



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

MEMORANDUM FOR HAROLD ICKES, THE WHITE HOUSE

May 6, 1994

FROM: Ann Bormolini *AMB*
SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION HEALTH CARE STRATEGY

As transportation injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 5 and 34, the Department of Transportation's message focuses on injury prevention. Through the action plan and other ongoing activities, we will draw a link in the public's mind between health care reform and transportation safety. This link will identify Secretary Peña as a credible participant in the health care reform debate.

DOT's health care action plan is detailed below and covers the next five weeks. There are four components to the action plan: media, events, outreach, and Congressional targets.

I. Media

DOT will hold a series of journalist roundtables over the next six weeks with reporters from outlets that have not heard our message before and who will be eager to hear our message. The kinds of journalists targeted include: insurance company (property and casualty) newsletter writers, association newsletter writers, beat reporters, etc. OST Public Affairs is taking the lead on scheduling these roundtables and will coordinate closely with Cabinet Affairs.

II. Events

There are a series of health care events scheduled over the next six weeks. The following list lays out the events being planned. Events will be added as the schedule develops.

May 13 -	visit to Denver General Hospital (Denver, CO)
May 16 -	National EMS event at local elementary school (Washington, DC)
May 21 -	Labor Health Care Rally (Austin, TX)
May 23 -	Buckle Up America! Luncheon (Washington, DC)
May 29 to June 4 -	Summer Safety event
June 5 - 12	Trucker Rest Stop Event (Carlisle, PA), Also participating will be FHWA Administrator Slater and NHTSA Administrator Martinez (if confirmed by that date)

III. Outreach

A very successful meeting was held at OEOB recently with transportation industry groups to promote the health care reform plan. The meeting provided the Secretary a forum to discuss the health care plan with transportation constituent groups. OST Governmental Affairs will schedule additional meetings with industry groups. A copy of a draft letter the Secretary intends to send to the heads of private companies, trade associations, and industry, labor and non-governmental organizations is attached. The intent of the letter is to provide an initial entree for the Department to open and develop an ongoing dialogue with these organizations.

In addition, the Secretary had very successful meetings on health care reform with employees at constituent industries. As Secretary Peña's schedule develops, we will include employee health care meetings. Visits to hospital emergency rooms and trauma centers will be included in his itinerary for each trip he makes during the next few months.

IV. Congressional Targets

We have identified a number of congressional targets. The Secretary will be speaking with them periodically and tracking their concerns and views on health care reform and the Clinton Plan. He has made the initial round of calls to the Members assigned by Cabinet Affairs and plans periodic follow up calls.

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Dear Colleagues:

As you know, a great health care debate is upon us. This debate has sparked much discussion of the complex issues regarding health care and the economy, individual interests, effects on business productivity and competitiveness, changes in the work force, and workplace safety. Many of these conversations are new for both employees and managers alike, with each group now finding that it has a growing role in the decision-making processes.

The Department of Transportation wishes to offer its support, both as a resource to you as well as a representative of your concerns. Therefore, we have created a DOT Health Care Task Force that includes representatives from each transportation mode. Representatives from this health care task force will be contacting you to open the dialogue on health care issues.

The DOT Health Care Task Force will work with three goals in mind:

- **Identify issues of importance to our constituents.** Our constituency ranges from international corporations to self-employed individuals. Each has different needs and concerns relating to health care. Through our conversations with you, the DOT Health Care Task Force will provide us with an accurate reflection of our constituency concerns. The more we understand about your issues, the better we can represent you in this Administration.
- **Identify "products" that meet your need.** For many health care issues such as workplace safety, alcohol and drug use, and operator performance, DOT has solid, proven programs shown to decrease health care costs. We are in the process of identifying and consolidating these programs so that we can offer you resources to support your efforts to reduce runaway health care costs. DOT also has programs that can help you analyze your health care data to identify problem injuries and high-risk groups that can be targeted for intervention.
- **Act as a clearinghouse for emerging programs/techniques to control health care costs that come from industry itself.** The DOT Health Care Task Force can act as a consultant in development as well as a conduit to help spread and share these new ideas.

Representatives from each modal agency will be contacting you or your designee shortly to help us better understand how these issues affect you, but more importantly, let us know how we can help you. If you or your staff would like to schedule a time to meet and discuss specific issues in greater detail, please contact my office and we will make arrangements to do just that.

We will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña