

THE WHITE HOUSE

July 5, 1994

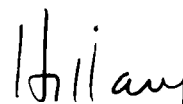
The Honorable George Darden
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Buddy:

Thank you for sending to me the article from the Marietta Daily Journal. As you know, the President wants to give all Americans the same health security that Members of Congress and other Federal employees have today.

I greatly appreciate your ongoing efforts to communicate with the people of Georgia about health care reform. I enjoyed seeing you on Wednesday, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely yours,

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

Hillary Rodham Clinton

GEORGE (BUDDY) DARDEN

7TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN GEORGE (BUDDY) DARDEN
SEVENTH DISTRICT, STATE OF GEORGIA

To:

Hillary Clinton

From:

Buddy Darden

Date:

6/30/94

Pages to follow:

one

Message:

*Enjoyed seeing you yesterday -
Thought you might enjoy the enclosed
article -*

Buddy -

If you have any problems receiving this transmission, please call
(202) 225-2931.

Wednesday

Marietta Daily Journal

June 22, 1994

Cobb County, Georgia

128th year, No. 173

Government picks up the tab for most of Gingrich's insurance

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich paid a little less on his own health insurance than he realized, thanks to Uncle Sam.

The erstwhile Republican said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he paid "about \$800 a month" for the Blue Cross plan that he belongs to.

Rep. Gingrich actually pays \$381.35 a month for the Blue Cross standard option family plan, with the government picking up



Newt Gingrich

the rest of the premium, \$418.77 a month, a spokesman said Tuesday. That is a 75-25 split.

Rep. Gingrich had been asked what he would say to citizens who want the national kind of health coverage that members of Congress get.

"We don't have government health insurance. We buy it from Blue Cross-Blue Shield," said Rep. Gingrich. "We're part of the private health insurance system of America, which is where I think we ought to stay. I think government insurance is a very bad idea."

His Democratic counterparts held a news conference Tuesday to rebuke Rep. Gingrich's claims.

"The fact is that the Federal Employees

Health Benefits Program available to members of Congress — and millions of federal employees and their families — provides a wide range of health and dental private health insurance options based on cost," said Sen. Marco Rubio, D-Fla.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., all said they pay the same \$411.35 Rep. Gingrich pays, with Americans ultimately picking up the lion's share of the tab. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who has coverage only for himself, said she pays \$45 monthly.

In his comments Sunday, Rep. Gingrich said every American should have an opportunity to buy group health insurance. "We pay, I think it's about \$800 a month for

ours," he said.

While the spokesman, Tim Bennett, said the government paid 75 percent of Rep. Gingrich's premium, the congressman replied, "I don't think that the plan I have, the Blue Cross, is paid for 75 percent by the government."

But Rep. Gingrich said the federal government was "a good employer in that sense — it does provide health care."

Lynn Pasolunghi, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, said he was "astounded" when Newt Gingrich was asked about his health care coverage and he said, "No, I pay for it. Baloney! He pays for part of it."

The government picks up on average 72

percent of the premiums for the 9 million federal workers and family members enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

After Gingrich's remarks, however, House Rep. Christopher Smith, D-N.J., said, "The fact is that he was talking about the full amount. ... He's talking about the cost figure."

Lipinski said the federal government pays 71 percent and "the members of the House straight out of his pocket, the same way any large corporation handles its insurance."

Rep. Gingrich is a leading opponent of President Clinton's proposal to make all employers pay 50 percent of their workers' premiums.