

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 26, 1994

Mr. Oscar Canas
Executive Director
Family Health Centers, Inc.
2215 Portland Avenue
Louisville, KY 40212

Dear Mr. Canas:

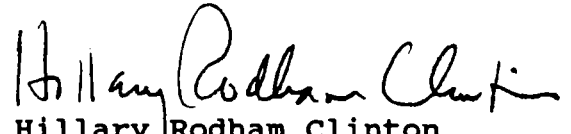
Thank you for writing about your concerns with the Access Initiative in the Health Security Act. We recognize, as you do, that a Health Security Card will not alone guarantee that all Americans receive appropriate medical care. The programs in the Access Initiative are designed to assure that individuals in medically underserved communities have real access to the full range of services in the comprehensive benefit package, needed support services, and an adequate choice of culturally sensitive providers and health plans. The Health Security Act introduced by the President builds on the existing Community and Migrant Health Center Program and provides support for these centers and other community-based providers.

The Health Security Act authorizes \$600 million in new funds for community and migrant health centers over fiscal years 1995 through 2000. In addition, the Act encourages private providers and health plans to integrate with publicly-funded providers to create community health plans and practice networks.

A series of new programs support both existing community health centers and new networks of public and private providers. A capacity expansion program will provide funds to build new health centers, support capital improvements for existing centers, and link centers with other providers through information systems and telecommunications. An enabling services program will provide health centers with an additional source of funding to provide translation, transportation, child-care and outreach services. Expansion of the National Health Service Corps will increase the supply of available practitioners.

We are committed to maintaining and building upon community-based centers like yours that have been so effective in delivering desperately needed health services. Please feel free to contact me with any additional concerns or questions.

Sincerely,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell

MITCH MCCONNELL
KENTUCKY

cc: Melanne
Steve

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

ETI-

October 19, 1993

PAM NOV, 11 1993

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Mr. Oscar D. Canas, Executive Director of the Family Health Centers, recently shared with me his views on the Administration's proposal for Public Health Service Access.

I would greatly appreciate your review of his concerns. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of Ms. Canas' correspondence.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



MITCH MCCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/rjb

Enclosure

October 11, 1993



Ms. Hillary Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

Family Health Centers, Inc.

Dear Ms. Clinton:

I am writing on behalf of the 30,000 patients served by the Family Health Centers, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky. FHC, Inc. is a U.S. Public Health Service-funded Community Health Center with five service locations that has been providing primary care and preventive health services to medically underserved patients for the past 16 years. On September 27, Secretary Shalala visited our facility and proclaimed that it was a model for the kind of comprehensive primary care envisioned under the Clinton Health reform plan.

We fully support the President's efforts to reform the Health Care system, and appreciate your leadership in developing the reform plan. We applaud the inclusion of a Public Health Service Access Initiative to develop and expand primary care services in underserved areas, however, *we understand that the latest version of the Access Initiative contains elements that are seriously deficient and may be harmful to centers like ours.*

The latest version of the PHS proposal calls for the creation of a totally new program which parallels the existing Community Health Center program, but without current requirements for governing boards, funding eligibility and federal accountability. This is clearly a duplication of existing PHS programs. The Access Initiative should build on what works, not build an entirely new program. The existing Community, Migrant and Homeless Health Care programs provide a model for effective programs for high risk populations and should be expanded, not duplicated. We do not need to, and should not, create new and duplicative programs for this purpose.

Please reevaluate and change the Public Health Service Access Initiative so that effective programs are retained and expanded, not duplicated, cut back or eliminated. Funding saved due to universal coverage should be reinvested in current PHS programs to extend services to high risk and special populations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Oscar Canas
Executive Director

Portland
2215 Portland Ave
Louisville, KY 40212
502-774-8631

Other Locations:
Shelby Iroquois
Fairdale St. John

Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation
of Healthcare Organizations

An Equal Opportunity Employer