

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1994

Ms. Jennifer Johns
1000 W Schwartz
Carbondale, IL 62901

Dear Ms. Johns:

Thank you for sending your sensitive and powerful video. I think that it accomplishes both of your goals -- it provides support to those who have lost someone they love to breast cancer and sends a clear message that we must all work to prevent this terrible disease.

As you well know, the statistics on the increasing incidence of breast cancer are overwhelming. According to the National Breast Cancer Coalition, one in nine women in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Over two and a half million women in the United States have breast cancer today, and this year another 182,000 American women will be diagnosed with the disease -- approximately one woman every three minutes.

The President's health reform proposal addresses the threat of breast cancer aggressively and comprehensively. Women of any age will be covered for clinician visits, which include clinical breast exams, and screening mammograms, and will pay a standard copayment (for example, \$10) when they need these services. All women over 50 will receive routine mammogram screening every other year at no cost. Clinician visits will be covered without cost sharing every three years for women ages 20 to 39 and every other year for women ages 40 to 64. Furthermore, women who are defined to be at risk for breast cancer may receive additional clinician visits and mammograms at no cost.

The health reform proposal also builds on our commitment to invest in research on breast cancer. This year, the National Institutes of Health increased its breast cancer research budget by 44 percent, from \$208 million to almost \$300 million. Under the President's plan, new research initiatives will target the prevention of disease effecting women, including breast cancer, reproductive health and osteoporosis.

Ms. Jennifer Johns
March 21, 1994
Page 2

Thank you again for the video and your support. Your strength means so much to me and to so many other women who have lost someone to breast cancer.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

February 9, 1994

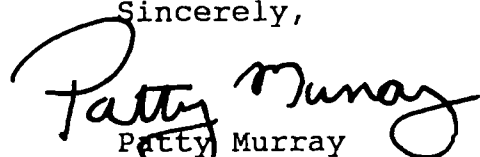
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Health Care Task Force
Room 100
OEOB
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary:

In the midst of your campaign for health care reform, I hope you and your staff can take a few minutes to watch this video on breast cancer. It was done by my cousin, whose mother died of breast cancer. I promised her I would forward the video on to you.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,


Patty Murray
United States Senator

PM/kln

Jennifer Johns
1000 W Schwartz
Carbondale, IL 62901

January 7, 1994

Dear President and Mrs. Clinton:

It is unusual for me to write to political leaders, but after hearing the news of the President's mother's death from breast cancer I felt a sense of urgency to write you, and also a sense of commonality with you. My mother also died from breast cancer. She battled cancer for five years and died in 1975 at the age of 42. About 16 years after her death I found myself making a film about this experience. It was my hope when I made this film, entitled *Beneath the Surface*, that it would do two things. First, that it would be helpful to others who have lost someone they love to cancer. And second, that it would somehow help in preventing the deaths of more women from breast cancer. That is why I am writing this letter and sending a video copy of my film to you.

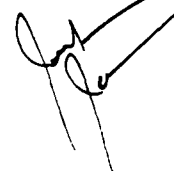
As I'm sure you know, the rate of occurrence for breast cancer is increasing. Every year more and more American women are dying from this disease. While many advances have been made in treatment options and early detection, comparatively little has been done in terms of preventing the disease.

I did a considerable amount of research while making this film. (A lot which unfortunately is not included in the film due to time and monetary constraints.) As a result of this research I firmly believe that the focus of our medical system, on **treatment over prevention** is part of the reason that the occurrence rate is steadily climbing. Research into the prevention of breast cancer would necessarily lead to a more thorough understanding of women's bodies, a reduction in the need for medical treatment and to an uncompromising environmental policy. None of which are popular agendas, especially in relation to big business and industry. Another reason breast cancer continues to increase, rests in the subtle sexism inherent in our medical system. A system where research (in general) has been done primarily on men, where the majority of leading professionals are men, and where support for and interest in a disease which primarily affects women is far from a priority.

In this crucial time of re-evaluating and making changes in our health care system I ask that you and Mrs. Clinton prioritize women's health care and research into the prevention of breast cancer, so that less women will have to die from this disease. So that less of us will have to experience the loss of our mothers and our daughters, of our friends and our partners.

If you have time, please watch my film. It is only 26 minutes long. In actuality, *Beneath the Surface* is more about loss and surviving loss than the politics of breast cancer. And I hope that it will in some way ease the pain of your loss as well. You have my sincerest support and empathy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jennifer Johns', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.