

THE WHITE HOUSE

August 3, 1994

The Honorable Stephen L. Neal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neal:

Thank you for writing to share your proposed language on prevention programs and health care reform that we discussed recently. As you know, we strongly support efforts to increase access to primary and preventive care. Too many Americans do not get the preventive care they need and instead are forced to wait until their illnesses are serious and costly before seeking care. As you so correctly pointed out in your letter and when we spoke, an emphasis on prevention will both improve health and save money.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues in the coming weeks to make health security a reality for all American families.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

STEVE NEAL
NORTH CAROLINA

July 26, 1994

The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

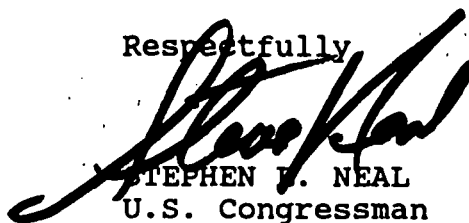
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Attached is proposed language for including effective and cost-effective prevention programs in your health care plan. I have given similar language to Dick Gephardt, and he has agreed to get it included in the bill we'll consider in the House.

While our current medical emphasis on early detection and cure of disease is necessary now, for the future we should also encourage, recognize and require payment for those preventive measures which (and only which) can be scientifically proven to be effective and cost-effective. The most serious and painful diseases (cancer, stroke, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, etc.) are in large part preventable. This emphasis on prevention, I'm suggesting, can save us a lot of money and human suffering in many, some as yet unseen, ways.

You seemed to support this approach when I mentioned it to you last Thursday at our meeting with Dick Gephardt. Please let me have your thinking on it now. Thank you for your outstanding dedication and fine leadership on the health care issue.

Respectfully


STEPHEN E. NEAL
U.S. Congressman

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**Verifiable Cost Savings
Through Effective Preventive Medicine
and Mental Health Programs**

Suggested to add to the health reform bill:

"In addition to the benefits herein described, the National Health Board shall determine those additional preventive programs, and additional programs for mental health and substance abuse (including but not limited to specific in-patient, community-based, workplace, or in-home programs for stress management, nutrition, exercise, treatment of substance abuse and other behavioral approaches), which have research evidence indicating they are effective and cost effective, and shall include those programs and procedures in the comprehensive benefit package."

Suggested report language:

"Effective programs are defined as programs for which scientific research has demonstrated efficacy for the particular condition or risk factor involved.

"Cost-effective programs are defined as programs with insurance or other health cost data projecting a net reduction in total health care costs within the CBO's projection time period for health care programs, and programs which continue to demonstrate such cost reductions when adopted and covered under this statute.

"One intent of this provision is to encourage health researchers to scientifically demonstrate the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of a wide range of preventive and mental health approaches and to adopt such effective and cost effective approaches under this statute expeditiously, to improve the health of the American people and to reduce the burden of health care costs."