

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Personal (Partial) (1 page)	01/18/1993	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Jennifer Klein
OA/Box Number: 8296

FOLDER TITLE:

Costello

2014-0209-S

ms737

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 10, 1994

Mr. Raymond Uram
2418 Lynch Avenue
Granite City, IL 62040

Dear Mr. Uram:

Thank you for your letter about health care reform and for your thoughtful suggestions and comments.

The President has an unwavering commitment to guaranteeing private health insurance to all American families. Without universal coverage, the poor will continue to receive health care through government programs and the wealthy will continue to be able to afford to purchase coverage, while the middle class will remain at risk. Twenty-four million Americans, most of whom work hard to earn a living, will have no insurance coverage at all, and one million will lose coverage each month. And without universal coverage, cost shifting and the need of individuals without insurance to rely on costly emergency care will continue, causing health care costs to rise.

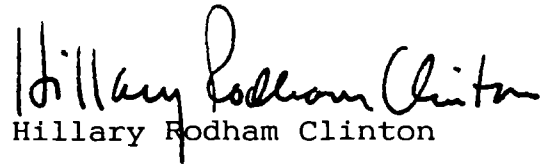
To reach his goal of health security, the President supports shared responsibility for health care costs between employers and employees. Because nine out of ten Americans with private health insurance get it through their employers, the President believes that reform should build on that tradition by asking employers to help pay for their workers' health insurance premiums.

I appreciated learning that you support the President's fundamental goal of guaranteeing private health insurance coverage for all Americans. I was also pleased that you are interested in a range of issues that are also important to the President -- including ensuring access to preventive care, preserving consumer choice of doctors, and simplifying our health care system.

Mr. Raymond G. Uram
August 10, 1994
Page 2

Your story, and the many like it that I have heard as I have travelled around our country, have deepened my personal commitment to passing meaningful health care reform. The President and I will continue to work with Congress to guarantee every American the health security they deserve.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Jerry F. Costello

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Date

3/4/94

MEMO FROM: MAGGIE WILLIAMS

TO:

Milli Alston	___	Neel Lattimore	___
Pam Barnett	___	Evelyn Lieberman	___
Anne Bartley	___	Diane Limo	___
Liz Bowyer	___	Capricia Marshall	___
Lisa Caputo	___	Ann McCoy	___
Kelly Craighead	___	Alice Pushkar	___
Karen Finney	___	Sarah Ryan	___
Sara Grote	___	Patti Solis	___
Julie Hopper	___	Ann Stock	___
Carolyn Huber	___	Melanne Verveer	___
Jennifer Klein	___		___

The attached is for your:

Information ___

Advice ___

Action ___

COMMENTS:

JERRY F. COSTELLO

12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE
OFFICE CHECKED BELOW:

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

(ON LEAVE)

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1312

Jerry F. Costello

February 18, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20300

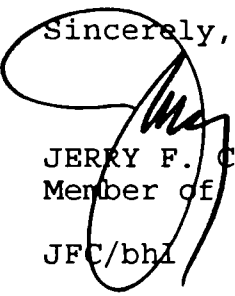
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

A friend and constituent of mine, Mr. Ray Uram, wanted you to see his comments on the proposed Health Security Act and its ramifications on him and his family.

I promised Ray I would pass this along to you, for your perusal. A response back from you to Mr. Uram would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of his letter, and thank you again for your commitment to reforming health care in our country.

Sincerely,


JERRY F. COSTELLO
Member of Congress

JFC/bhl

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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FAX: (202) 225-0285

☐ 327 W. MAIN ST.
BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
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FAX: (618) 233-8765

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TEL: (618) 451-7065
FAX: (618) 451-2128

☐ 250 W. CHERRY ST.
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
TEL: (618) 529-3791
FAX: (618) 549-3768

☐ 8787 STATE ST.
EAST ST. LOUIS, IL 62203
TEL: (618) 397-8833

☐ 1330 SWANWICK ST.
CHESTER, IL 62233
TEL: (618) 826-3043

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[001]

2418 Lynch Avenue
Granite City, Illinois 62040
Telephone: 1-618-797-0487

January 18, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of America
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Rodham Clinton:

Congratulations to you, the First Lady, and to your husband, the President of the United States of America!

Thank you for allowing the intrusion of this letter into your hectic schedule wherein we plead, "Please Rescue America through your concern for the less fortunate."

