclude plan only if premium >20% above average]; and 2) every alliance must make available a fee-for-service plan.

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: Add: All individuals will have the option to choose a "traditional, fee-for-service" plan.

A's EDITS: The edits she/he made the same as Walter Zellman's and have been made.

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: With regard to sentence one of paragraph 2, "many of those with only one health plan offered have a fee-for-service plan."

, which allows consumers to see any health professional they wish.

Ask Jason Solomon 6-2566 to rewrite. The bullets are wrong. This should focus on our message.

DRAFT

HEALTH CARE REFORM:
CON

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing to express your views on the reform of our nation's health care system.

Six principles underly the Health Security Act: security, simplicity, savings, quality, choice and responsibility. Under the Act, all Americans will be guaranteed a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away. Everyone (employers and individuals) will be asked to take responsibility for contributing something, even if it is only a small amount, to the cost of their health care.

The Health Security Act is basically organized in three different ways:

- o traditional fee-for-service in which you go to any doctor you want and are charged for each visit;
- o networks of doctors and hospitals (or preferred provider organizations) in which you choose the doctor you want, paying higher out-of-pocket costs for doctors not in the network;
- o health maintenance organization (HMOs) in which you choose a doctor within a network, with minimum out-of-pocket costs.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

Walter Zelman: Perhaps take the opportunity to note that all Americans will get a choice of private health insurance plans. Also, elaborate on the principles, rather than focus on bullets.

DRAFT

COBRA

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform and its coordination with the Combined Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) Continuation Coverage.

The Health Security Act ensures that every American is eligible for comprehensive health coverage. The enactment of the Act will make COBRA Continuation Coverage, now required of group health plans, unnecessary because ongoing health care coverage will be made available to all individuals. Therefore, the Health Security Act repeals section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code. During the transition to full implementation of health reform, once an individual becomes eligible for such comprehensive health coverage, COBRA coverage will be discontinued.

Under the President's ^{Coverage for} Health Security Act health care system, every American will receive a Health Security Card that will guarantee a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away. Coverage will include hospital and professional services, a wide range of preventive services, hospice and home care, mental health ^{illness and substance abuse} treatments, and other services.

The Health Security Act eliminates lifetime limits on medical coverage and preexisting condition exclusions, ^{and} ~~guarantees a full range of health care.~~

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

STUDENTS:
COLLEGE HEALTH
CARE

Revised: 2/28/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about college health care programs under the President's Health Security Act. This is an issue *that* ~~which both the President and his Administration~~ considered carefully while formulating the Act.

~~The current population of students in this country is a very diverse group and is not always covered by health insurance. Under the President's Health Security Act, students, whether they are dependents or independent, will have comprehensive health coverage like all Americans.~~ *whether or not they are dependents.*

~~Students have various choices under the plan. For example, Students may enroll in a health plan offered by the regional alliance in the area in which their school is located or may remain in the alliance in the state in which their family is enrolled. Their particular college health center program may operate as a health plan or as a provider within a health plan.~~

Academic health centers such as medical schools, other health professional training programs and teaching hospitals will continue to be unique resources under the plan. These Centers will deliver the type of care which targets specific needs and provides training for the health care workforce of the future. *2*

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: What does "...targets specific needs..." mean in paragraph four line four?

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

A's EDITS: Regarding paragraph four: "Huh? This seems out of place."

If competition is unsuccessful in an area, a "backstop" system of premium caps will ensure that average premiums in that area rise no faster than inflation by the end of the decade.

DRAFT

COSTS

Revised: 3/1/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the high cost of health care. This is an issue which both the President and his Administration considered carefully while formulating the Health Security Act. The President's Health Security Act will reduce the growth of health care costs.

The principal source of cost containment under the President's plan will be increased competition among health plans and providers, through both enabling consumers to make meaningful comparisons and increasing consumer bargaining power. Since all plans will be offering the same package of comprehensive package of benefits, consumers will be able to compare and judge plans based on quality and value. Also, health alliances will enable businesses to negotiate lower prices on behalf of consumers because they will be purchasing coverage in much higher volume.

As a backstop to competition, premium costs will be controlled by the imposition of maximum average premiums determined by the National Health Board. The Board will also calculate a target premium for each regional health alliance, adjusting the national target based on current variations in health spending and the numbers of uninsured persons above the target by a certain amount. The Act will limit the growth in premium costs. Large employers who form corporate alliances are expected to comply with the same limits on premium increases as regional alliances.

Finally, the Health Security Act reduces paperwork costs by introducing standard claims forms, a comprehensive benefits package, and standardized reimbursement rules and procedures.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: In paragraph 3, sentence 2 "...imposition of maximum average premiums determined..." is not exactly right. Ask Larry Levitt to review.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Letter has slash through it. Redraft this letter from scratch?

