

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 26, 1994

Ms. Ella Keifert
4814 West Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701-1977

Dear Ms. Keifert:

Ms. Karen Paige Hunt in Senator Daschle's office contacted me about your interest in the coverage provided by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

In her letter, Ms. Hunt wrote that you are concerned that FEHBP does not cover enough of your medical bills. You explained that you are covered both by Medicare, as the primary insurer, and FEHBP, as the secondary insurer. Your primary insurer usually pays 80% of the doctor's bill and your secondary plan usually pays the remaining 20%, so that you are reimbursed for the full amount charged by the doctor. The rule you discussed with Ms. Hunt simply coordinates your coverage so that the insurers do not pay twice for the same benefits.

Ms. Hunt also wrote that you noted that there is too much paperwork in today's health care system. As I have travelled around the country over the past year, I have seen that we have the highest quality of care, the most talented and dedicated health professionals, and the most advanced research institutions in the world. Unfortunately, those institutions and professionals -- and the patients they serve -- are often overwhelmed by excessive paperwork and other administrative burdens. According to the American Medical Association, the average physician spends 40 hours a month on billing and paperwork. And in the last decade alone, the number of hospital administrators grew 16 times as fast as the number of doctors.

The health care reform bills introduced by Senator Mitchell and Congressman Gephardt will simplify the health care system. A standard benefits package will eliminate the need for patients and doctors to spend hours reading fine print and negotiating reimbursement. In addition, uniform reporting requirements and a standard reimbursement form will replace the thousands of claims forms currently used -- leaving doctors and nurses free to spend more time on patients than on paperwork.

Ms. Ella Keifert
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Thank you again for writing. The President and I look forward to continuing to work to guarantee health security for American families.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "H" at the beginning.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Ms. Karen Paige Hunt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1994

Ms. Inga Hess
1307 West 14th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Ms. Hess:

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

The President is continuing to fight to guarantee 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. And without universal coverage, cost shifting and the need of individuals without insurance to rely on costly emergency care will persist, causing health care costs to continue to skyrocket.

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.

As you point out in your letter, the need for health care reform is clear. Now is not the time for party politics and special interests; rather it is time to work together to guarantee high quality and affordable health care to all American families. The President and I look forward to continuing to work with Congress to pass meaningful health care reform.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Thomas Daschle

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1994

J.G. Green, M.S., D.C.
Green Chiropractic Center
717 East Main Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Dear Dr. Green:

Thank you for your letter about the waste in our current health care system. The President's plan for health care reform will simplify the health care system for patients and providers, and will finally allow health professionals to spend more time on patients than on paperwork.

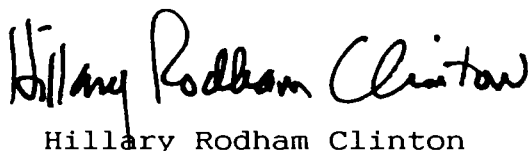
Administrative complexity, excessive paperwork, insurance company bureaucracy, and fraud and abuse all contribute to the tremendous amount of waste in today's system. To give just a few examples, the average physician spends more than 3.5 weeks of every year filling out paperwork at a total cost of \$4.5 billion per year. Sixty-three billion dollars of the \$256 billion in hospital care costs in 1990 were spent on administrative expenses. And one-third of the \$32 billion rise in health insurance premiums between 1981 and 1991 resulted from increased insurance company red tape.

The President's proposal for health care reform will reduce waste by simplifying the health insurance system. Standardized claims forms will be used by all health plans, replacing the many different forms used today. A standard, comprehensive benefits package will free providers and consumers from the need to wade through fine print and spend long hours negotiating reimbursement. These changes, accompanied by new electronic information exchange, will reduce costs and frustration, while maintaining the doctor-patient relationship and ensuring the confidentiality of patient information.

Dr. J.G. Green
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Thank you again for writing. Your examples clearly demonstrate the waste that is so pervasive in the current health care system and that will be eliminated by the President's proposal for health care reform. The President and I look forward to continuing our work to pass real health care reform legislation this year.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Senator Thomas Daschle

THE WHITE HOUSE

May 25, 1994

Mr. Rick Heintzman
Heintzman Farms
R.R. 2 Box 265
Onaka, SD 57466

Dear Mr. Heintzman:

Thank you for writing about the benefits of omega-3 flax and the need to include omega-3 fatty acid and trans fatty acid contents on nutritional labels. I have forwarded your letter to the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Food and Labeling.

Your letter highlights the need to educate individuals about proper nutrition. Under the President's proposal for health care reform, periodic clinician visits, which should include nutrition counseling, are provided at no cost to the individual. Health plans may also offer health education and training classes on

Mr. Rick Heintzman
May 25, 1994
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nutrition counseling. In addition, the Clinton plan includes a comprehensive school health education program that will teach our children about good nutrition.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Thomas Daschle