

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1994

Mr. Joseph B. Locaria
Executive Director
C.U.R.A., Inc.
4510 Peralta Blvd., Suite 1
Fremont, CA 94536

Dear Mr. Locaria:

Thank you for your letter about the need to expand treatment and prevention services for alcohol and drug abuse. The President is committed to the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

The President's plan for health reform eliminates pre-existing exclusions and lifetime limits that today restrict the access of individuals with substance abuse disorders to needed services. The comprehensive benefit package guaranteed to all Americans includes a broad range of treatment options for substance abuse, including day treatment programs, partial hospitalization, ambulatory detoxification, and counseling and relapse prevention. Health plans are encouraged to use this wide array of treatment options to provide individuals with a continuum of care through substitution of inpatient and residential days for treatment in other settings.

Significantly, no day or visit limits apply to medical management, diagnosis, screening and assessment, and crisis services. Annual day and visit limits on some services and restrictions on applying expenses for substance abuse treatment to out-of-pocket limits will exist initially. By January 1, 2001, as the service system develops the capacity to deliver and manage a more comprehensive substance abuse benefit, these limitations will be eliminated. In addition, higher copayments and coinsurance that apply initially for certain services will be reduced.

The President's plan also includes initiatives for improving access to substance abuse services. For example, the plan provides funding for services to remove barriers to care, such as community and patient outreach, transportation and translation services. The Clinton plan also creates a comprehensive school health program that includes education about substance abuse.

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We recognize, however, as you do, that substantial funding for treatment and prevention services is needed before national health care reform can be implemented. Therefore, the President's 1995 budget includes an increase of \$355 million for treatment of hard-core drug users. This is the largest increase ever proposed. In addition, the fiscal year 1995 budget includes an increase in spending for educational programs to prevent drug use. The President's budget also maintains funding for state programs to prevent and treat substance abuse and to reduce drug treatment and rehabilitation waiting lists.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark

FORTNEY PETE STARK
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
WAYS AND MEANS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 20, 1993

VIP
Health Care Reform

Hillary Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Clinton:

Enclosed is a letter I recently received from a constituent actively involved in the treatment of drug addicts in the community I represent.

In his letter, which he wanted me to share with you, he emphasizes the importance of increasing the funding levels for drug, alcohol and other preventative treatment services.

I share his support for elevating drug treatment and prevention services to the forefront of our national efforts on fighting substance abuse and look forward to working with you on this effort in the health reform revision.

Sincerely,



Pete Stark

United States Congressman

FHS/MM



C.U.R.A., Inc.

1510 Peralta Blvd., Suite 1 • Fremont, California 94536 • (510) 713-3200 • Fax (510) 713-0884

November 19, 1993

President Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

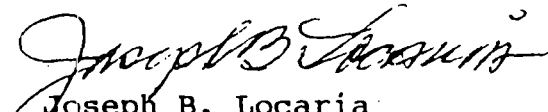
Carnales Unidos Reformando Adictos, Inc., known as C.U.R.A., Inc., is a fifty-one bed, California licensed and certified 24 hour residential drug treatment therapeutic community located in Fremont, California. I urge you to increase funds for drug and alcohol treatment, and prevention services by at least \$1 billion in the Administration's FY 1995 budget.

The Interim Drug Strategy makes the clear and compelling case for elevating treatment and prevention services to the forefront of our Nation's drug and alcohol control efforts. We applaud your understanding of how drug and alcohol problems underlie so many of our serious problems, including violence, HIV/Aids, homelessness and family disruption.

Your new strategy can only work with a firm commitment of new funds. We need funds to assure beds for clients who come into the Therapeutic Community and to continue providing the best of care.

We cannot wait until the passage of health care reform to begin the expansion for treatment and prevention services. We urge you to increase funding for these services by at least \$1 billion in the Administration's FY 1995 budget and to make this funding level a priority in the FY 1995 appropriations process.

Sincerely,


Joseph B. Locaria
Executive Director

JBL:11