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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Staff Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Sean Maloney

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14868

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Folder Title:

Friday, October 29, 1999

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40

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	[Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	08/31/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Staff Secretary
Sean Maloney (Chron File (Oct 99))
OA/Box Number: 14868

FOLDER TITLE:

Friday, October 29, 1999

2016-0970-F

rs3014

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]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

99 OCT 29 PM 5:24

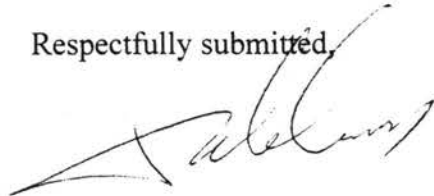
October 10, 1999

Mr. President:

I played golf with you, Michael Jordan, Brian Greenspun and a group of governors including Governor Miller in July, 1997 at Las Vegas Country Club. It was a great honor to host the group at my facility. Although I am still very happily employed as the Head Golf Professional at the country club, I am actively seeking to advance my career at another facility. In an effort to find another position, as I'm sure your well aware, it is necessary to acquire references.

I know you are an extremely busy man with many important things on your agenda. But I am hopeful that you can find the time to write me a brief letter of reference. A letter from The President would go a long way in advancing my career. Thank you for any consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



John Creaney
PGA Professional

PS: If I can ever be of any assistance to you please don't hesitate to ask.

10-29-99

To Burkhardt for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

DECLINE ☒

MAYBE ☐ COUNSEL ☐

LETTER ☐

Really don't
think this
is appropriate
with



JOHN CREANEY
3000 Joe W. Brown Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89109



JOHN CREANEY, PGA
Head Golf Professional

3000 Joe W. Brown Drive • Las Vegas, NV 89109
voice: 702/734-1122 • fax: 702/734-7499



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
C/O NANCY HENREICH.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE.
WASHINGTON DC 20502



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
10-29-99

Sturdy
This looks awful
even in the warm times
pd



Copied
Podesta
Berger

Clinton flip-flop angers terrorism victims' kin

President blocks compensation he called for in 1996

By Tom Squitieri
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — After Cuba's air force shot down planes flown by members of a Florida-based anti-Castro group in 1996, President Clinton called on Congress to pass legislation giving victims' families access to the frozen assets of terrorist governments.

Congress did just that. But when two sets of victims went to court and won compensation, the Clinton administration blocked the families from receiving the awards.

Clinton's controversial decision in August to offer clemency to 16 Puerto Rican terrorists has prompted new efforts by the families and sympathetic members of Congress to force the administration to allow the awards due under the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act.

"I don't believe our policy against terrorism works very well," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said Wednesday at a Senate hearing.

Stuart Eizenstat, deputy treasury secretary, said granting the payments would violate international law, could cause the United States to violate diplomatic law and would likely use up all of the frozen assets. He also said the assets are significant leverage needed by U.S. negotiators to deal with terrorist states.

Eizenstat did not directly respond to repeated requests by senators to explain why Clinton sought the bill and said it was proper under international law in 1996 but now opposes it. Instead, he suggested the problem be solved by forming a commission to study the matter.

Feinstein scoffed at that suggestion. "Somebody who doesn't know what to do says, 'Get a commission.'"

In 1996, Clinton signed with much fanfare the Anti-Terrorism Act that permitted Americans harmed by acts sponsored by Cuba, Iran and other nations on the State Department's terrorism list to seek compensation in U.S. courts against those countries. The United States has blocked \$166 million in Cuban assets; the government could not provide a specific total for frozen Iranian assets.

In 1997, a federal judge awarded



By Larry Downing, Reuters

Flatow: Clinton called him when his daughter died in a bombing in 1995. The State Department now opposes his efforts to make Iran pay damages.

\$187 million to relatives of the pilots from Brothers to the Rescue, a Cuban exile group that rescued boat refugees fleeing Cuba. In 1998, relatives of Alisa Flatow, a New Jersey student killed in Israel by a terrorist bomb attack, won \$247.5 million in damages against Iran, which supported the terrorist group.

In both cases, Clinton used his waiver power under the act to claim national security interests to block distribution of the Cuban and Iranian assets.

"No words can possibly explain our shock when we went to court and found U.S. attorneys sitting down at the same table as Cuba's attorneys," said Maggie Alejandre Khuly, the sister of one of the downed pilots. "We thought Cuba was the terrorist, the guilty party."

Stephen Flatow, the father of Alisa Flatow, told how Clinton called him when Alisa died on April 10, 1995, and promised to help find those responsible. He attended Clinton's signing of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

However, "more than a year after obtaining my judgment, I'm still being opposed by the State Department in my efforts to make the Iranians pay the price prescribed by the Anti-Terrorism Act," he said.

Sens. Connie Mack, R-Fla., and Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., have introduced a bill to restrict Clinton's ability to waive future judgments.

The White House opposes the bill.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
10-29-99

Podesta
is in the
a museum - the
so a good idea
They are getting a lot
of it out of the
BZ

Copied
Podesta

Hill Negotiators Agree to Delay Part of NIH Research Budget

By ERIC PLANIN
Washington Post Staff Writer

House and Senate negotiators yesterday agreed to delay a big chunk of the research budget of the National Institutes of Health, as they struggled to find new ways to hold down costs and stay within tight spending limits.

With concerns rising over their plan to cut programs across the board, Republicans leaders are once again turning to creative accounting tactics to make sure their spending bills are lean enough to avoid tapping into Social Security payroll taxes.

The last of the 13 spending bills to be considered by Congress, a giant \$313 billion measure funding labor, health and human service programs, would provide the NIH with \$17.9 billion for fiscal 2000, a 15 percent increase that exceeds the administration request by \$2 billion.

But the bill, which will be considered by the full Congress today, would require the NIH to wait until the final days of the fiscal year in September to use \$7.5 billion of that money. The tactic is aimed at limiting the actual amount of money that the government will spend at NIH in the current fiscal year; the plan would essentially roll over \$2

billion of spending to next year.

The Clinton administration warned that the move would seriously hamper research efforts and impose significant administrative burdens on NIH, and congressional Democrats complained that it was yet another step eroding GOP credibility on budget matters.

But Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) said Congress was justified in its use of accounting "devices" to cope with emergencies and pressing budget priorities that exceeded what Congress had previously set aside to spend this year.

The various devices are crucial to the GOP's campaign to pass all 13 spending bills for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 without appearing to dip into surplus revenue generated by Social Security taxes. GOP leaders last night put the finishing touches on an unwieldy package that includes both the labor-health-education bill, the District of Columbia spending bill and proposal for a roughly 1 percent across-the-board spending cut.

Democrats maintain the "mindless" across-the-board cuts would "devastate" some agencies, hurt programs for mothers and children, and trigger large layoffs in the

The government has
recorded its first
back-to-back surpluses
since 1956-57.

armed services. But House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) said accusations the cuts would hurt defense were "nothing but hogwash." He said the criticism was coming from "the same officials who have sat by idly as the president has hollowed out the armed forces."

President Clinton has vowed to veto the huge package, as he has three other bills, and there is no way the two sides can reach agreement before a midnight Friday deadline. With neither side willing to provoke a government shutdown, the administration and Congress will agree on a third, short-term continuing resolution to keep all the agencies afloat while they continue negotiations.

While the Republicans and the White House are relatively close in negotiating

overall spending levels, there are serious differences over how to spend money to reduce class sizes, hire additional police officers and meet a financial obligation to the United Nations, as well as disputes over environmental provisions in the bills.

Meanwhile, figures out yesterday showed that the federal government ran a surplus of \$122.7 billion in fiscal 1999 (which ended Sept. 30), the first time the government has recorded back-to-back surpluses since the Eisenhower administration in 1956-57.

The 1999 surplus was almost double the 1998 surplus of \$69.2 billion, which was the first since 1969. While the 1999 surplus was the largest in the nation's history in strict dollar terms, it was the biggest since 1951 when measured as a percentage of the economy, a gauge that tends to factor out the effects of inflation.

All of the surplus came from the excess payroll taxes being collected to provide for Social Security benefits in the next century. Contrary to an earlier estimate by the Congressional Budget Office, the non-Social Security side of the federal government ran a deficit of \$1 billion, money that was made up from the Social Security surplus.

The drafting of the labor-health-education spending measure dominated the ac-

tion behind the scenes on Capitol Hill yesterday. The House has been unable to pass its own version, so House and Senate negotiators worked out a final compromise in conference.

The \$313 billion compromise exceeds last year's spending by \$11.3 billion and includes more money for education, Pell Grants for college students, NIH, federal impact aid for local communities, Ryan White AIDS research and community services block grants than the administration had requested.

While the bill provides \$1.2 billion for class size reduction, the Republicans insist local school districts be given the option for using the money for other purposes while the White House would mandate the money for hiring additional teachers.

Republicans also were claiming \$877 million in savings by using a computer database of newly hired workers to track down people who defaulted on student loans. The nonpartisan CBO said the idea would only save \$130 million, but Republicans are using a more generous estimate used by Clinton's White House budget office.

Staff writers Juliet Eilperin and George Hager contributed to this report.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

10-29-99

copied
Jennings
Ibarra
Podesta
Tramontano
Ricchetti
Reed
Lindsey
Verveer

October 28, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Chris Jennings and Mickey Ibarra

RE: ARKANSAS'S ARKIDS PROGRAM

CC: John Podesta, Karen Tramontano, Steve Ricchetti, Bruce Reed, Bruce Lindsey, Melanne Verveer

*All out
Don't fail
a lot of time
to review*

Attached is a draft letter from you to Governor Huckabee regarding the ARKids Medicaid waiver issue. We think that it is important to forward this letter to the Governor tomorrow (Friday) because it appears likely that he will use the opportunity of the Republican response to your radio address to highlight this issue in a potentially inflammatory manner.

I spoke with the Governor today and had another amiable conversation. Despite the tone, it appears clear that the Governor continues to look for excuses to publicly highlight the controversy surrounding ARKids. Today, for example, he put me on the spot, expecting an instant response to his offer to remove all barriers to Medicaid enrollment if I would agree to allow families to enroll their children in Medicaid if they still choose to do so. This is a 180 degree turn from Ray Hanley's position yesterday in which he said that removing those barriers were impossible politically and difficult to implement. It also is equally impossible for me to get instant sign-off on such a major Medicaid issue. While I think that I succeeded in getting the Governor to understand that our process -- and probably his own internal process -- take longer, he will likely continue to record a negative response.

Regardless, Bruce Lindsey, Amy Rossi and Skip Rutherford believe that it is important that a communication be forwarded to the Governor to provide evidence of your concern about this issue. Most importantly, it conveys your assurance that no children will lose coverage as a result of any action.

We met with Ray yesterday and set up a process for staff to work through these issues. The Governor's openness to removing barriers today is encouraging. From our perspective, we will begin to gather the legal, policy and political arguments for or against allowing families to voluntarily enroll their Medicaid-eligible children in ARKids, assuming that the Governor can deliver on removing structural barriers. This action would be precedent setting and will require significant discussion. We will keep you apprised of developments.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1999

The Honorable Mike Huckabee
Governor of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Mike:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) letter about enrolling Medicaid-eligible children in ARKids. Expanding coverage to children has been a priority for me, and I applaud your leadership in making ARKids outreach efforts among the most successful in the nation.

As we discussed on Monday, I want to reiterate my commitment to putting the children of Arkansas first and foremost in any discussion that we have on the ARKids issue. I want to assure you that, during the process to resolve this issue, my Administration will not take any action that will cause Arkansas children to lose health coverage.

I have instructed White House and HHS staff to work with your Director of Medical Services, Ray Hanley, to rapidly resolve this issue. I was encouraged to learn that we share a mutual interest in making Medicaid as user-friendly and accessible as the ARKids program.

