

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

20-Nov-1995 10:19am

TO: Jennifer L. Klein

FROM: Seth E. Masket
 Presidential Correspondence

SUBJECT: Medicare/Medicaid language

My guess is that the current language is pretty okay. Still, were there any changes in policy/outlook that came out of the agreement with Congress? I've enclosed a sample of some current language. Thanks for your help. -Seth

Thank you for getting in touch with me regarding Medicare and Medicaid. I appreciate knowing your perspective.

Since their creation thirty years ago, these programs have helped to preserve the health of millions of Americans. Right now, we are in the midst of a significant debate in Washington over the long-term prospects of Medicare and Medicaid. Unfortunately, some members of Congress have proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid that are simply unacceptable; cuts that would hurt beneficiaries, their families, and their health care providers in order to help finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

While we must balance the budget and strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund to ensure a strong future for our citizens, we can do so without gutting essential programs and hurting the people they serve. Our nation has always recognized our obligation to care for older Americans and others in need, an obligation that my Administration has pledged to honor.

Even as we work to promote fiscal responsibility, I will continue to fight to ensure that our nation does not turn its back on the health and well-being of our citizens, both young and old. I appreciate your interest in these important issues and welcome your involvement.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1995

Dear Mr. Leader:

We share the goal of balancing the federal budget, and I look forward to working with you on this important matter.

But as we work together to reach our shared goal, we must ensure that we do so the right way -- the way that will raise the standards of living for average Americans.

My plan to balance the budget over 10 years will help raise average living standards by cutting unnecessary spending while investing in education and training, targeting tax relief to middle-income Americans, and taking incremental but serious steps toward health care reform. By contrast, the conference agreement cuts too deeply into Medicare and Medicaid and cuts education and training both to pay for a tax cut that is too large for too many who don't need it, and to meet the 7 year time frame.

Though I am determined to work with you to balance the budget, I cannot accept legislation that will threaten the living standards of American families.

I hope we can work together and avoid a situation in which I would have no choice but to use my veto authority broadly. The American people want us to work together to balance the budget and to do it the right way. I am ready to do that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable Bob Dole
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

18-Aug-1995 01:36pm

TO: Molly Brostrom
TO: Jennifer L. Klein

FROM: Seth E. Masket
Presidential Correspondence

SUBJECT: New Medicare letter

[Molly and Jennifer: We've been getting a lot of mail lately solely on Medicare. I've drafted the following form response based on other letters we've done and several speeches the President has delivered. Please give me your thoughts on the letter and any suggestions for improvement you might have. Thank you. -Seth, x.6-5514]

Dear _____:

Thank you for getting in touch with me regarding Medicare. This program has helped to preserve the health of millions of Americans since its creation thirty years ago, and I appreciate knowing your perspective on such an important issue.

I strongly believe that we must slow the growth of the Medicare program. But I am opposed to Republican budget proposals that would slash Medicare funding to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. As I have long said, the proper way to address the Medicare problem is in the context of a sensible health care reform proposal that works for everyone.

My Administration remains committed to this goal and is taking several steps to reduce waste and strengthen the Medicare program. Our goal is to improve Medicare by expanding choice, offering new benefits, and extending the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund without imposing new cost increases on Medicare beneficiaries.

I will continue to work with Congress to ensure that our nation keeps its compact with older Americans into the twenty-first century. I appreciate your interest in these important issues, and welcome your involvement.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

July 24, 1995

Mr. Ira Arlook
Executive Director
Citizen Action
Suite 403
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ira:

Thank you for your letter regarding my plan for a balanced budget. I appreciate your candor.

My Administration has worked hard during the past two and a half years to steer our nation toward economic prosperity and expand hope and opportunity for all Americans. The tough choices we've made have produced a strong economy that has created nearly 7 million new jobs, and we are well on the way to achieving a trillion dollars in deficit reduction.

The balanced budget plan that I proposed continues to put people first by increasing essential investments in education and training, by encouraging more private investment, and by targeting tax relief to those who most need it. Additionally, it takes serious steps toward health care reform, helping people who lose their jobs to pay for insurance, promoting long-term care, and reforming the insurance market so that Americans won't lose their coverage if they change jobs, lose their jobs, or get sick. The plan will also work to improve Medicare by expanding choice, offering new benefits, and extending the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund without imposing new cost increases on Medicare beneficiaries. And we are determined to preserve Medicaid while reforming it to better serve the American people. I remain committed to expanding access and quality for all Americans.

Budgets are not simply numbers -- they are investments in our nation's people and our future. The Republican plan ignores this important fact by proposing cuts that are too deep, by giving tax cuts to the wealthy while raising taxes on lower-income Americans, and by slashing investments in education and training that are essential to preparing Americans for the twenty-first century. Furthermore, it raises costs for millions of individuals who rely on Medicaid and Medicare for their health care.

A balanced budget is not an economic end in and of itself; it's a means to increased investment, increased productivity, and higher living standards. My plan balances the budget in the right way -- by achieving deficit reduction while maintaining our key investments in people.

I believe we share the same goal -- to build a brighter future for all Americans. I hope I can count on your continuing support.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/SEM/lynn-jfc (Corres. #2340844)
(7.arlook.i)

~~Forward w/copy of incoming to Marilyn Yager, OPL~~

~~Forward w/copy of incoming to Jennifer Klein~~

Forward w/copy of incoming to Craig Smith

Citizen Action

1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Suite 403
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 775-1580
(202) 296-4054 (FAX)

June 15, 1995

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Citizen Action and our three million members in 34 states, I feel compelled to communicate to you our great disappointment with the change in direction you announced this week. Obviously, we are disturbed by your decision to walk away from those who have supported you in the past. Far more importantly, we are outraged by your decision to abandon the millions of senior citizens, children, women and persons with disabilities who were relying on your leadership to protect them from Republican assaults.

Citizen Action believes strongly that your victory in 1992 was the result of an eloquently articulated message that stressed health care, education and jobs in stark contrast to the policies of the incumbent Republican president. We worked closely with you in support of quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Your announcement this week signals a decision to back away from those principles and from those who still believe in them.

For those of us who worked so hard on health care reform, it is insulting to have you put forward a do-nothing health insurance proposal which varies little from those of former President Bush or the Health Insurance Association of America, a proposal with no apparent consumer input in its design. But that insult pales in terms of the injuries which would be caused by the dramatic reductions in Medicare and Medicaid included in your budget.

Citizen Action strongly agrees with your earlier position opposing cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. We agreed with you that the question of the Medicare Trust Fund should not be approached in a vacuum but must be considered in the context of a broader approach designed to slow the growth in overall health care costs. Your new position is a major reversal -- making major cuts in Medicare and Medicaid without addressing the underlying causes of health care inflation, the potential for cost-shifting, or the negative impact that reductions in provider payments will have on access for beneficiaries.



The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

June 15, 1995

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Our deepest regret stems from the knowledge that recent substantive reversals made for perceived political advantage will do the greatest harm to those who once pinned their greatest hopes on your Presidency. We who have stood with you in the past had believed that you would stand with us and others as a bulwark against the Republican attacks on middle-class families, older Americans, and children. Your statements and comments by administration officials this week leave that very much in doubt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ira Arlook", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ira Arlook
Executive Director