

THE WHITE HOUSE

August 3, 1994

The Honorable Gary Ackerman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ackerman:

I am sorry that my remarks about the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program were interpreted as an attack on Congress. I meant only to suggest that all federal employees, including Members of Congress and the President, have private health insurance that is provided through shared responsibility between the government and its employees. The President wants to guarantee to all Americans the health security that federal employees have today.

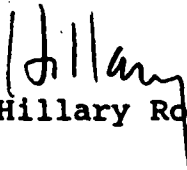
As in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the President supports shared responsibility for health care costs between employers and employees. Nine out of ten Americans with private health insurance get it through their employer, and reform should build on this American tradition. And as in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the President supports choice of doctors and health plans for all Americans. Under the President's proposal, all Americans would choose among a number of health plans,

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including at least one fee-for-service
plan that allows individuals to see any
doctor they choose.

Thank you for giving me the oppor-
tunity to correct this misconception. I
look forward to continuing to work with
you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

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Gary L. Ackerman
Congress of the United States
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AND FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE

July 14, 1994

PAM JUL 27 1994

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I too, was dismayed by your attack on Congress during the Health Care debate.

As one who has been a cosponsor of President Clinton's bill, and as the former Chairman of the Compensation and Employment Benefits Subcommittee and the author of the bill to reform the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, I would be remiss if I did not tell you that your statement did much damage to the strategy of bringing those of us who have supported other bills into the fold.

I am enclosing the Roll Call Editorial on this matter.

As one who has worked very hard to sell the America people on "our plan" I must tell you that the strategy was wrong, and the statement more than misleading.

I would be more than willing to discuss this further and advance some thoughts that might be very helpful.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ackerman
GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

GLA/nh
Enclosure