I am confident that, given the priority that we both place on the health and well-being of our children, we can develop a solution that best serves the children of Arkansas. I look forward to working with you in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honorable Mike Huckabee
Governor of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Shu
Wang
interview?

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
10-29-99

A Conference promoted by
European University Institute New York University

In cooperation with
CeSPI
IAI
ISPI

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Podesta
Blumenthal

Progressive Governance for the 21st Century

Panel:

Tony Blair
Fernando H. Cardoso
Bill Clinton
Massimo D'Alema
Lionel Jospin
Gerhard Schroeder

Speakers

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Romano Prodi
Javier Solana

Thomas Friedman
Yves Mény

Florence, 20-21 November 1999

Draft programmeSaturday Evening, 20 November

- 7.00 pm Drinks and dinner at La Pietra
- 8.00 pm Welcoming remarks: J. Oliva, President, New York University; Prof P. Master son, President of the EUI
Hillary Rodham Clinton " Progressive governance in the 21st Century: the role of civil society"
- 9.30 pm **Romano Prodi " A new economy and a new policy; the role of the European Union"**

Sunday Morning, 21 November

Palazzo Vecchio, Salone dei Cinquecento

- 9.00 am Welcoming remarks: **Leonardo Domenici**, Mayor of Florence; **Prof. P. Master son**, president of IUE; prof. **J. Oliva**, president of NYU.

Chair: Massimo D'Alema

- 9.30-11.00 am: Session 1: *The new economy: the role of public policy*
(introduction: **Thomas Friedman** – to be confirmed)
Panel discussion

11.00-11.10 am: Coffee break

11.10-12.30 am: Session 2: *Equality and opportunity for all: the new agenda*
(introduction: to be decided)
Panel discussion

Lunch at Palazzo Vecchio

2.00-4.00 pm: Session 3: *Democracies in the 21st century: values, rights and responsibilities*

Chairman: Javier Solana
(introduction: prof. Yves Mény, EUI).

Questions from the floor to the panel.

Final remarks: Massimo D'Alema

4.30 pm approx: End of the session

Press:

No press conference, no joint statement, no agreed conclusions; each participant to be free to comment.

The proceedings are open to the media (RAI and CNN), subject to pool arrangements to be agreed later.

Simultaneous translation will be available

I am sending you a tentative "explained" agenda, which collects the observations I have received as of today. I hope this is a useful basis for our work.

We have decided to collect the most significant contributions each of the leaders gave to the debate on the issues that will be discussed in Florence. The idea is to present them as a joint reader at the conference. It would be crucial, thus, to receive as soon as possible from you the speech or the article you would like to include in this selection.

**Florence- 20-21 november
Agenda explained**

Session n.1

The new economy: the role of public policy

(introducer Thomas Friedman). Chairman: Massimo D'Alema

The session will focus on how public policy can strengthen global competitiveness of economies; improve education systems; upgrade research and improve the potential for technological innovation; promote investment in human resources; support small business; set rules and regulations to promote fair competition. A comparison between national experiences in those fields will be the guiding framework for discussion.

Mr. Jospin would also like to comment on the global dimension of the New economy (reform of international institutions; prevention of financial crisis; how the new economy can also benefit the development of less developed countries). The issue, on the other hand, could also be dealt with in the final session.

We suggest that the chairman will not raise the issue as a point per se. Nothing prevents, however, Mr Jospin or other panelists to comment on those issues in their own remarks.

Session 2

Equality and opportunity for all: the new agenda.

(introducer: Juan Somavia; suggestion, to be confirmed) Chairman: Massimo D'Alema

The session will deal with the specific challenge of social inclusion and the reduction of inequalities. It will thus focus on:

- measures to favour full employment;
- how to build solidarity through reformed welfare systems and modernized public services;
- how to upgrade welfare support for children and fight gender inequality
- raising social standards
- the US model and the European models: what in common, what apart?

Session 3**Democracies in the 21st Century: values, rights and responsibilities**

(Introducer Y. Meny) Chairman: J. Solana, who will also make some opening remarks

The session will explore how progressive governance can (a) modernize democracy within our societies thanks to new rights for greater citizenship; and (b) build democracy at the global level, strengthening international institutions, protecting diversity and promoting the defense of human rights. It will also focus on how progressive governance should balance rights and responsibilities, for instance promoting sustainable development in order to establish a better balance between present generations' rights and their responsibilities to respect future generations' rights.

We will have some specific questions (3 minutes each at most) from the floor on:

Human rights and global values in international policy (P. Alston, European University Institute)

Gender Equality and progressive governance (Dorsen, NYU?)

The Environmental challenge (David Miliband or other UK?)

Global economy and the North/South Divide (French question: see section 1)

The nation-state and supranational institutions (German or Italian question?)

We have to decide whether we wish to have some of these questions from students.

*Sharon
Kenne- we
dy GILL be limit
more just
power*

CARLOTTA WALLS LANIER

8453 E. STANFORD AVE

ENGLEWOOD, CO 80111

Dear Ben,

'99 OCT 29 AM 8:45

I do appreciate all your efforts in gathering information for the committee in charge of the auspicious Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony that will be belatedly held at the White House on November 9, 1999. However, it disturbs me greatly that I and the other eight are being limited in our guest list. It seems to me that our immediate family members that endured great hardship during our 1957 days in Little Rock would be accommodated before PR Firms, Board Members of the Central High Museum, and quite frankly, people that had other agendas in 1957 and possibly now.

We have been patiently waiting for this occasion. Our families have made other sacrifices in 1999 to be able to witness our unanticipated honor. Certainly it is here now and we want them there with us.

Sincerely,

Carlotta Walls LaNier

Carlotta Walls LaNier for the Little Rock Nine

Send to Sharon Kennedy Gill?

