

THE WHITE HOUSE

May 23, 1994

Mrs. Dorothy Browning
309 Harrison Avenue
Miller Place, New York 11764

Dear Mrs. Browning:

Thank you for writing to share your experiences and support. I was so sorry to hear about your son Christopher's illness.

For too long, those people who need health insurance the most have been unable to buy it. Today, many Americans are prevented from purchasing 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.

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.

The President's plan will also make health care affordable for American families. As you well know, today people are often forced to "spend down" in order to qualify for Medicaid. Under the President's plan, individuals with incomes

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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 if they choose the average cost plan in their area.

Thank you again for writing. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and especially with Christopher.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan