

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	To constituent from Margaret A. Williams re: letter (partial) (1 page)	04/26/94	b(6)
001b. letter	To Ms. Williams from constituent re: S.A.F.E. (partial) (1 page)	03/07/94	b(6)
001c. envelope	To Margaret Ann Williams from constituent (partial) (1 page)	03/08/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Correspondence)
OA/Box Number: 17604

FOLDER TITLE:

[Correspondence from 1994]: Y

2013-0359-S

ry1332

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1994

[0012]

(b)(6)

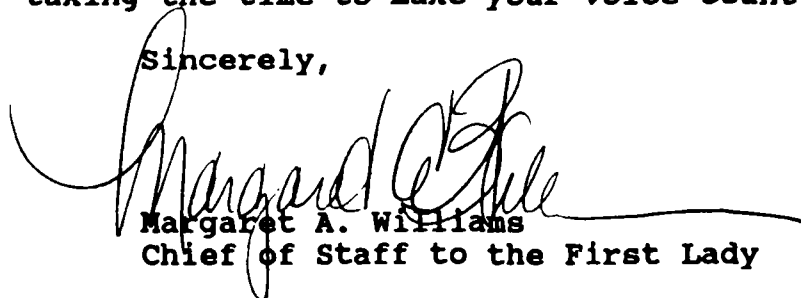
Dear (b)(6):

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and report. I appreciate your sharing with me your concerns about an issue that is so important to you and many other people.

Your comments provide the Clinton Administration with a better understanding of this complex issue. I can assure you that the views of concerned individuals like you are considered carefully before making policy decisions.

Thank you for taking the time to make your voice count.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret A. Williams", followed by a horizontal line.

Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

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March 7, 1994

would like to
prevent govt.
from interfering
with programs
like S.A.F.E.

(b)(6)

[001b]

Margaret Ann Williams
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent and citizen of Florida. My concerns are for the laws and interference of HRS in the responsibilities and rights of parents and their families. Five months ago, I admitted my fifteen year old daughter to S.A.F.E. (Substance Abuse Family Education) in Orlando. After years of behavior problems, discipline problems, drug and alcohol use, and multiple suicide attempts, my husband and I were desperate for help. We had tried everything. After just a few short weeks in the program we knew we had done the right thing by putting her in long term treatment. We felt relieved knowing she was safe and getting the help she needed to recover. We were so encouraged to see other families that had been where we were, and we now have hope for our daughter and our family has another chance. Drug use is a disease. It is a family disease. You cannot just treat one person. That is why this program is so successful. It is family recovery. This program forces the children and the family to deal with their problems and gives them the tools to change.

I am scared to death to think that HRS is trying to close S.A.F.E., but more concerned about what they are trying to enforce and why. They are trying to take my rights away as a parent and harassing the children and staff of S.A.F.E. I feel very angry about the fact that numerous HRS workers have undermined the staff and the program. Investigating is one thing but harassing and interfering with treatment is unnecessary. I also feel scared to think that they believe a child has the right to walk out of treatment whenever they want to, regardless of what the parents say. Our country needs to make parents take responsibility for their children, our government needs to support us in disciplining our kids and forcing them to get help if they have a drug problem. I have a personal interest in this because it has affected me and my family, but I am also concerned for other kids and families who don't know what to do or where to turn to for help. I did not force my daughter to use drugs but I am responsible for doing everything I can to help her in her recovery.

In addition, concerning the HR6 school bill. Please add Dick Army's amendment to protect our rights as parents to educate our children. Our role as parents and the value of the family far exceeds any certification on paper.

I hope that you will support us in helping to pass the laws that give parents rights and stop the government from interfering with this program and others like it that can help families recover and learn to change and grow together. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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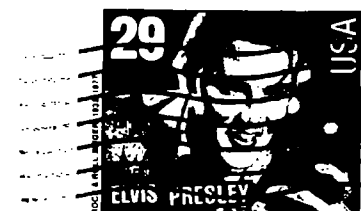
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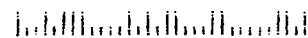
(9)(q)



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Margaret Ann Williams
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to
the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

0000



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Barbara McSweeney Yerxa
Anne Lennox Parlin
6312 Newborn Drive
Bethesda, Md. 20816

Dear Ms. Yerxa and Ms. Parlin:

I hope you will accept my apologies for this very late response to your letter of last fall. We did want you to know, however belatedly, how much we appreciate having your comments and suggestions for a national anti-violence campaign. They have been brought to the attention of appropriate staff here.

Again, my sincere apologies.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff to the
First Lady

See

RASCO/Reed

JAM NOV 10 1993

Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington D.C.