YES ☒

NO ☐

From: Ben Johnson, Assistant to The President and Date:
Director of The White House Office On
The President's Initiative For One America

TO: Nancy Hernandez

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Prepare reply for President's signature | ☐ Call me on this | ☐ Please return call |
| ☐ Prepare reply for Director's signature | ☐ For Your Action | ☐ Please file |
| ☐ Prepare reply for my signature | ☐ For your approval | ☐ Set up meeting on this |
| ☐ For your signature | ☐ For your comments | ☐ Draft scheduling request |
| ☐ Reply directly-copy to me | ☒ For Your Information | ☐ Process special letter |
| | ☐ For your support | ☐ Set up tour |

Remarks:

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: BEN Johnson (Only)
COMPANY: White House
PHONE: 202-456-5189
FAX: 202-456-2577

FROM: CARLOTTA LANIER

PHONE: 303 770-8111

FAX: 303 770-2730

DATE: ~~10-24-99~~ 10-27-99

PAGES: 2

COMMENTS: My cell phone # - 303-807-7111

Nancy Moore Thurmond

October 18, 1999

'99 OCT 29 PM4:29

Betty Currie
White House

Dear Betty,

On Thursday, October 14, Dr. Robert Oldham and I had a very productive and interesting meeting concerning National Biotechnology Month with Dr. Neal Lane, Dr. Arthur Bienenstock, and Jeffrey Smith of the Office of Science and Technology. Thanks to your initiative, we are making excellent progress toward our goal of the Presidential Proclamation of January 2000 as National Biotechnology Month. I am enclosing the draft Proclamation for your perusal and I have enclosed the paragraph that I feel is especially pertinent to the conquest of the diseases that plague many families throughout our country and the world.

Betty, in keeping with the Proclamation by the President, we would like to schedule a White House ceremony. Knowing how very busy the President is, I thought I would bring this to your attention with the hope that you could work with the President's schedule to get the occasion of a special ceremony for his announcement in January to coincide with the Proclamation. It also occurred to me that he might want to announce the chairman of the vaccine commission as well as the date of the spring vaccine summit at that time. The President could also use this occasion to give an update on The Human Genome Project as to its progress since the first sequence of human DNA should be known in the early months of the millenium.

Betty, thank you again for all of your assistance and I look forward to seeing you in the near future. I would have come by to say hello when we were at the White House on the 14th, but we were due at a 4:00 o'clock meeting with Dr. Bernadine Healy, President of the American Red Cross, and we were on a very tight schedule. I am sure you understand.

With kindest regards and best wishes,
Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy Moore Thurmond

Enclosure
NMT/waw

10-29-99
Send to Scheduling?

Yes

No

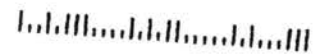
C



Betty Currie
White House
Washington, DC 20502

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE



MARKING INITIALS: MC DATE: 7/13/18



YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

"Fostering Native Self-Determination in Primary Care, Prevention and Health Promotion."

VIA FACSIMILE
(202)456-6703

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

99 OCT 29 AM 8:45

Re: FY 2000 Interior Appropriations Bill

Dear Mr. President:

I write to strongly urge you to veto HR 2466, the FY 2000 Appropriations Bill.

Although there are many objectionable provisions in the bill, our Tribe is particularly concerned with the failure of the bill to properly address the "contract support cost crisis" that is undermining the success of your Indian self-determination policy. The bill leaves a shortfall of nearly \$100 million in contract support costs owed to tribal contractors carrying out Indian Health Service programs, and roughly \$50 million owed to tribal contractors administering Bureau of Indian Affairs programs. Finally, the bill stops the self-determination initiative dead in its tracks, by imposing an absolute moratorium on transferring any further IHS and BIA programs to local tribal operation.

We respectfully but very strongly urge you to veto this bill and to advocate for changes on these issues in your continuing discussions with congressional leadership.

Sincerely,

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

By


Gene Peltola, President/CEO

cc: Mr. Jacob J. Lew, Director
Office of Management and Budget
(via facsimile (202)395-3888)

Send to Burkhardt?
YES ☒
NO ☐



YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

"Fostering Native Self-Determination in Primary Care, Prevention and Health Promotion."

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: October 28, 1999

TO: President Clinton

AT: The White House

PHONE: _____

FAX: (702) 456-6703

RE: FY 2000 Interior App. Bill

FROM: Gene Peltola

AT: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

PHONE: (907) 543-6020

FAX: (907) 543-6006

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THE COVER SHEET): 2

ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW: YES () NO ()

MESSAGE: _____

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES PLEASE CALL: Minnie Steven

AT: (907) 543-6020

HURST LAW OFFICES

213 WOODBINE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS 71901
(501) 623-2565-Telephone
(501) 623-9391-Facsimile

99 OCT 29 PM 1:51

Q. BYRUM HURST, JR.
Attorney at Law

TYLAR C. M. TAPP, III
Attorney at Law

T. CLAY JANSKE
Attorney at Law

TAMRA BARRETT
Attorney at Law

October 19, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500-2000

Re: Ms. Tahmina Ahmed

Dear President Clinton:

I had contacted you about a beautiful young lady who has found herself in a very difficult predicament concerning her inability to visit her relatives in Bangladesh and be able to return to the United States.

I have great admiration for Tahmina Ahmed as she has raised her oldest daughter almost single handedly and she is now a senior at Lake Hamilton High School and going to be an honor graduate. She has a straight "A" average and her daughter takes all college preparatory classes.

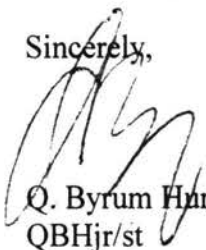
Her youngest child was born here in the United States and is a little over two (2) years of age. I have been trying to help Ms. Ahmed with this problem and I appreciate your concern and I have contacted Linda E. Green, the Assistant Chief of Staff at the United States Department of Justice.

Although I do not regularly practice immigration law I am convinced from a cursory reading of this matter that Ms. Ahmed should be entitled to some amnesty in order that she can go to Bangladesh to visit her relatives and return to the United States to raise her children. I wanted to pass her letter along to you.

10-29-99

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,


Q. Byrum Hurst, Jr.
QBHjr/st

Send to
Burkhardt
for Reply?

