

Dr. J. Roy Rowland
US House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Room 2125
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

DEPT

Dear Congressman Rowland:

Thank you for forwarding your constituent's questions regarding coverage of chiropractic services under President Clinton's Health Security Act, and for sharing the Manga study reporting the effectiveness of chiropractic care for low-back pain. I have been asked to respond to your inquiry because my office is coordinating health care reform within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Health Security Act includes a comprehensive benefit package guaranteed to all Americans. A broad range of ^{med nec or app. services} benefits are specified in the Act including hospital care, services of health professionals, clinical preventive services, mental illness and substance abuse services, home health care, etc. ~~Although the comprehensive benefit package is designed to include items or services that are medically necessary or appropriate, the Act does not specify particular items or services within these broad categories, nor does it identify specific providers of services.~~

~~With respect to your concern about coverage for chiropractic services, the Act does not speak specifically to the services of chiropractors or any other types of health professionals. However, Health professional services are defined to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or physician services which another person is legally authorized to provide in the state. Under this provision, some services provided by chiropractors could be covered.~~

Thank you for your interest in health care reform.

Sincerely,

Judith Feder
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Planning and Evaluation



FEB 1 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD SHRIBER
CANDY BUTLER

The attached draft letter responds to a letter sent by Congressman J. Roy Rowland. Congressman Rowland forwarded a list of questions sent to him by a constituent who is a chiropractor. The Congressman asks that the Administration's replies to these questions be made part of the record of the September 28 hearing when the First Lady testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The constituent's questions address coverage issues for chiropractic services under the Health Security Act. In addition, the constituent forwards a copy of a Canadian report identifying chiropractic management of low-back pain as safer than medical management of low-back pain.

The draft response clarifies that the Act defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or those services which could be performed by a physician and which are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide those services in the state.

Judith Feder
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Planning and Evaluation

Attachment

cc: Steve Edelstein
Jennifer Kline ✓

The Honorable J. Roy Rowland
House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Room 2125
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Congressman Rowland:

Thank you for forwarding your constituent's questions regarding coverage of chiropractic services under President Clinton's Health Security Act, and for sharing the Manga study reporting the effectiveness of chiropractic care for low-back pain. I have been asked to respond to your inquiry because my office is coordinating health care reform within the Department of Health and Human Services.

In an effort to guarantee quality care to all Americans, the Health Security Act includes a comprehensive benefit package. A broad range of medically necessary or appropriate services are specified in the Act including hospital care, clinical preventive services, mental illness and substance abuse services, home health care, and services of health professionals.

The Act defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or those services which could be performed by a physician and which are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide

Page 2 - The Honorable J. Roy Rowland

those services in the state. The Act does not specify particular items or services within these broad categories, nor does it identify specific providers of services. However, it is expected that improved competition among health plans will create new incentives for effective use of primary care providers. This, in turn, will increase the competitiveness of alternative practitioners. Plans will be free to use any mix of providers to meet the needs of their enrolles.

With respect to patient appeal rights, the Health Security Act includes grievance procedures for resolving disputes over the delivery of benefits. In addition to procedures for grievance appeals between enrolles and their health plans, alliances will be required to maintain an ombudsman for the specific purpose of providing a channel for criticism and other feedback from consumers, employers, providers, and other interested parties.

I hope that this information is helpful in responding to your constituent. Thank you for your interest in health care reform.

Sincerely,

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
 Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515-6115

December 14, 1993

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Steve Edelstein

FROM: Donald Shriber

SUBJECT: Attached request from Congressman Rowland

Dr. Rowland of the Commerce Committee has requested that the First Lady or the Administration respond to the following questions from one of his constituents and that those replies be made part of the record of the September 28 hearing. I would appreciate it if your office could supply such replies for the record.

If you have any questions please let me know. My number is 225-3147. When replying, please send to the attention of Donald Shriber and Candy Butler. Thank you.

cc: Candy Butler

J. ROY ROWLAND
8TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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October 25, 1993

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Committee On Energy and Commerce
Room 2328
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At the request of Dr. Dick Clark of Dublin, Georgia and the Georgia Chiropractic Association, I am submitting the enclosed questions for the September 28 hearing record when Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton testified before our committee.

Your assistance in clarifying these questions for this group would be appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,


J. ROY ROWLAND

Enclosure

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JOHN D. DINGELL
U.S. HOUSE OF REP.

SEP-27-93 MON 16:30 0

P. 01



GEORGIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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September 27, 1993

The Honorable J. Roy Rowland, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Dear Congressman Rowland:

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It is our understanding that Hillary Rodham Clinton will testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday, September 28, and that committee members will have the opportunity to ask questions of Mrs. Clinton to clarify the National Health Care bill.

On behalf of the doctors of chiropractic and their patients in your district we respectfully request that you ask the following questions:

- 1) Will patients be guaranteed the freedom to choose a doctor of chiropractic for services that are currently covered under the plan?
- 2) Will consumers have the right to appeal unjust denials of chiropractic services?
- 3) Given the fact that many reports verify the cost savings when chiropractic care is utilized for back-pain, why is chiropractic care not a guaranteed benefit under the current plan?

**4) Is the Task Force and Congress being made aware of the Manga report just released by the Ministry of Health in Ontario, Canada which states that:

"The overwhelming body of evidence" shows that chiropractic management of low back pain is more cost effective than medical management, and that "many medical therapies are of questionable validity or are clearly inadequate...Chiropractic manipulation is safer than medical management of low-back pain." (See more information on the Canadian report attached.)

