

THE WHITE HOUSE

August 24, 1994

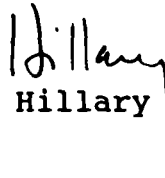
The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burns:

I am sorry that my comments were interpreted as an attack on those who have legitimate concerns about the health reform proposals being considered by Congress. I meant only to suggest, as you do in your letter, that as we debate health care reform we must remember the needs of the farmers and small business owners who cannot afford health insurance or risk losing it -- not the powerful special interests in Washington.

Members in both the House and the Senate have made great progress in proposing a less bureaucratic and governmental approach to reform. The Mitchell and Gephardt bills preserve choice and quality and protect small businesses, while preserving the fundamental goal of guaranteeing health security to American families. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues in the coming weeks.

Sincerely yours,

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

Hillary Rodham Clinton

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2603

August 3, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

While the current health care reform debate is getting increasingly hard fought as Congress approaches its summer recess, I found your comments yesterday to be very inappropriate and frankly, condescending.

Your characterization of those who oppose the various Clinton-Kennedy-Mitchell health care plans as "a small minority with loud, squeaky voices that are driving this debate" trivializes real people who have real concerns about the future of their health care system.

Since last October when the President's bill was introduced, I have met with or heard from literally thousands of Montanans who know exactly what they want and what they don't want in health care reform.

Montanans want to be able to choose their own doctor and their own health insurance plan without a huge new government bureaucracy dictating those decisions to them.

More than 98 percent of businesses in Montana are considered small business and I have repeatedly heard they cannot stand any more government mandates or more taxes without having to lay employees off, cut wages or decrease existing benefits.

Farmers and ranchers and other self-employed Montanans have told me the single most important health care reform for them would be 100 percent deductibility of their health insurance costs--something big business already gets.

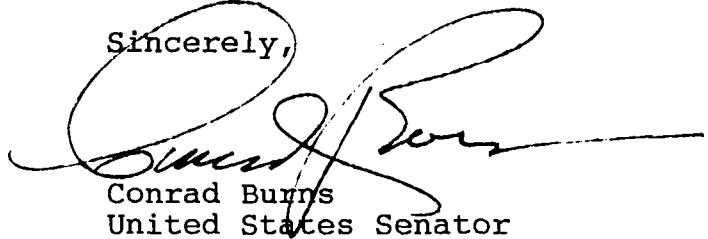
These voices are not "a small minority with loud and squeaky voices." They happen to be the people who will be most affected by the decisions we make on reforming the health care system.

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
August 3, 1994
Page 2

I will grant you that these people certainly "are driving this debate" because these are the people who matter the most to me in this debate. And I would hope you would listen to them as well.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Conrad Burns", written over the printed name and title.

Conrad Burns
United States Senator

CRB/riw