Yes ☒
No ☐

S. C.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	[Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	08/31/1999	b(6)

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Clinton Presidential Records
Staff Secretary
Sean Maloney (Chron File (Oct 99))
OA/Box Number: 14868

FOLDER TITLE:

Friday, October 29, 1999

2016-0970-F

rs3014

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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]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

AUG 31st, 1999

MR. PRESEDENT/ HILARI CLINTON,

With due respect me TAHMINA AHMED from Bangladeshi by birth is writting this letter to-day to you. I donot know you will get this letter or not and I am that lucky person that I can tell you something about me. From where I can start or from where I supposed to start.

I am Bangladeshi by birth born in (b)(6) I came to America with my husband Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed in 1988 along with my 6 years old daughter (ISRAT ZOHRA) .

We started our life in NEW YORK in 1988. Also I like to mention that we came to America to lead a better life, my daughter can get hire education and I also thought I will get some legal paper/status then I will go back to my country to visit my family. Dream never comes true.

My husband started to work in New York but the earnings were not enough to lead life in New York. After few years we moved from New York to Arkansas. We baught a small motel in Blythville , Arkansas. From the very beginning I had a problem with my husband . When we married ,I was only 14 years old and it was settled marriage. Still in the muslim community parents have all the rights to arrange all of their childrens marriage.

When I was 16 years old my daughter was born in Bangladesh . Day-to-Day my daughter grew up but the problem with my husband make me unhappy . I stayed with him because of my daughter till 1994. I tried a long period to keep continue our relation good with him because of my daughter. I thought at least my daughter can have her parents together.

Whatever problem we had , every time I tried to solve the problem myself but he never listen to me. I was decided to divorce him so many times between this time but always he threat me that he will notice to immigration and deport me because me and my daughter had no legal status.

Finally in 1994 I went to the court to solve the problems . He also threat me at that time so I could not open my mouth at the time of judgement. I only asked for my daughter and I got her. I had no opportunity to tell Judge that I had no legal paper to get a job and survive ourselves.

In that period mr Ahmed meet a bangladeshi girl over phone and he married her. The Bengoli Community of New York knew all the facts but they did not cooperate with me because I was going to divorce him. I was doing so hard at that time I had no money, no job and no place to go or leave . I was not familiar with any other Bangladeshi people in Arkansas and also I could not go back to New York because the Bengoli community people will not accept me.

A friend of mine in New York heard all the facts , he started to help us with money. I never thought money is very important in the life but at that time I faced the money problem which I will not forget in my whole life.

In the mean time I lost my father and mother now I am going to lose one of my brother who is seek from my mothers death.

I talked with my mother only 6 days before she died . She had only one ward that she is going to lose me and she will not see me forever and that was true.

My friend moved from New York to Arkansas and we married middle of 1995. We started to do the business in Arkansas since 1995. Still I am a frusted person and you know that frustration makes the people sick, unhappy, sometimes cause of death. Can you tell me if any people live 10/11 years in any country he /she does not have any right for that country. Well if you donot think so and if you want me to deport from your country I want to here from you .

My elder daughter is going to GRADUATE next summer but after that she is not capable to go any university because she has no legal status . If she doesnot go to university for hire education what she will do for her rest of life . She is also the honor roll student. My daughter grew up totally with this community, why she will not get hire education like the other students. Also she has no idea about our muslim community because she came to America when she was only 6 years old. She also missed her relatives because she can not go to our country once in every year.

I hope besides the GOD, you only the person who can solve the problem.

In January, 1999 I was ready to go back to my country but my husband stopped me because of my 2 years old daughter can not live with me in my country without her father . He also hired Mr. HURST Q. BYRUM JR. for solve the problem. We both talked with him and he also suggested that Mr. Presedent only the person who can solve my problem or who can help me in this situation with humaniterian ground.

For your small kind can get a family new life.

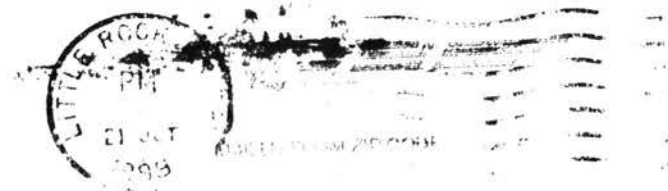
God is good for you .

Thank you

(TAHMINA AHMED)



HURST LAW OFFICES, P.A.
213 WOODBINE • P.O. BOX 1197
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS 71901



The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500-2000

'99 OCT 28 PM8:17

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Chris Jennings

RE: AMY ROSSI LETTER ON ARKANSAS'S ARKIDS PROGRAM

Attached is a letter from Amy Rossi sent to you relaying her opinion on the possible compromises that the State could make that would improve the ARKids situation. She does not wish this letter to be public because she fears it could undermine her positive working relationship with the Governor. However, she feels it is important -- and I agree -- that you know her views on this subject.

A quick review suggests that Amy's ideas are very constructive with the exception of the proposal to allow CHIP enhanced match dollars to be used in ARKids. This would be in direct contradiction to the bipartisan compromise in the 1997 CHIP law that explicitly prohibits Medicaid-eligible children from being enrolled in CHIP. It would give the State a financial incentive to bias the choice towards ARKids.

As we work with the State and HHS, we will closely evaluate Amy's suggestions.

10-29-99

After you have seen,
we will send to
Burkhardt —

copied
Jennings
Rodeba
Burkhardt (for
reply)

October 26, 1999

President William J. Clinton
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In recent days your deputy assistant for health policy, Chris Jennings, and I have talked regarding the current impasse between HCFA and Arkansas regarding our ARKIDS First program. This argument has escalated to be a situation that is difficult for both sides and I suspect is not fully understood by all the parties negotiating on this. I thought it might be helpful for me to give you my perspective about how difficult this is for everyone.