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: With regard to 3rd sentence of 2nd paragraph... "Better to reduce the emphasis on 'negotiation' and emphasize 'administrative'." With regard to paragraph 3, "simply

and streamlining regulations, so that the same health care dollar buys less paperwork and more health care for our dollars.

this is a 'back-stop' mechanism that will make sure premiums don't rise faster than national goals." Also, Mr. Zellman says that "there will be savings to smaller employers who will now pay no more than larger employers."

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: With regard to last sentence of second paragraph, "Who is negotiating?"

Ask Jason Solomon to redraft first 2 Ps. 1st P should talk about 39 million uninsured. In 4 will lose health ins. etc. 2nd P should talk about how HSA changes that. Could use 3rd P of Insurance Practices letter for 2nd P.

DRAFT

COVERAGE:
BENEFITS &
UNINSURED

Revised: 3/1/94

Dear:

Thank you for taking the time to write about health care reform. You have expressed concern about coverage of people who are uninsured today, and about the benefits which are covered under the President's Health Security Act.

Under the Act, there are no "uninsurable" individuals. The Health Security Act requires all health plans to accept all applicants regardless of health status, age, or the health of family members; prohibits all pre-existing condition exclusions; guarantees that coverage cannot be dropped for any reason; and spreads risk broadly through the use of community rating. Premiums for the comprehensive benefits package will be adjusted only for geographic location and family income. No one will pay more for health insurance because of a pre-existing condition, current illness or any other individual characteristic.

Under the Act, every American receives a comprehensive package of benefits. The package provides a broad range of clinical preventive services, including routine clinical visits, well-baby care, immunizations, prenatal care, cholesterol screening, mammogram and pap smears without cost sharing. It also includes hospital and professional services, prescription drugs, hospice and home care, durable medical equipment, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and other services. These benefits are not permitted to be subject to lifetime limits.

In addition to receiving all the benefits they have today, Medicare recipients will receive expanded services including a new prescription drug benefit. Medicaid nursing home coverage will be improved to permit people to keep more of their resources.

Thank you again for writing. The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Paragraph four "isn't really on point." Also, "maybe mention.....for low-income families.

WALTER ZELLMAN'S: "The new long term benefit is not part of Medicare-it is a separate program for people of all ages.

Use
~~Then~~ same letter as Consumer choice: healthy plans. This one is
wrong.

DRAFT

CONSUMER CHOICE:
DOCTORS

Revised: 2/28/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the ability of consumers to choose their own doctor under the President's Health Security Act. This is an issue ~~which both the President and his~~ ^{proposal for health care reform} ~~that the~~ Administration considered carefully while formulating the Health Security Act.

The President's Act ~~preserves~~ ^{proposes} the ability of consumers to choose their doctors. Each regional and corporate alliance will be required to offer a fee-for-service plan. <Paperwork burdens on doctors will be reduced through creation of a single claim form, and introducing a standard, comprehensive benefit package, which will make it easier to determine which services are covered.

Lastly, under the Act, antitrust rules will be clarified, making it easier for doctors and hospitals to, for example, negotiate reimbursement rates and to purchase equipment collectively.>

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Before paragraph 2, I would like to add discussion first about how today employers choose health plans for their employees. Under HSA, individuals will be able to select for themselves from a range of fee-for-service, preferred provider and health maintenance organization plans offered through the alliance. See talking points on choice for language. Also, why is the information about paperwork burdens and antitrust rules relevant?

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Starting with third sentence of second paragraph and ending with third paragraph -- "What does this have to do with choice?" Also, mention point of service requirement for HMOs.

A's EDITS: Regarding paragraph two & three: "These seem very disconnected."
Walter Zelman: Eliminate paragraphs in brackets. Add language: All Americans would have the opportunity to choose from a number

of health insurance plans, including at least one of which would offer "traditional, fee for service".

The programs address a variety of issues such as community health, personal health, nutritional health, ~~family life~~ (including family planning) and growth and development.

DRAFT

HEALTH EDUCATION

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Health Security Act. Your letter raises an interesting and provocative issue ~~which features prominently~~ in the health care debate, namely how ~~under health care reform~~ the population ~~is~~ ^{can be} educated on ways to lead a more healthy lifestyle and, as a result, bring about a reduction in overall health care costs.

So many of the health habits we maintain as adults are learned when we are children. ~~Indeed, the foundation, or base, of a healthy lifestyle is formed in our childhood years. It is only fitting, therefore, that adults teach healthy habits to the children of our communities.~~

(It is with this understanding of the importance of early education in mind that the Health Security Act has as one of its central components ~~a comprehensive school health education and school-related health services provision.~~ ^{programs} Designed for children from preschool age to the end of high school, the Act provides comprehensive health education on a variety of issues. It will address issues such as community health, environmental health, personal health, family life (including family planning), growth and development, and nutritional health. Other topics include prevention and control of disease and disorders, safety and prevention of injuries, substance abuse, including tobacco and alcohol use, and consumer health education.

