

# FOIA MARKER

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[Proposal - McLeod Family Institute] [loose]

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March 16, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal  
National Service Director  
White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal,

Please give consideration for a few moments to this proposal for a national program. It combines the opportunity to reduce health care costs while providing essential educational opportunities.

Simply, it is the development of a H.E.R.O. cadre (Help Experts for Residential Opportunity). Retired medical personnel would train high school graduates in subjects such as hygiene, nutrition, safety and basic nursing skills. The trained members should then be deployed to individual home sites for specified time periods each day. Their skills could prevent or reduce hospitalization or institutionalization. The HERO members could be supervised weekly by local County Home Health Services, assuring quality control.

Relevant applications for hospitalization or institutionalization would be referred for the services of a HERO as an alternative. Individual assessments would determine the schedules to meet the unique client needs.

We have a large unemployed population who feel disenfranchised. They often feel alienated from community, with no sense of contribution or productivity. The HERO program could provide opportunity to them. It could offer a salary greater than minimum wage, development of skills and the consideration of more professional training in a human service or medical field while reducing expensive long-term care.

No national program offers basic help for home care. It is a simple but missing component. Care takers of cancer patients may need help to turn the patient in bed. Developmentally delayed children may need assistance with their exercises. The elderly with spouses in wheelchairs can not manage the morning bath routine. All of them need someone to do errands or provide sitter services in order to remain at home.

The medical personnel trainers could accrue hours of future HERO service in lieu of salaries. The training could be implemented in existing adult education facilities. The HERO members could earn advanced medical training scholarships through service hours.

Private hospital insurance programs may be receptive to inclusion and would provide additional funding for the program and further reduce the national medical cost-containment crisis.

All of our national policies must be framed to contribute to the cohesiveness of the family unit at all stages of the life cycle. The emotional bonding of the family is enhanced through care taking but the extended family is no longer often available to assist the nuclear family with care giving. These realities must be considered in policy formation.

This proposal comes from years of experience with families in many situations. I have a masters in social work, have been employed in state adoption and mental health fields, and presently direct the Family Institute at McLeod Regional Medical Center. My husband and I had three children, we were foster parents for twenty years and I was widowed though cancer. I have married again and we have a blended family. All of this has simply taught me to value family, in all its forms.

Thank you for your time and attention and I hope you will forward this information to any office or group that could appropriately consider these measures. Please call my office if you have any questions I may answer.

Most sincerely,

*Margaret*

Margaret Hinson Baroody, MSW

MHB/mrg

cc:Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The Honorable James E. Clyburn  
The Honorable Ernest Hollings  
Mr. Ira Magaziner  
The Honorable Richard W. Riley  
The Honorable Strom Thurmond