As you know, the ARKIDS First program is the shining star of the Huckabee administration as it deservedly should be. The program has enrolled a total of 55,000 children during its first two years with 46,000 currently being served. When Arkansas Advocates originally projected the number of uninsured children in AR, we calculated the number to be around 120,000 children with approximately 90,000 children falling in the range of income below 200% of poverty. As you can see, in just two short years, we have reached almost half of the children in our target population. I believe you can compare us to other states and find that we are one of few who have served so many new children.

I was the one who recommended the program to Governor Huckabee when ironically, he was looking for ways to cut Medicaid costs. He accepted the proposal because it was good for children; it was a companion piece for welfare reform to eliminate the disincentive of losing Medicaid benefits when going to work; and it appealed to him as a pastor who had counseled parents who couldn't pay for health care for their families. The Governor also sold ARKids First as similar to what state employees get as insurance benefits which is why there is some difference in the benefits from those given under Medicaid. At the time, there was a prevailing sense that the working poor were due the same benefits that other average Arkansans received. He pointed out that Cadillac benefits were offered in full Medicaid and that not even he as Governor received those full benefits in his state insurance plan. He promised to offer a plan to working families that was no less than what he purchased for his family.

Given those parameters, I worked with state officials to craft a program that offered a full range of benefits(albeit slightly less than full Medicaid) as well as a small co-pay schedule. The co-pay was a philosophical issue for many legislators and the Governor who felt that working parents wanted to pay "their share". The co-pay is symbolic in that the schedule is at a minimum of \$5 for prescriptions and \$10 for medical visits but **never** are people denied services if they can't pay the co-pay. I'm even told that some providers have voluntarily and informally dropped charging parents for the co-payments. When consumer satisfaction studies have been done on ARKids, only a very small percentage of the parents note any hardship for the co-pay(see attached findings). Children are getting good services. Providers say they're seeing

children who have never been seen before. When complications arise in treating a child, the provider and state agency work together to make sure the child qualifies for the most extensive benefits available under Medicaid.

Our DC friends in the child advocate community complained that we were not holding fast to a "purist" view of the full benefits of Medicaid for the children under 200% of poverty. They expressed those views privately when Arkansas was heralded for initiating this plan before the federal SCHIP legislation was signed. They have continued to be critical because we have not developed another child health plan for SCHIP but instead have argued to have our Medicaid expansion 1115 Waiver plan otherwise known as ARKids First be classified as our SCHIP plan. There is not disagreement between child advocates in AR and those in DC about Medicaid being the best health insurance program for children in the country. The place where we knock heads is over what to do when parents want to participate in a program where they have a co-pay and a less than comprehensive benefit list.

DC advocates protest that if Medicaid were as user friendly as ARKIDS First parents would willingly take it instead. I might have agreed two years ago but our outreach activities and focus group research reveal a much stronger dislike for Medicaid than can be simply corrected by ridding our system of onerous application procedures. And frankly, instead of debating the stigma issue, we have been busy recruiting children into ARKIDS First so that they would have a medical home. We have been trying to make the enrollment procedures seamless between Medicaid and ARKids First although keeping the programs distinct has political capital for politicians on both sides. A name change to have all kids dumped into one insurance program is an uphill battle in Arkansas with many editorial writers taking the Governor's side that ARKids First is for the working poor and Medicaid is for the poor (interpreted as non-working).

* What DC advocates forget in their arguments about improving Medicaid is that Arkansas for the most part has aggressively moved ahead of most states in overall improvements to the program. We have one of the highest participation rates of physicians in the country; we have minimized billing and reimbursement problems; we have received commendations for our managed care system; and we coordinate health services between our departments of Human Services and Health. Our state has one of the strongest and best managed Medicaid programs in the nation, so to take these hits from national child advocates seems at best a low blow and at worse an attack on those children whose parents will refuse services if they have no other choice but Medicaid.

War between D.C. and Arkansas does not seem to be in the best interest of children but since the lines have been drawn, I would like to suggest a few solutions:

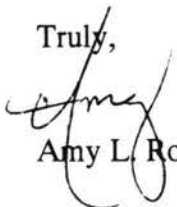
1. HCFA should grandfather in the current caseload that is receiving ARKids First incorrectly and not force the state to make parents choose between Medicaid or nothing. Families have to re-enroll annually so those parents can be moved to the appropriate level when they re-enroll. This state will be spared the difficult job of telling parents that we don't care what they want and services will remain available to all those families.
2. Arkansas should minimize and in some cases eliminate the barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and make the process as user friendly as ARKIDS First. This will make HCFA happy and make

the state eliminate assets testing. We are only one of two states who continue this arcane procedure.

3. By a specified date, Arkansas should decide how it will encourage enrollment for both ARKids First as well as Medicaid with HCFA suggesting that all children's health insurance in Arkansas be under the brand of ARKids First rather than Medicaid. Please know that the Governor will not go willingly to this idea since he likes the distinction between the programs.
4. HCFA should allow Arkansas to permit parents the choice of participating in the co-payment plan. Since Arkansas has already agreed with HCFA not to prevent services from being given to those who cannot pay, it is already an optional parental election and should continue to be treated as such. This is an important distinction for the Governor and many Arkansas parents. To dismiss it is to ignore parents' need to take care of their own children and their resistance to accepting handouts except under the most dire circumstance.
5. HCFA should allow AR to use their ARKids First plan as their SCHIP plan thereby reducing any difficulty and potential disagreements on yet another insurance plan for uninsured children. Parents, providers, advocates and legislators like our ARKids First program. We should not be asked to change what has proven to work just because Washington has a new idea.
6. HHS in partnership with national health philanthropies should investigate the level of disfavor that Medicaid has among the American public and make recommendations to alleviate the problem.

I hope that this letter helps to describe some of the issues in Arkansas surrounding ARKids First. I appreciate your taking time to read this and I want to add a personal note of thanks before I close. . . We so appreciated your taking time to send your well wishes a few weeks ago when Joe was taken ill with a heart attack. Needless to say, this year has been full of grim moments regarding our health but it is the amazing moments of love and good will that we will remember the most as we think back on these tough days. Our friends have supported us from near and far and our boys and us have been cared for in ways that we could not have imagined. We are truly blessed to have so many people who care for us and who have kept us in their prayers. I know that it has been the power of prayers from friends like you and Hillary that have kept us strong in our personal battles and has helped us both recover and heal. Thank you for taking the time to share with an old friend from home.