~~The~~ ^{at appropriate ages} primary objective of health education is to target the health risk behaviors accounting for ~~the majority of the~~ ^{high} morbidity and mortality rates among youth and adults. Health education will be used to educate children ~~against engaging in~~ ^{about} the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drug abuse; sexual behaviors, ~~resulting in~~ ^{or} infection with the HIV virus and in other sexually transmitted diseases ~~or in unintended injuries~~; and dietary patterns resulting in disease, and sedentary lifestyles.

~~Most importantly, the President's Health Security Act promotes personal responsibility for a healthy lifestyle, including teaching the legal, social, and health consequences of behaviors that pose health risks. As a community, we can be both the teachers and beneficiaries of better, more healthy lifestyles.~~

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

increase awareness about

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Are paragraphs 3 and 4 different? Seems repetitive, especially with the last sentence of 3 and first of 4.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

FEHBP

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform and your concerns about how it will impact the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) across the country.

The President's Health Security Act is based on a principle embodied in today's FEHBP program: broad consumer choice of plans. Under the Health Security Act, federal employees and retirees will join with other members of the communities where they live and choose from among the health plans offered by the regional health alliance.

Federal employees and retirees, like other Americans, will be guaranteed the security of knowing that if they change jobs, lose their job or move, they will still be covered. The benefits package provided in the Health Security Act is ~~based on today's best plans, including several of the type now offered through~~ FEHBP. *that offered by comparable to many of the plans in FEHBP*

g The FEHBP will be repealed effective as of December 31, 1997, and ~~all contracts under such chapter shall terminate not later than such date. At that time, the regional health alliances will be in full operation to ensure choice of high quality health plans that provide the nationally guaranteed comprehensive benefits package.~~ *in all states* *new health system*

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

See attached draft

DRAFT

FRAUD & ABUSE

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the reform of our nation's health care system. President Clinton shares your concern about the need to protect Americans against fraud and abuse.

The President's Health Security Act takes historic steps to address the problem of fraud and abuse by proposing the criminalization of health care fraud and federal anti-fraud efforts and emphasizing the enforcement of anti-kickback laws.

The Act makes health care fraud a specific crime. The Act takes aggressive steps to combat health care fraud, increase penalties for those who cheat the system and expand enforcement activities. It imposes new prohibitions against kickbacks and conflicts of interest. Health care providers convicted of fraud and related crimes will be excluded from participation in health plans.

The scope of federal anti-fraud efforts will extend beyond government programs to include fraud in the private sector. The Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services will organize an All-Payer Health Care Fraud and Abuse Enforcement Program to coordinate federal, state and local law-enforcement activities. The existing anti-kickback law protects health plans, prohibiting the payment or receipt of any item of value as an inducement to refer patients for any type of health care service.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: I don't know the fraud and abuse provisions well enough to comment on whether this is correct. We have received criticism for being too tough on fraud. This letter sounds a bit overzealous. We don't want HRC to sound like she supports throwing doctors in jail for stealing tongue depressors. Ask Christine Heenan to review for tone...she will also know who to ask about substance.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

DRAFT: March 3, 1994

Fraud and Abuse-jw

Dear:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the reform of our nation's health care system. President Clinton shares your concern about the need to protect Americans against fraud and abuse within our health care system.

Through comprehensive reform, the Health Security Act reduces opportunities for fraud and abuse in the delivery of health care. In addition, the Health Security Act creates authorities specifically to fight and discourage fraud and abuse.

The entire structure and key provisions of the Health Security Act reduces opportunities and incentives for fraud and abuse. For example, the creation of uniform health benefits reduces opportunities for fraud and abuse related to coverage. Establishing a uniform system of employer-sponsored health coverage reduces the complex coordination of benefits, multiple billing and exclusions in the current system. Putting providers and plans at financial risk for costs of care reduce incentives for abuse, particularly the delivery of excessive tests and manipulation of coding and billing procedures. The adoption of unique identification numbers for health providers, plans, employers and consumers -- protected by strong privacy and confidentiality safeguards -- and the establishment of standards for the collection and use of electronic data reduce the potential for gaming the system through false claims.

Complementing these inherent fraud reducing features, the Health Security Act provides a battery of new tools explicitly targeted on fraud. The Health Security Act increases penalties for those who cheat the system and expands enforcement activities. It imposes new prohibitions against kickbacks and conflicts of interest. Health care providers convicted of fraud and related crimes will be excluded from participation in health plans.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

See previous
letter. Why do we
need 2?

DRAFT

FRAUD:
INADEQUATE CARE

Revised: 2/28/94

Dear:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter about health care reform. The President appreciates your sharing your ideas about an issue that is important to you and to all of us, namely the problems of fraud and abuse.

The President's Health Security Act addresses the existing fraud and abuse in a number of ways. Under the Act, health care fraud will be a separate criminal offense, and violators will face stiff penalties. A new health care fraud statute, modeled after existing mail and bank fraud laws, will establish penalties for schemes that defraud health plans. In addition, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services will organize an All-Payer Health Care Fraud and Abuse Enforcement Program to coordinate federal, state and local law-enforcement activities. Finally, the adoption of standard forms throughout the industry and a uniform coding system will reduce administrative costs and opportunities for fraudulent billing.

In order to improve the quality of health care, the President's Health Security Act enables consumers to receive quality report cards from health alliances that provide information on patient satisfaction and the performance of health plans, doctors and hospitals. The Act also strengthens and significantly streamlines three quality assurance programs -- the Medicare PRO program, the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act (CLIA), and licensure and certification standards for institutional providers.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns. The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Same comments as previous letter.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

A's EDITS: Paragraph 2 & 3: "...address different subjects -- not likely to be appropriate in the same letter."

Ask Jason Solomon to review. This is weak.

DRAFT

**HEALTH CARE REFORM:
GENERAL**

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the President's Health Security Act.

The President's Act is designed to fix our badly broken system. The President wants to give Americans the peace of mind they deserve and to help secure a better future for our children and grandchildren. The President's Health Security Act guarantees a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away even if you move, lose your job, or become ill.

It is time for America's health care system to make sense. The President's Health Security Act will bring costs under control and offer quality coverage to every American. The Act also ensures that no family will face bankruptcy if a parent or child becomes ill or disabled.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

GIFT/ADVICE/SUGGESTIONS

Revised: 3/2/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing on health reform and for sharing with us [fill in the item received]. Your thoughts on this issue are much appreciated.

The President's Health Security Act responds to the crisis in health care which our nation is facing. One of every four Americans stands to lose health coverage at some point in the next two years, and currently over 39 million people are uninsured. In an effort to improve our nation's health care system, the plan guarantees every American a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away. The President's goal is to provide every American with true health care security.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns about health care reform. Your support will be invaluable to the President as he and his Administration work toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Check on number (37) in paragraph 2.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: Change "37" to "39" in second sentence in second paragraph.

I wouldn't send out any letter about alliances.
Call me with questions.

DRAFT

HEALTH ALLIANCES

Dear:

Thank you for writing to express your views on the reform of our nation's health care system, in particular the way in which alliances will feature in the President's Health Security Act.

Today's insurance market is filled with different companies, agents, marketers and underwriters selling different plans with different benefits, exclusions, co-pays and deductibles. A key component of the President's Act is the health alliance system. Alliances are comprised of groups of individuals, families and local businesses who use their combined purchasing power to negotiate for high quality, affordable health care. A wide variety of plans - including at least one fee-for-service plan - will compete for the business of alliance members.

The alliance system will produce positive changes in the U.S. health care system. Regional and corporate health alliances will restructure and streamline the insurance market, consolidate the buying power of small and mid-sized employers, increase choices for consumers, and limit health cost increases for consumers and small and large employers.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns. The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

*I wouldn't send out any letters about alliances,
Call me with questions.*

DRAFT

**HEALTH ALLIANCE
BOARDS**

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing to express your views on the reform of our nation's health care system, in particular the role of health alliance boards in the President's Health Security Act.

Today's insurance market is filled with different companies, agents, marketers and underwriters selling different plans with different benefits, exclusions, copayments and deductibles. The choice of an individual's health plan is often made by his or her employer. Health alliances simplify and streamline the insurance market, consolidate the buying power of small and mid-sized employers, and increase choices for families and individuals. The health alliance boards will oversee alliances and will negotiate and contract with health plans.

Alliances may be state agencies or nonprofit corporations and will be comprised of groups of individuals, families and local businesses who use their combined purchasing power to negotiate for high quality, affordable health care.

States will appoint board members of regional alliances and the Health Security Act will specify general criteria to ensure that alliances represent the businesses and families paying for health care in that area. Alliance boards will include an even number of employer and consumer representatives and will work to negotiate and contract with health insurance providers, HMOs, preferred provider and fee-for-service organizations. Each regional alliance must also have a health care provider advisory board. States may establish statewide councils composed of representatives of employer and consumer organizations to prepare lists of nominees for alliance boards.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns. The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Emphasize that alliances permit family choice rather than employer choice of health plans.

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: "Might add a sentence on the rights of states to establish alliance boards in ways that are appropriate to that state -- state flexibility."

