

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 15, 1994

Ms. Sherrye Hyland Gibbs
P.O. Box 30991
Sea Island, GA 31561-0991

Dear Ms. Gibbs:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful and compelling letter. I am honored and touched that you choose to share your personal experiences with me. The challenges and difficulties your parents experienced demonstrate why we so desperately need health care reform.

The President's proposal for reform responds to the health care crisis our nation now faces. At some point during each year 58 million Americans go without insurance, and two million Americans lose their insurance each month. Those people who need health insurance the most are often the ones who do not have it. Today, many Americans are prevented from purchasing insurance or lose their insurance because they have -- or someone in their family has -- a so-called "preexisting condition." Those able to obtain insurance at all are often forced to pay the highest rates or, as in the case of your father, remain at a job where they are unhappy.

Ms. Sherrye Hyland Gibbs
June 15, 1994
Page 2

The President's proposal for health care reform will guarantee every American private health insurance that can never be taken away. It will be illegal for an insurance company to drop coverage or cut benefits, charge higher premiums based on health condition, or apply lifetime limits on coverage.

Additionally, the President's plan will make health care affordable for American families. Under the President's plan, individuals and families with incomes below a certain level -- whether they are working or unemployed -- will be eligible for subsidies to help pay for coverage. We estimate that families with limited incomes will spend only one to two percent of their income on health insurance premiums.

Thank you again for your letter of support.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Howell Heflin