Truly,


Amy L. Rossi

19-29-99

To Burkhardt for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Coordinate with ^{NEC} Leg. Dept?

Yes ☒ No ☐

B



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October 28, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

99 OCT 29 PM 5:24

Dear President Clinton:

I pressed hard for a Financial Services Modernization bill that took a strong stand on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). When it became clear that the final bill would assure that CRA remains vital and relevant in the new financial landscape, I was quick to praise it and I still do.

However, when I look at some of the finer details of the bill, I believe that changes are still needed to address the ominous language of the "sunshine" provisions. While I support the notion that community organizations should be held accountable, I believe the detailed reporting language will cast a pall over CRA by local community groups. Additionally, I am concerned that the real reason for these provisions is to collect the necessary data for future attacks on CRA. These provisions implicitly support the premise that community groups are engaged in extortion and fraud regarding CRA. These reporting and penalties will have a chilling effect on groups' efforts to highlight weaknesses in bank performance as well as their efforts to forge partnerships with lenders.

I believe that in addition to the significant changes already made, two modest additional changes are necessary to restore equilibrium to CRA. These changes would in no way adversely affect the bill; and they should be supported by the banking industry.

First, under the CRA Sunshine Requirements, I would like to see the proposed new Sec. 48 (c)(3) of the FDI Act eliminated. The information requested under these reporting requirements is too

Rev. Willie T. Barrow, Co-Chair of Board of Trustees • Dennis Rivera, Co-Chair of Board of Trustees

Janice L. Mathis, General Counsel

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., Founder & President



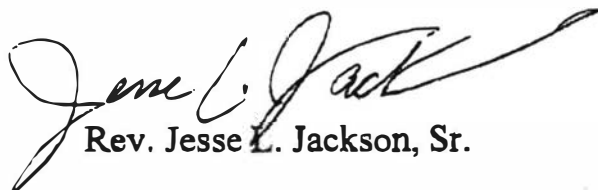
highly detailed and burdensome, particularly for small community groups who do not maintain information in this format.

Second, efforts were made in the legislative drafting to narrow the scope of activity defined as a "CRA agreement," limiting it to activity relating to bank applications and examinations. I believe that the proposed new Sec. 48 (e)(1)(B)(ii) should eliminate references to individuals and organizations that have "discussed or otherwise contacted the institution" concerning CRA. These phrases cast an extremely broad net and would cover situations where a bank – even one with no application pending or a scheduled CRA exam – approached a community group about establishing a partnership that might be counted as part of its CRA record. Without a change, community groups will rightly fear that even the slightest criticism of bank performance will ensnare them in a federal regulatory review.

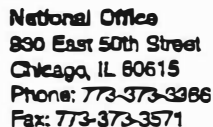
Lastly, I understand that several privacy groups are unhappy with the bill. While some progress has been made, more needs to be done.

We are in the final throes of this process, and I need your support for these changes to the bill. I believe that with these adjustments we can create a stronger piece of legislation that serves both the financial industry and their local community partners.

Sincerely,



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.



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Fax: 310-471-1453

Detroit Bureau
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Suite 1433
Detroit, MI 48228
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Fax: 313-863-9012

TO		FROM	
NAME	President Clinton	NAME	Jesse Jackson
TITLE		TITLE	
ORGANIZATION		TELEPHONE	
FAX:	(202) 456-1210	FAX:	
DATE:	10/28	TIME:	
		# OF PAGES (INCLUDE COVER)	3

COMMENTS

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Rev. Willie T. Barrow, Co-Chair of Board of Trustees • Dennis Rivera, Co-Chair of Board of Trustees
James L. Mathis, General Counsel
Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., Founder & President

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725 TWELFTH STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005-5901

EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS (1930-1988)
PAUL R. CONNOLLY (1923-1978)GREGORY B. CRAIG
(202) 434-5506

(202) 434-5000

FAX (202) 434-5029

October 28, 1999

'99 OCT 29 PM 5:24

BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

from
Greg Craig

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, I have been following developments in the Horn of Africa since I worked for Senator Kennedy in 1984-1988. Like you, I have many close friends on both sides of the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict. Like you, I am profoundly sad and disappointed that it has not yet been possible to bring an end to these hostilities. I was heartened to learn that enormous progress has been made since the OAU Summit in Algiers in July 1999, but I also understand that we have only recently run into new difficulties.

The purpose of this letter is twofold: First to tell you something that you already know, which is that the consequences of failure at this juncture will be extremely serious. Many thousands of people have already been killed in this conflict, but those numbers will be dwarfed if the war resumes. For the people of the two nations who are directly involved in the war, for those in the region who are directly affected by the war, for the entire continent of Africa, a resumption of this war would be catastrophic. Second, to urge you, if current efforts fail to achieve a cessation of hostilities, to lead the international community in taking much stronger measures aimed at accomplishing that objective.

I know that the former Algerian Prime Minister, Ahmed Ouyahia, is in the region at this very moment shuttling between Asmara and Addis trying to achieve a final agreement. We all hope that he will be successful of course. But if he is not, I hope that the United States will be willing to take strong and early action along the following lines:

10-29-99

1. NSC / for reply?
Yes ☒ No ☐

WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY

Page Two

October 28, 1999

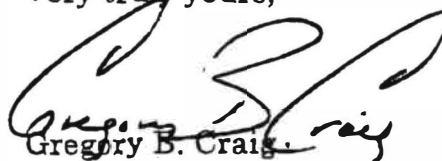
(1) The United States should halt all economic assistance -- except that which is humanitarian in nature -- to any party which is recalcitrant or declines to implement the terms of the OAU Framework Agreement, including the Modalities Agreement and the Technical Arrangements Agreement. U.S. tax dollars should not be used to fund this war, either directly or indirectly.