JENNIFER KLINE'S FINAL EDITS: In second paragraph, first sentence change the word "copays" to "copayments". Add "The choice of an individual's health plan is often made by his or her employer." Delete entire sentence that starts with "A key component..." Add "Health" to the beginning of third sentence in paragraph two. Add comma after mid-sized employers in same sentence. Replace "consumers" with "families."

DRAFT

HEARTFELT

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful and compelling letter. I am honored and touched that you chose to share your personal experiences with me.

The difficulties and frustration you have described appear to be enormous and illustrate exactly why we need reform. Affordable high quality health care is important to all of us, and the President's ~~Health Security Act~~ is designed to give people the security of a comprehensive benefits package that can never be taken away, even if an individual loses ~~or changes employment~~.

proposal for health care reform moves, a job, or changes jobs.
Again, thank you for taking the time to express yourself to me. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: We guarantee care more than when it is most needed (paragraph 2), Add: -never be taken away when lose or change jobs and high quality.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

**REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION**

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about the reform of our nation's health care system.

In response to your request for information concerning the President's Health Security Act, enclosed please find a summary of the Act. In addition the following documents are available for your purchase with a check or money order:

- o "Health Security: The President's Report to America"
Stock Number 040-000-006-338
\$5.00
- o "The Health Security Act"
Stock Number 040-000-006-346
\$45.00

You may obtain these documents directly from:

- o United States Government Printing office
Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

See my replacement letter. It will be done on Tues. 3/22

DRAFT

MALPRACTICE:
TORT REFORM

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you very much for writing about health care reform. The Clinton administration shares your concerns about the malpractice system. The Health Security plan takes Federal action to reduce frivolous lawsuits and curb exorbitant attorney fees while protecting patients' rights.

Under the Health Security Act, each health plan must establish an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve malpractice claims in a fair, efficient, timely and affordable way. An individual may bring a case to court only after participating in this process. Also, before filing a lawsuit, a lawyer will be required to obtain a "certificate of merit" which contains an affidavit from a previously uninvolved doctor stating that the care received by the patient was substandard.

The Health Security Act limits attorney contingency fees to one-third of an award, and allow states to impose even lower caps in order to discourage frivolous lawsuits and to make sure that most of the award is received by the injured party. [What about the collateral source rule?] The Act also permits damages to be paid by a physician over a period of time in order to prevent forcing him or her into bankruptcy.

[What about pilot programs? These include enterprise liability and practice guidelines as a defense.]

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: The questions in brackets need to be addressed in the final letter.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

MALPRACTICE: DEFENSIVE
MEDICINE/UNNECESSARY
PROCEDURES

Revised: 2/28/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing to me regarding the reform of our nation's health care system. In your letter, you expressed concern about the need to reduce the inefficiencies which weigh down the current health care system. In particular, you expressed concern about the excessive testing and paperwork which characterize the current health care system. This is a valid concern which the administration has considered carefully in the process of formulating the Health Security Act.

The Act will reduce paperwork by creating a single claim form that all doctors and hospitals will use, replacing today's hundreds of claims forms. Electronic exchange of insurance and patient information will further reduce costs and frustration for doctors. Moreover, with the introduction of a standard, comprehensive benefit package, doctors will no longer have to ferret out information on whether certain services are covered. Under the plan, covered services are comprehensive and standard cost-sharing rules will simplify accounting for providers. In all, the Act will reduce inefficiencies while maintaining the doctor-patient relationship.

Your support and insights are invaluable to the President as his administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: The first paragraph doesn't address excessive testing or malpractice, which is the intended purpose of this letter

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

A's EDITS: "Why is testing in?"

See Costs letter. No need for this letter

DRAFT

COSTS: MEDICAL

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about medical costs under the President's health care reform proposal. This is an issue which both the President and his Administration considered carefully while formulating the Health Security Act.

Many Americans like yourself have spoken to the President and complained about exorbitant health care costs. Health care reform will help to control these costs while maintaining high quality health care and providing comprehensive benefits that can never be taken away. For example:

- o As a result of new market forces, doctors fees, hospital charges and insurance premiums will be more competitively priced.
- o Every American will have a choice in picking their doctors and health care plans. In addition, consumers will be able to compare health plans by studying report cards, which rate the different plans that are offered. This new information will increase the competition among health care providers.
- o Premium costs will be controlled by the imposition of maximum average premiums determined by the National Health Board. The Board will also calculate a premium target, and limit the growth in premium costs, for each regional health alliance.
- o The Health Security Act will reduce paperwork by streamlining regulations, simplifying reimbursement through standard claims forms, and standardizing benefits packages, the same health care dollar will buy less paperwork and more care for our dollars.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Have Larry Levitt review point three.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Eliminate first sentence of point 1 and "add new sentence about strengthenig the market." With regard to point three, "reword and see comments on "cost" letter.