I, too, as an American, a Democrat, a Clinton supporter, and a Christian am concerned with the problems of health care and its impact on individuals, family and economy. I believe you, and only you can develop, evaluate, present and discuss, with your husband, the President, the contents, hopes and requests expressed herein.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Raymond G. Uram, age 67, retired, father of six living children: a son - a dentist who does much pro bono work, is active in public affairs and in raising funds for the Cancer Society; a daughter, a former college instructor, registered nurse and a volunteer chair person for the American Red Cross at an Air Force Base in England; a son, a former teacher in the U.S. and Europe, now in the field of computers, who on occasion patrols the streets to pick up homeless to provide shelter, meals and other help; a daughter, formerly a Special Education Teacher now

(b)(6)
(b)(6) a son, whose Eagle Scout Project was to promote and obtain access for the disabled, he is now a college senior with eyes focused toward the legal field; and a son, a C.P.A. and C.F.O. of a very successful corporation, who one Christmas chose a family, took them shopping, letting them purchase anything and everything they wished; my spouse, a faithful, loving wife, spent herself to care for her friends, relatives and family, (b)(6) and who in spite of her many demands finds time for service to her community and church; a son-in-law, a doctor, a major in the U.S. Air Force and a daughter-in-law, who is constantly finding ways to help others.

Yes, I am proud of my family and proud of serving and caring for my mother and daughter for the past sixteen continuous years, and proud of efforts expended for the previous five years enabling me to write, correspond with and/or participate in hundreds of meetings with doctors, hospital administrators, political, religious, and union figures, media people and various other groups.

Reflecting, it is difficult to recall occasions describing in vivid detail the hardships and agony suffered by family care providers on call 24 hours a day for many years of their

Raymond G. Uram (1-618-797-0487)

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lives. Never once did I see or hear of the extra burdens placed on the ill or their loving family caretakers by state and federal laws covering the reporting of Internal Revenue forms, W-2, W-3, W-4, 940, 941, 942, etc.. Social Security and Medicare requirements, FUTA, Employment Insurance, Employee contributions, the necessary insurance for the protection from liability incurred when employing others. These are just a few of the many burdens heaped upon those who do not wish to abandon loved ones who are ill by placing them in nursing homes at society's expense.

Because of my exposure in pushing for Universal National Health Care, people sometimes call on me seeking a sympathetic ear and hoping for someone to value their problems. For example, a middle class lady required expensive dental procedures. She was quoted extremely high estimates and/or denied accessibility either because of the cost or because of previous chemotherapy and radiation treatments for a brain tumor. It appeared that the dentist feared litigation if the tumor reappeared or other complications occurred.

Another case came to my attention. A mother of two grade school children, whose water was shut off for non-payment, was forced to choose between employment and pay in order to stay home with her daughter who had a dental appointment two days hence for a severe dental problem. The dentist advised taking two Tylenol for pain when necessary until he could see the child. The mother called her daughter's school but was informed that Tylenol in her daughter's possession would not be allowed on the school premises. Apparently, the school nurse could not administer the Tylenol even if the mother requested it. Something is wrong with laws which allow schools to distribute birth control pills without parental consent, but prohibit them from dispensing over-the-counter pain killers upon the parent's request.

Over fifteen years of care-taking, many people on public aid refused to work for me because they would lose their medical benefits.

This is why I am begging you to chair several meetings with doctors, industry and other experts and also include middle class common people such as myself.

I would be very pleased if several others, Governor Barbara Roberts and Governor Walter Hickel (who helped shape my thoughts by providing copies and details of their plans) and Congressman Jerry Costello, Senators Paul Wellstone and Paul Simon were also included because of their assistance. Hopefully, such inclusions along with Governor John Waihee, of Honolulu, will help you to become acquainted with the problems and solutions of the middle class as we visualize them in order that you may study, present, and discuss them with your husband, the President. Hopefully, grassroots input will help avoid faulty legislation as the disastrous catastrophic act. Surely, middle-class participation and input will help reduce our feelings of hopelessness and loudly and clearly illustrate that the First Lady is our advocate! The President listens! Yes, Americans truly have a voice in a government that listens, cares and serves!

I do not have all the health care answers. This letter would be too lengthy to cover the complete details of a few suggested items highlighted herein. Some of these thoughts were previously written to your husband and/or expressed in correspondence or meetings with members of Congress, unions, media and others.

Polls show that the majority of Americans desire and need a Universal Single-Payer

National Health Care Plan. Only a Single-payer Plan can spread the risk, reduce the cost and provide for budget control and best benefit from my unique method of financing. The Single-Payer National Health Care Program could actually be a choice between several basic plans varying in benefits and costs. For example, one plan would allow the right-to-die because it excluded extraordinary procedures to prolong life, while the other plan provided the extra-ordinary procedures. All plans should allow for the donation of organs, if requested. Coverage in all basic plans would include preventative care, medication, glasses, dentistry, chiropractic, nursing home, in-home care, etc.. All basic plans should exclude certain procedures as cosmetic reconstruction, except in in cases of accident, private hospital rooms, face-lifts, liposuction, etc.. Individuals must be allowed to choose doctors, care-takers and providers, both in and out of the U.S.A.. Tort liability must be limited and should vary in different plans. For example, there should be specific limits for punitive damages. The amount of compensation might be prorated as 15% to the attorney, 35% returned to the National Health Care Program and the injured party to receive 50%. Perhaps, frivolous lawsuits would be lessened if attorneys who took such cases on a contingency basis were required to pay a percent of the damage requested if the lawyers lost the frivolous suit.