See Can you
can you something
will from me apologize

November 8, 1993

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

We are greatly impressed by your remarkable efforts on health care and are convinced that you could place the same national spotlight on the issue of violence in America. We would like to suggest to you and President Clinton a potential strategy for a national anti-violence campaign.

Recently, we returned from Geneva, Switzerland where we lived for four and six years respectively. Our husbands, Rufus Yerxa and Chris Parlin, served as Ambassador and Legal Counsel in The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Our experience representing the U.S. in an international environment forced us to reassess our identity as Americans. We were proud to be Americans and tried to exemplify the best attributes of our nation ... optimism, compassion and a "roll up your sleeves -- can do" attitude.

Upon returning home, we were shocked by the level of violence and the cynicism that greeted us. Americans were outraged in word, but paralyzed in action. We chose to act. We immersed ourselves locally in "Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse" and are promoting one of the most comprehensive gun control packages in the nation, soon to be introduced in the Maryland legislature. We believe that if successful, it could serve as model legislation for the nation. We also met with Sarah Brady and others from "Handgun Control" who were receptive to our ideas for a national strategy.

Through this involvement we are convinced of the need for a national wake-up call that employs a unifying theme and identifies a common enemy -- violence in America.

Our proposal is as follows:

1. **LAUNCH A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN BASED UPON ONE POSITIVE DISTINCT THEME WITH A CLEAR LOGO.**

For example: **"RECLAIM AMERICA...Freedom From Fear"**.

The "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear" theme offers an opportunity to re-examine our identity as Americans and rekindle the positive attributes of the American spirit.

The "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear" theme serves to unite our diverse nation. Historically, Americans join together when a common enemy is clearly defined. The time is ripe. The enemy is violence.

"Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear" is an affirmative movement, reminding Americans of their inalienable right to live free from fear.
(It counters accusations that gun control threatens personal freedom.)

2. **STRATEGY FOR ACTION.**

A. Organize a National Task Force focused on the theme of **"Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear"**. The Task Force serves as a forum for leaders from select issue areas involved in the fight against violence to propose practical solutions.

Examples:

1. **Religious Leaders : "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear"**.

- a. Organize "Reclaim America : Turn in Your Gun Days" at local churches and synagogues. (This has already proved successful in several communities).
- b. Devote worship services to messages of peace over violence.
- c. Work closely with inner-city churches as they provide programs that promote the family, mentoring for young adults and serve as a kind of safe-haven in crime-torn streets.

2. **Educators : "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear"**.

- a. Develop a comprehensive conflict resolution curriculum in every

classroom in America.

- b. Encourage discussions about what it means to be an American \ Freedom with responsibility, etc...

3. Medical Professionals : "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear".

- a. Develop informational packets for new parents suggesting ways to avoid verbal and physical violence at home.
- b. Work with local Community Health Clinics to coordinate a nationwide program of violence prevention and victim support.

4. Professionals in Mass Media : "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear".

- a. Support legislation limiting violence on television and other forms of media.
- b. Organize concerts "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear" involving rappers, rock, soul and jazz musicians. Tickets are free to those turning in a gun. Proceeds benefit the movement.

5. Gun Control Activists : "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear".

Support of The Brady Bill on the federal level. Also support progressive state legislation.

B. Establish a National Clearing House.

Presently, no one knows how many organizations are working to combat violence in America. There needs to be one central information source that identifies and connects resources at the local, state and federal level.

C. Public Relations.

Examples of Public Relations Events:

- 1. You, President Clinton, and other prominent leaders would join with sports figures and other celebrities to create a series of public service announcements promoting "Reclaim America...Freedom From Fear".

2. Distribute bumper stickers, buttons and other visual aids that reinforce the theme and logo.
3. Publish a book of collected essays written by famous individuals exploring the topic of "Re-examining our National Identity...Reclaiming America".

In order for 'RECLAIM AMERICA...Freedom From Fear' to make a full impact, these events and others must be carefully orchestrated to occur within a limited time span.

We believe that this idea could be a tool to not only curb violence, but also to reunite our country. It is a theme that would appeal to conservatives as well as liberals.

We thank you for your time. If you are interested in our proposal, we offer you our services, our energy and our commitment.

Sincerely,

Barbara McSweeney Yerxa

Anne (Angie) Lennox Parlin

Handwritten signatures of Barbara McSweeney Yerxa and Anne Lennox Parlin in cursive script.

6312 Newborn Drive
Bethesda, Md. 20816
301-320-0178

8516 River Rock Terrace
Bethesda, Md. 20817
301-320-3165

Possible logo ideas



Free to be you and Me... Together... in the U.S.A.

Reclaim America... Freedom From Fear
(FOR CHILDREN)