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: Delete "to bargain for lower prices" in

COSTS: MEDICAL
2 of 2

first sentence of first point. With regard to this sentence "health plans that charge higher prices than their competitors will lose patients (there is no real bargaining in the health alliance set-up).

*Already edited.
See edited version.*

DRAFT

CONFIDENTIALITY

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the need to protect the privacy and security of health care information under the President's Health Security Act. This is an issue which both the President and his Administration considered carefully while formulating the Health Security Act.

The Act establishes advanced information systems to ensure that medical providers have timely data to deliver high quality and efficient care. The President's plan provides measures to protect computerized personal medical information including the following:

- o Every patient shall have the right to know in what locations any identifiable information is maintained and the purpose for which such information could be disclosed.
- o Every patient shall have a right of access to their individually identifiable information in order to see, copy, or correct such records.
- o Anyone using information for any improper purpose will be subject to criminal penalties.
- o The national privacy policy will explicitly forbid linking of health care and non-health care information through health identification numbers.
- o The National Health Board shall promulgate standards to protect the privacy of information which is collected and or reported as a part of the new health care system.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

Ask Jason Solomon to improve this.

DRAFT

HEALTH CARE REFORM: PRO

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing to express your views on the reform of our nation's health care system and to express your support of the President's Health Security Act.

The President's Act is designed to fix our badly broken system. The President wants to give Americans the peace of mind they deserve and to help secure a better future for our children and grandchildren. The President's Health Security Act guarantees a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away even if you move, lose your job, or become ill.

It is time for America's health care system to make sense. The President's Health Security Act will bring costs under control and offer quality coverage to every American. The Act also ensures that no family will face bankruptcy if a parent or child becomes ill or disabled.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

Get information on State-by-State analysis. All states will
save — overall. Ask Jason Solomon for a paragraph on
state analysis.

DRAFT

REGIONS OF THE USA

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the people of [region of country] under the President's health care reform proposal.

services
~~In the long run,~~ The Health Security Act ^{in various ways,} brings financial relief to regions such as [region of country]. The Act reduces the burden on state programs that now finance and deliver health care services to the uninsured and the underinsured. Including coverage of substance abuse and mental health services in the comprehensive benefits package reduces state expenditures for these illnesses. Moreover, a new community-based long-term care program for the disabled replaces some care now covered by states under Medicaid. Finally, federal grants will help states provide special assistance to underserved rural and urban areas. This will help states strengthen and improve essential public health efforts.

The Administration is well aware of the concerns [name of those that live in the region] have regarding health care reform. The economic effects of health care reform should be viewed however, within the broader context of our overall rapidly changing economy. The President will continue to focus on the needs of all American workers who are displaced from the work force due to the changes in certain sectors of our economy. The working men and women of [region of country] will not be overlooked in this process.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Ask John Hart to review at x62896.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

SINGLE-PAYER

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed support for the single-payer system. This is an option that ~~both the President and his Administration~~ considered carefully while formulating ~~the Health Security Act~~. a proposal for

proposed Health Security The ~~Act~~ allows a state to choose to operate a single-payer system as part of the general goal of providing state flexibility. a health care reform. the state ~~The state's single-payer system must provide a comprehensive benefit package to all persons and maintain cost sharing no greater than the cost sharing that applies to all other individuals in other plans across the nation.~~

If a state chooses to form a health The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. For reform to be both successful and lasting, everyone must take responsibility for being part of the solution. The President looks forward to your support.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Include other information about single payers from Subtitle C of Title I.

Walter Zelman: "No" to above question

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: Might just say the Act allows a state to choose to operate a single-payer system as part of the general goal of providing state flexibility.

DRAFT

PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you very much for taking the time to write about health care reform. In your letter, you ~~expressed concern~~ ^{asked about} about coverage for prescriptions ^{drugs} under the President's Health Security Act.

The Health Security Act guarantees every American coverage for ~~prescription drugs~~. Individuals up to 65 years will pay either \$5.00 ~~per prescription~~ ^{of a prescription} or ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ ²⁰ of the cost after meeting a \$250.00 annual deductible depending on the health plan they choose. For those on Medicare, ~~eighty percent (80%)~~ ^{will pay 20 percent} of the cost ~~will be covered~~ after a person reaches the \$250.00 deductible. In addition, annual out-of-pocket costs will be limited to \$1,000.00 ~~and everything over that will be covered~~ ^{Individuals} ~~ing~~ ^{percent}.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

MENTAL HEALTH &
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about reform of our nation's health care system. In your letter, you expressed concern about the need to include non-discriminatory coverage of treatment for mental illnesses and substance abuse in the President's Health Security Act. This is a concern ^{that} which the Clinton Administration considered carefully while formulating the Act.

