

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1994

The Honorable James C. Greenwood
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3808

Dear Congressman Greenwood:

Thank you for writing regarding the concerns of your constituent, Mr. Kevin Bunn, about my statements on "Good Morning America."

First, Mr. Bunn asked for support for my statement that guaranteeing health insurance to every American will save billions of dollars. As I said on "Good Morning America," universal coverage is both the right thing to do and the right policy -- the only policy that will enable us to bring skyrocketing health care costs under control. As Dr. Rashi Fein, Professor of Medical Economics at Harvard University, has stated: "We cannot have real savings and real cost containment without universal enrollment. Such enrollment is not a welcome bonus delivered with cost containment dollars; it is what makes cost containment possible. Only with universality can we eliminate the practice of making patients with insurance pay the medical costs of those without it." (The New York Times, October 28, 1993)

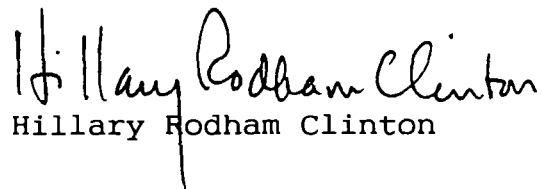
Today, when people without insurance seek emergency medical attention, they get the health care they need. However, since many are unable to pay their bills, those people with insurance pay higher prices to cover the costs of this care. According to the Congressional Budget Office, experts estimate that \$25 billion in health care costs are shifted to people with private insurance. Without universal coverage, this "cost shifting" will persist and health care costs will continue to rise, leaving the middle class at risk.

Second, Mr. Bunn asked for support of the statement that 80 percent of the American people favor the President's approach to health care reform. While the "Good Morning America" transcript does not include any mention of that statistic, a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll showed that 78 percent of the public support universal coverage.

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The bills proposed by Congressman Gephardt and Senator Mitchell provide for a less bureaucratic and less governmental approach to health care reform, while preserving the President's fundamental goal of guaranteeing private health insurance to all Americans. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues to make health security a reality for all American families.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton