

THE WHITE HOUSE

May 31, 1994

The Honorable Max Baucus
220 First Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Senator Baucus:

Thank you writing to share the experience of your constituents, Mrs. and Mr. Gary Werntz, with today's health care system.

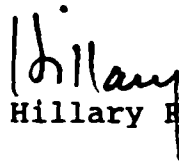
Rising health care costs have been a growing problem for American families. While we continue to pay more for health care, Americans are getting less and less of the care they need. Families postpone getting preventive health care because they cannot afford insurance. Many are forced to seek care only at emergency rooms when their illnesses become serious and costly.

The President's plan will make health care affordable for American families. Today, doctors and hospitals absorb the costs of providing health services to the uninsured. Those Americans -- like Mrs. Werntz -- who can afford to pay, spend more to cover these unreimbursed costs. With universal coverage, this "cost shifting" will end. All Americans will be covered and will be responsible for some part of their health care costs. Individuals with low incomes will be eligible for subsidies to help pay for coverage.

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The fundamental goal of health care reform is to ensure that all Americans are guaranteed private health insurance coverage. I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks as Congress works toward making health security a reality for all families and their children.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hillary", with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Hillary Rodham Clinton