The President's Health Security Act eliminates lifetime limits on benefits and prohibits the denial of coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions that today restrict so many Americans' access to desperately needed mental illness and substance abuse services. The Administration understands the importance of mental health and has, for the first time, made mental illness and substance abuse services an integral component of health care coverage. By the year 2001, the Act will cover mental illness and substance abuse treatment without annual day or visit limitations.

^{in the package - ing needed treatment}
In addition to the mental illness and substance abuse services benefit, the Health Security Act includes initiatives for improving access to mental illness and substance abuse services, ^{by} The Act provides funding for services to remove barriers to treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, including community and patient outreach, transportation and translation services. In addition, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants for the development of school health service sites. Criteria for grant awards include the provision of health and social services, counseling services, and necessary referrals, including referrals regarding mental illness and substance abuse. Other school-based programs focus on educating school children about substance abuse, including tobacco and alcohol use.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Include in the second paragraph information about education and substance abuse treatment.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

MENTAL HEALTH:
PSYCHOTHERAPY

Replace mental health with
mental illness

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing regarding the reform of our nation's health care system. In your letter, you expressed concern about the need to provide outpatient psychotherapy to patients in an effort to reduce overall health care costs. Your letter also expressed concern that, under the President's Health Security Act, psychiatrists will be considered specialists rather than primary care doctors, and that this may have a negative impact on coverage of psychiatric treatment under the Health Security Act. These are valid concerns which the President considered carefully in the process of formulating the Health Security Act.

Be careful where you
include this phrase -- there
are many
other
reasons
to provide
psych.

that the Administration
The President's Health Security Act expands outpatient psychiatric benefits for many Americans, making mental health (and substance abuse) services an integral component of national health care. Lifetime limits on mental health and substance abuse treatment are eliminated. Under the President's Act, initially up to 20 visits of individual and family-support psychotherapy are covered per year. Additional visits may be covered under certain circumstances. By January 1, 2001, all visit limits are eliminated.

150

proposal

may be

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Add sentence or two about the range of MI(?) SA benefits. See corresponding letter regarding mental illness.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

UNIONS

Revised: 2/27/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the role of unions under the President's Health Security Act. This is an issue ^{that} ~~which both the President and his Administration~~ considered carefully while formulating the Act.

Because the Act defines
~~With~~ guaranteed, comprehensive benefits, unions will not have to negotiate away wage increases in order to preserve benefits. *package for all Americans*
~~Employee Contributions~~ for premiums for the guaranteed benefit package and cost sharing are ~~always~~ tax free. For those with coverage beyond the federally guaranteed package, the tax preference for those greater benefits will be preserved for ten years.

In general, ~~instead of employers choosing their employees' health plan, the Act gives back to the employee the choice of health plans. Taft-Hartley trusts will be able to continue to operate as corporate alliances, or to join the health alliances.~~

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: Ask Gary Claxton to review for more information for this letter.

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Employee contributions for premiums for guaranteed package and cost share are always tax free

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

the Health Security Act expands the options of working families by letting employees, rather than employers, select ~~the~~ health plan for their family from all health plans available in their area. Collectively-bargained plans will continue to operate as they do today, as long as they provide at least the ~~same~~ comprehensive benefit package described in the Act.

Ask Christine Heenan to fix this. She has very good tobacco statistics / arguments.

DRAFT

SIN TAXES

Revised: 3/2/94

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the financing proposal under the President's Health Care Security Act. This is an issue ^{that} ~~which~~ both the President and his Administration considered carefully while formulating the Act.

As in the past, the primary source of funding for the proposed health care system would be the contributions of employers and employees to their own health care plans. Additional revenues, however, would come from a ~~modest~~ tax on tobacco products, a tax that is a fair way to help pay for health care. A tax on tobacco will make tobacco users share the real cost of smoking. Tobacco products damage a person's health regardless of how much one uses them. Therefore, people who use tobacco products often receive medical treatment more frequently than people who do not, raising the cost of health care for everyone. A tobacco tax would allow tobacco users to fund the health care that they require.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. For reform to be both successful and lasting, everyone must take responsibility for being part of the solution. The President looks forward to your continued support.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS:

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: With regard to paragraph 2, "additional financing comes from using money spent by the government today more wisely: redirecting expenditures from inefficient back-end subsidies to hospitals for emergency treatment into front-end discounts for health insurance. Also, from savings as rate of growth of various government health payments decreases."

DRAFT

TRANSITION

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

of health care
reform.

that

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about health care during the transition between the current system and ~~the President's~~ implementation. This is an issue ~~which both the President and his Administration~~ considered carefully while formulating the Health Security Act.

The President believes that every American should have the security of comprehensive health benefits that can never be taken away. Interim insurance measures will be enacted to reduce the potential for disruption ~~in individual's health care~~. These measures will ~~be~~ during transition to the new system.

