

FOIA MARKER

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[Continuance of RSVP [Retired Senior Volunteer Program] [loose]

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8 Apr 93

Mr. Eli Segal
Special Assistant to the President for National Service
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

I have concern that the Clinton Administration is going to eliminate the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) which is a part of ACTION, the National Volunteer Agency. In my opinion this would be a mistake.

I am the chair of the Coulee Region RSVP Advisory Council. We match volunteers with jobs with non-profit agencies in 4 counties in southwestern Wisconsin. We have 1230 senior volunteers providing over 155,000 hours of service in their home communities. (1992 statistic)

Our volunteers work in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, meal sites, and other non-profit agencies. Our Peer Counselor Program provides the listening ears for distressed elderly people and offers help and, if necessary, referral to professionals. Our Driver Escort Program provides rides for the elderly and the handicapped of all ages to doctors offices, hospitals, and stores. Our volunteers make comforting dolls for hospitalized children and quilts for the poor and homeless. Layettes are assembled for disadvantaged mothers leaving our hospitals with new babies. This is community service at its finest!

In addition these services are extremely cost effective and functioning right now.

President Clinton's proposed program for community service by the young is to be applauded. However, this cannot supplant what RSVP volunteers are already doing.

I urge you to do all that you can to see to it that RSVP is continued.

Very respectfully,



Robert W. Ramlow, M.D.
Chair Coulee Region RSVP Advisory Council