This report makes it clear that millions of dollars could be saved by encouraging the use of chiropractic care for low back dysfunction. Would it not be prudent to profit from the experience of our Canadian neighbors with National Health Care and heed this report which has just been released?

We most sincerely thank you for your care and concern for your constituents who already use chiropractic care and for those who, in the future, will benefit from chiropractic care both physically and financially if it is included in the National Health Care Plan.

Sincerely,

Hazel C. Cotney, D.C.
GCA Executive Director

Info on Manga report - from Canada

Landmark Canadian Study Recommends Redirection of Health Services

American Chiropractic Association Urges President Clinton to Head Report and Include Chiropractic Services in Administration Health Care Package

ARLINGTON, Va. - On the heels of a landmark Canadian government study showing "an overwhelming body of evidence" that chiropractic care is more cost-effective than medical treatment for the treatment of low-back pain, the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) today strongly urged President Clinton to reassess his administration's national health care reform plan, and to include chiropractic care in the proposal's minimum benefits package.

The Manga Report, commissioned by the Ministry of Health in Ontario and carried out by leading, independent health economists at the University of Ottawa led by Dr. Fran Manga, reviewed all of the international evidence on the management of low-back pain. It concludes, among other things, that:

"There would be highly significant cost savings if more management of low-back pain was transferred from physicians to chiropractors."

"There should be a 'shift in policy to encourage and prefer chiropractic services for most patients with low-back pain,' and chiropractic should be 'fully insured (and) fully integrated' into the Ontario health care system."

"The overwhelming body of evidence" shows that chiropractic management of low back pain is more cost effective than medical management, and that "many medical therapies are of questionable validity or are clearly inadequate... Chiropractic manipulation

is safer than medical management of low-back pain."

"Chiropractic management is greatly superior to medical management in terms of scientific validity, safety, cost-effectiveness and patient satisfaction."

The Canadian study, set for formal release later this month at the University of Ottawa, is particularly significant since the former head of the U.S. Public Health Service has called low-back dysfunction the single biggest health care problem "affecting working-age Americans - a condition which annually 'costs society billions of dollars' and reduces worker productivity."

"The Manga Report clearly concludes that for the management of low-back pain, chiropractic care is the most effective treatment, and that it should be fully integrated into the government's health care system," said ACA Board of Governors Chairman Dr. Kerwin Winkler. "Given this important new research study, and the overwhelming body of evidence which already exists, we believe it would be a tragic mistake to exclude chiropractic care as a minimum benefit in the Clinton reform plan. If chiropractic services are not included, not only will the plan end up being more costly, it will exclude for most patients the most effective treatment available for the management of low-back pain."

Dr. Winkler cautioned the President that if chiropractic services are excluded from the plan, many working Americans would be inadvertently forced into less effective, more costly care for low-back

problems.

"Our association initially welcomed health care reform as an opportunity for the government to cast aside some of the outmoded thinking which has previously dominated health care policy in this country, and to reduce economic disincentives that work against the use of chiropractic by an estimated 19 million Americans," Dr. Winkler added. "From what we've seen of the Clinton plan so far, it would not guarantee access to chiropractic care as a minimum benefit, and would instead wipe out many state consumer protections which have ensured the availability of these services."

He said the association was most concerned about the administration's avowed plans to preempt state insurance equality laws, while treating chiropractic care as an "optional benefit" that would be outside the scope of many health care insurance plans. Those steps would create a tremendous economic disincentive against the use of chiropractic services, he added. If employers were also taxed on care provided outside the scope of the administration's standard benefits plan.

"Ontario and other governments which have had national health care for some time have recognized that it is time to end the Jurassic Park mentality which has governed the use of chiropractic care," he added. "It is time for our nation to do the same. Instead of continuing to memorialize in our new health care system the tens of thousands of unnecessary back surgeries and other ineffective and expensive therapies which are used each year."



DR. RAEFORD L. THOMAS
CHIROPRACTOR
718 N. CLARKESVILLE STREET
CORNELIA, GEORGIA 30531
TELEPHONE 778-4019

URGENT!!!!

URGENT!!!!

URGENT!!!

Dear Congressman J. Roy Rowland

It is my understanding that your committee is to meet with Hillary Clinton on September 28th. Presidents Task Force on National Health Care Reform.

It is vital to the Chiropractic Profession that you ask #1. Why Chiropractic is not a "guaranteed" benefit under the current plan. #2. Whether patients will be guaranteed the freedom to choose a D.C. for service that are currently covered under the plan. #3. Whether consumers will have the right to appeal unjust denials of Chiropractic services.

She should be aware of the late Manga Report and urge them to bring the report of those findings to Mrs. Clintons attention.

The Manga Report is a just released report by the Minister of Health in Ontario, Canada. This was carried out by independent health economists at the University of Ottawa led by Dr. Pran Manga. It concludes that: "There would be highly significant cost savings if more management of low-back pain was transferred from (medical) physicians to Chiropractors."

"The overwhelming body of evidence" shows that chiropractic management of low back pain is more cost effective than medical management, and that "many medical therapies are of questionable validity or are clearly inadequate...Chiropractic manipulation is safer than medical management of low-back pain."

Sincerely,

Dr. Ray Thomas, Chairman
Public Affairs
Georgia Chiropractic Assn.