- prohibit insurers from dropping people or failing to renew their coverage;
- limit ^{allowance} premium increases; and
- ~~and~~ limit the ~~application of exclusions for~~ ^{ability of insurers to exclude consumers with} pre-existing medical conditions.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. For reform to be both successful and lasting, everyone must take responsibility for being part of the solution. The President looks forward to your continued support.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

WALTER ZELLMAN'S EDITS: None

DRAFT

UNDOCUMENTED
PERSONS

Final Version: 3/3/94

Dear:

Proposal.
health care for
Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about undocumented persons under the President's ~~Health Security Act~~. This is an issue which both the President and his Administration considered carefully while formulating the *that the* Act.

Health Security
~~Currently, the health care costs of undocumented persons are passed on to employers and employees who do have insurance. Under the Act, undocumented workers and residents are not eligible for the comprehensive package of benefits provided to American citizens. However, these individuals will have access to emergency and other health services under Medicaid as they do today. The federal government will maintain funding for community and migrant health centers that serve a large number of undocumented persons. In addition, the Act provides compensation to hospitals that care for significant numbers of the indigent, including~~
undocumented persons,

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: Mention VPA dollars for hospitals

WALTER ZELLMAN EDITS: None

The Health Security Act expands and strengthens health programs and facilities that serve American Indians and Alaska Natives. **DRAFT**

IHS (INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE)

Revised: 3/2/94

Dear:

Indians writing about health care reform
Thank you for ~~taking~~ the time to share your interest in the role of the Indian Health Service tribal clinics and hospitals under the Health Security Act, and how it will affect Native Americans and Alaska Natives across the country.

Indian
The President's Health Security Act recognizes the unique responsibility of the United States to provide health care to American Indian and Alaska Natives, and strengthens and preserves the Indian Health Service and the ability of tribes to operate health facilities. The Act proceeds within the framework of government-to-government relationships with the more than 500 sovereign Native American nations. Under the Act, the federal government will continue to expand funding for health care services for these underserved groups. Tribal governments will have autonomy and flexibility in devising health care systems that for them.

expanded to devise systems that
American Indians and Alaska Natives will be able to enroll in health programs ~~run~~ by the Indian Health Service or tribes that operate outside of the regional alliances organized by states. They will receive the comprehensive benefits package at no cost in these health programs. The comprehensive benefits package provides services desperately needed by American Indians, including a wide range of preventive services, such as routine clinician visits, immunizations, mammograms, cholesterol screening, hospital and health professional services, home health care and mental illness and substance abuse services. The President's Health Security Act does not limit options currently available to tribes to control and operate their own health facilities. Also Native Americans and Alaska Natives will be able to enroll in health plans offered through the regional alliances in their area, and will be eligible for financial subsidies on the same basis as all other Americans.

No new TP
In addition,
Finally, the Health Security Act preserves and strengthens the Indian Health Service. Indian Health Service clinics and hospitals, tribal health centers and urban Indian programs will continue to operate outside regional health alliances. IHS will be granted new authority to expand public health and prevention activities. Public Health Service programs will be expanded to improve access to available services in remote areas, expand public health and prevention activities, and provide health care that is sensitive to the diverse languages and cultures of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Indian Health Service

We

~~The citizens of this nation~~ now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President as his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: None

LARRY LEVITT'S EDITS: None

RICK KRONICK'S EDITS: Delete paragraph 4, which starts with "The CBP..."

Use previous letter with this P.I. instead of IHS P.I.
E.I.

Same letter as
previous letter

DRAFT

MINORITY GROUPS:
NATIVE AMERICANS &
ALASKA NATIVES

Dear:

Thank you for writing about health care reform and your concerns about how it will affect Native Americans and Alaska Natives across the country. ^{Indians}

The President's Health Security Act proceeds within the framework of government-to-government relationships with the more than 500 sovereign Native American nations. Under the Act, the federal government will continue to expand funding for health care services for these underserved groups. Tribal governments will have autonomy and flexibility in devising health care which works for them.

The President's Health Security Act does not limit options currently available to tribes to control and operate their own health facilities. Also, Native Americans and Alaska Natives will be able to enroll in health plans offered through the regional alliances in their area, and will be eligible for financial subsidies on the same basis as all other Americans.

Finally, the President's Health Security Act preserves and strengthens the Indian Health Service. Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics and hospitals, tribal health centers and urban Indian programs will continue to operate outside regional health alliances. IHS will be granted new authority to expand public health and prevention activities, and to cover Indian and non-Indian residents living on and around reservations.

The citizens of this country now have a historic opportunity to change our health care system to work for all Americans. Your support will be invaluable to the President and his Administration works toward meaningful and lasting change in our health care system.