(2) The United States should urge the international financial community -- the IMF and the World Bank in particular -- to halt all economic assistance to any party which is recalcitrant or declines to implement the terms of the OAU Framework Agreement. The resources of these institutions -- which are plainly intended to promote economic development and international prosperity -- should not be used to fund this war, either directly or indirectly.

(3) The United States should join with the other members of the U.N. Security Council in drafting and adopting a resolution that (1) singles out and holds accountable whichever of the two parties is responsible for the continuation of the war, and that (2) calls upon the members of the world community to put pressure on that party to implement the terms of the OAU Framework Agreement.

Thank you for giving me a chance to communicate with you on this important subject.

Very truly yours,



Gregory B. Craig

cc: Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christof of Ethiopia
Ambassador Semere Russom of Eritrea
The Honorable Sandy Berger
The Honorable Anthony Lake
The Honorable Susan Rice
The Honorable Gayle Smith

LAW OFFICES
WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005-5901

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EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS (1920-1988)
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TELECOPY

TO: The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
c/o Mary Morrison

FIRM OR COMPANY: The White House

TELECOPY NUMBER: 202-456-6703

FROM: Gregory B. Craig

TELEPHONE: 202-434-5506

DATE: October 28, 1999

MATTER NUMBER: 40003.0003

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 3

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YOU.

Mary – please forward this to the President.

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'99 OCT 28 PM8:17

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Chris Jennings

RE: AMY ROSSI LETTER ON ARKANSAS'S ARKIDS PROGRAM

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Berkhardt (for
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Our DC friends in the child advocate community complained that we were not holding fast to a "purist" view of the full benefits of Medicaid for the children under 200% of poverty. They expressed those views privately when Arkansas was heralded for initiating this plan before the federal SCHIP legislation was signed. They have continued to be critical because we have not developed another child health plan for SCHIP but instead have argued to have our Medicaid expansion 1115 Waiver plan otherwise known as ARKids First be classified as our SCHIP plan. There is not disagreement between child advocates in AR and those in DC about Medicaid being the best health insurance program for children in the country. The place where we knock heads is over what to do when parents want to participate in a program where they have a co-pay and a less than comprehensive benefit list.

DC advocates protest that if Medicaid were as user friendly as ARKIDS First parents would willingly take it instead. I might have agreed two years ago but our outreach activities and focus group research reveal a much stronger dislike for Medicaid than can be simply corrected by ridding our system of onerous application procedures. And frankly, instead of debating the stigma issue, we have been busy recruiting children into ARKIDS First so that they would have a medical home. We have been trying to make the enrollment procedures seamless between Medicaid and ARKids First although keeping the programs distinct has political capitol for politicians on both sides. A name change to have all kids dumped into one insurance program is an uphill battle in Arkansas with many editorial writers taking the Governor's side that ARKids First is for the working poor and Medicaid is for the poor (interpreted as non-working).

What DC advocates forget in their arguments about improving Medicaid is that Arkansas for the most part has aggressively moved ahead of most states in overall improvements to the program. We have one of the highest participation rates of physicians in the country; we have minimized billing and reimbursement problems; we have received commendations for our managed care system; and we coordinate health services between our departments of Human Services and Health. Our state has one of the strongest and best managed Medicaid programs in the nation, so to take these hits from national child advocates seems at best a low blow and at worse an attack on those children whose parents will refuse services if they have no other choice but Medicaid.

War between D.C. and Arkansas does not seem to be in the best interest of children but since the lines have been drawn, I would like to suggest a few solutions:

1. HCFA should grandfather in the current caseload that is receiving ARKids First incorrectly and not force the state to make parents choose between Medicaid or nothing. Families have to re-enroll annually so those parents can be moved to the appropriate level when they re-enroll. This state will be spared the difficult job of telling parents that we don't care what they want and services will remain available to all those families.

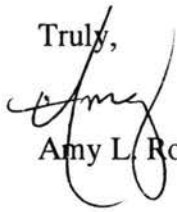
2. Arkansas should minimize and in some cases eliminate the barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and make the process as user friendly as ARKIDS First. This will make HCFA happy and make

the state eliminate assets testing. We are only one of two states who continue this arcane procedure.

3. By a specified date, Arkansas should decide how it will encourage enrollment for both ARKids First as well as Medicaid with HCFA suggesting that all children's health insurance in Arkansas be under the brand of ARKids First rather than Medicaid. Please know that the Governor will not go willingly to this idea since he likes the distinction between the programs.
4. HCFA should allow Arkansas to permit parents the choice of participating in the co-payment plan. Since Arkansas has already agreed with HCFA not to prevent services from being given to those who cannot pay, it is already an optional parental election and should continue to be treated as such. This is an important distinction for the Governor and many Arkansas parents. To dismiss it is to ignore parents' need to take care of their own children and their resistance to accepting handouts except under the most dire circumstance.
5. HCFA should allow AR to use their ARKids First plan as their SCHIP plan thereby reducing any difficulty and potential disagreements on yet another insurance plan for uninsured children. Parents, providers, advocates and legislators like our ARKids First program. We should not be asked to change what has proven to work just because Washington has a new idea.
6. HHS in partnership with national health philanthropies should investigate the level of disfavor that Medicaid has among the American public and make recommendations to alleviate the problem.

I hope that this letter helps to describe some of the issues in Arkansas surrounding ARKids First. I appreciate your taking time to read this and I want to add a personal note of thanks before I close. . . We so appreciated your taking time to send your well wishes a few weeks ago when Joe was taken ill with a heart attack. Needless to say, this year has been full of grim moments regarding our health but it is the amazing moments of love and good will that we will remember the most as we think back on these tough days. Our friends have supported us from near and far and our boys and us have been cared for in ways that we could not have imagined. We are truly blessed to have so many people who care for us and who have kept us in their prayers. I know that it has been the power of prayers from friends like you and Hillary that have kept us strong in our personal battles and has helped us both recover and heal. Thank you for taking the time to share with an old friend from home.

Truly,


Amy L. Rossi