Glasses, wheelchairs, hospital beds, etc. should be covered by specific amounts which excluded the cadillac class. If the buyer purchased used items, 1/2 of the savings would be refunded to said buyer. Any National Health Care Plan should be phased in over a one to three year period in order to cover the most beneficial procedures and control cost.

Private insurance companies must be preserved to cover items excluded from the Basic Plan, items to be phased in gradually and to preserve a continuity of employment.

Upgrade and utilize an electronic data smart card (about the size of a credit card) to:

1. Standardize data and eliminate insurance forms.
2. Bill directly, pay monthly.
3. Provide medical history, current treatment and allergy data.
4. Quarterly provide doctors and the IRS data pertaining to income.
5. Provide outcome research and experience rating.
 - a. Require outcome research to grade doctors, etc.
 - b. Require gradings of doctors and care facilities to be posted in prominent places to have an informed patient.
6. Garner cost control information and budget and monitoring information.
7. Provide cross-reference information to eliminate doctors requesting extra test and diagnostic information from facilities wherein they have monetary interest.

Based on the above information, many other uses could surface, such as, monetarily rewarding, adjusting fees and compensation for territorial locations requiring higher expenditures.

Create three central purchasing agencies, one for the eastern, one for the central and one for the western section of the United States. These agencies could receive bids from suppliers both in the U.S. and outside the U.S. to control cost. Each section to receive purchase orders from care facilities in their respective areas. This would create three tremendous markets for supplies, medications, beds, wheelchairs, etc.. Since there would be only three primary supermarkets, the suppliers would have to be extremely competitive in their pricing.

When products are developed with tax money, require private industry to bid for the privilege of manufacturing products developed with tax money. When products are developed by cooperation between industry and government, the profits resulting from the sales should be prorated in relation to the cost incurred by the developers. In certain cases, royalty or buy-out programs could be established.

Other considerations for investigation might include:

1. Generic drugs should be prescribed when available and appropriate.
2. Remove people from Public Aid by training some in child care to provide care for the children of Public Aid Personnel trained in health care and in-home care; thereby creating employment, reducing public aid expenses, and preventing nursing home care, etc..
3. Encourage the development of care-takers who will care for those normally requiring nursing homes. This could create new fields for entrepreneurial development.
4. Establish neighborhood clinics to provide for non-emergency care in order to eliminate hospitals providing this care.
5. Phase out employer health care when union, employer contracts expire. Phase in employee payments at that time.
6. Provide credits for medical education when the doctor or nurse serves in rural or less desirable areas.
7. Encourage the development of intermediate facilities wherein patients can clean their own rooms, do their own laundry, and some maintenance procedures, thereby cutting costs for those patients who require care in a lesser range.

Provide coordination between, and feedback to, the various offices (such as Unemployment and Public Aid) wherein people could be directed to prospective employers. When employment is not obtained, follow-up as to the reasons, employment was not accepted.

After providing care, controlling cost and creating employment, financing the care is the most important and necessary feature in any health care plan.

I have provided you with limited data as to who I am and with a few suggestions for health care to prove that I qualify for inclusion on a limited basis for several meetings in

the development of any health care bill. I ask for no compensation other than the coverage of expenses. I honestly believe that if you would include me in several meetings, you would find that my method of financing, not included in this letter, is the ultimate, most desirable, method available. Please believe that I have considered many plans and their consequences. I have looked at managed care, pay-or-play, corporate taxation, individual taxation, eliminating the ceiling placed on medicare, a value added tax and/or their combinations along with other methods.

I plead that you set up several special Health Care Meetings, calling me to participate. Please help me to express my Christianity by helping me to serve my fellow man in such a meeting. Please call on other constituents who are labeled as, "who is she, who is he" and why are their opinions important.

Thank you for helping Americans to love and share with each other, to be healthier, to reduce stress, and eliminate bankruptcy and family break-ups and, yes, to provide life itself!

It was most appropriate and wise for the President to show his great concern and commitment to National Health Care by appointing you as the chairperson. I know of no other way in which Americans can be assured that National Health Care will not die because of Congressional PAC money influence.

Sincerely,

Raymond G. Uram

cc: selected individuals
Enc. A few letterheads indicating correspondence