

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1994

Mr. Herb Matthews
33 North Evergreen Drive
Selden, NY 11784

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Thank you for writing to share your experiences with the current health care system. I have heard many too many stories like yours -- and each one serves as a reminder of the desperate need for health care reform.

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 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. Small businesses and people with low incomes will receive subsidies to help pay for private insurance.

The need for health care reform is clear. The President and I will continue to work with Congress to pass legislation that guarantees every American the health security they deserve.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable George J. Hochbrueckner