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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Pueblo, Colorado

September 11, 1996

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to urge the House to act quickly to enact three important health reform provisions that were passed by the Senate last week. I encourage you to work toward the speedy passage of provisions that (1) assure new mothers and their babies the option of a 48-hour post-delivery hospital stay, (2) move toward providing mental health coverage parity, and (3) provide protections for the children of Vietnam veterans who are born with the birth defect spina bifida.

First, we should enact bipartisan legislation to require health insurers to let all new mothers and their babies stay in the hospital at least 48 hours following normal deliveries. Over the past two decades, the average length of stay for an uncomplicated childbirth has fallen sharply. A large and growing number of health plans are refusing to pay for anything more than a 24-hour stay, except in the most extreme circumstances, and some have recommended releasing new mothers as early as eight hours after delivery. Enactment of this measure would give peace of mind to families who will no longer have to fear that new mothers will be prematurely discharged from the hospital.

Second, we should ensure that the Domenici/Wellstone mental health parity compromise becomes law. This legislation would prohibit health plans from establishing separate lifetime and annual limits for mental health benefits. People with mental illness have faced discrimination in health insurance coverage for far too long; it is time that we take steps to end this inequity.

Finally, we should act now to give the Veterans' Administration authority to help the children of Vietnam veterans who are born with the birth defect spina bifida. Studies have shown a positive link between this condition and parental exposure to Agent Orange during service in Vietnam. This legislation would provide health care, vocational training, and a monthly monetary allowance to these children, fulfilling our commitment to them.

I urge you to do all you can to ensure passage of these important initiatives, either as part of the VA-HUD appropriations bill, or in any other vehicle in which passage by both Houses can be assured before Congress adjourns. In so doing, we will improve the quality of health care for some of our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

96 SEP 10 P5:02 September 10, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR:

✓ FIRST LADY'S STAFF (MELANNE VERVEER)
TODD STERN (PHIL CAPLAN)
JACK QUINN (KATHLEEN WALLMAN)
KITTY HIGGINS
JOHN HILLEY
CAROL RASCO
DOUG SOSNIK
ALEXIS HERMAN
JODIE TORKELSON
ANNE HAWLEY/STEPHANIE STREETT - FYI
ANTHONY LAKE

FROM:

Lana Dickey/Reuben Musgrave
for JIM DORSKIND

SUBJECT:

(Draft Proclamation)
National POW/MIA Recognition Day,
1996

Attached for your review is the above-mentioned proclamation designating September 20, 1996, as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day."

It was submitted by the Department of Defense, through the Office of Management and Budget, and edited/revised by the Presidential Letters and Messages Office.

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED. Written or oral response required by no later than noon, Thursday, September 12, 1996. IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU BY 12:00 p.m., WE WILL ASSUME THAT THE DRAFT IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU.

For questions, discussion, or routine clearance, contact Lana Dickey, extension 67487, or Reuben Musgrave, extension 65518, via phone or interoffice mail, in room 91. Thank you.

cc: Tim Saunders

9/11/96
Jim (Dorskind)

This isn't
a good draft.
We shouldn't
need to do this
much editing.
Has NSC cleared
it? TDK

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, 1996

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Since our country's birth, Americans have responded to military threats against liberty and democracy, whether at home or in remote areas of the world. ^{the} The young men and women ^{of our Armed Forces} ~~who~~ ~~defend freedom with our flag~~ to guide them understand the need to resist oppression. In recent years, ^{they} ~~our service men and women~~ have fought and died in regions as far apart as Southeast Asia, Iraq, and Bosnia. ~~When democratic nations are threatened by tyrants, the cry for help goes out to all peace-loving people.~~ The young Americans who ^{stand in the defense of freedom} ~~answer this call~~ are our country's most precious natural resource.

~~Therefore,~~ ^{it is particularly} ~~it~~ is particularly ^{painful} ~~saddening~~ when these brave Americans are captured and made Prisoners of War, or are lost and classified as Missing in Action. ~~These defenders of freedom~~ have earned our deep appreciation and respect for the great sacrifices they have made so that all of us can continue to enjoy the ~~comforts and~~ privileges of liberty. ^{In keeping faith with them,} ~~As a small part of recognizing their sacrifice,~~ we continue our determined effort to achieve the ^{of all those A — F —} ~~release of all United States Armed Forces personnel held against their will,~~ to search for information about those still missing, and to bring home the remains of those who have perished.

The suffering of these brave men and women is magnified by the pain and anguish we all feel when we learn of such unfair and illegal punishment or inaccurate accounting of American casualties by enemies -- whether in the present or in the distant past. ^{our prisoners of war & those missing in action} ~~The grief for the plight of these Americans is~~ most intense, of course, among their families and loved ones at home, who wait -- often for years, and sometimes in vain -- for confirmation of their fate. These families display their own ~~deep~~ courage too, ^{by} ~~in~~ their ~~hope for certainty and their~~ endurance in the face of ~~horrible~~ ^{deep} anxieties. ~~The families are~~

~~a living link between us and the brave service men and women~~
~~who paid the ultimate price for their country. It is to these~~
~~families that we pledge ourselves~~ ^{to them} ~~anew~~ on this special day.

On September 20, 1996, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Southeast Asia, a black-and-white banner symbolizing all of America's missing, will be flown over the White House, the United States Capitol, the United States Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System headquarters, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and national cemeteries across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 20, 1996, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I ask all Americans to join me in honoring former American POWs and those Americans still unaccounted for as a result of their service to our great Nation. I also encourage the American people to express their gratitude to the families of these missing Americans for their perseverance through the many years of waiting. Finally, I urge Federal, State, and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
 day of , in the year of our
 Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of
 the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

DATE:

9/11/96

TO:

Jim Dorskind

FROM: Staff Secretary

Finally, the letter to Nobel Prize winners. All necessary sign-offs have been received by our office.

John Foster from OSTP will call you to coordinate from here.

Thanks. Jaden

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1996

Dear 1~:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding our national commitment to basic scientific research. You and your fellow American Nobel Prize winners, relying on talent, hard work, and our public investment in research and education, have made enormous contributions to this nation's scientific and technological leadership. I pledge to continue the research and education investments needed to preserve that leadership and build upon it for the benefit of future generations.

You have eloquently stressed the importance of the government's "patient" capital for providing the scientific and technological foundation of our continuing prosperity, security, health, and quality of life. My Administration remains dedicated to nurturing science in America. This requires both maintaining federal investments in research and education and creating the economic climate that fuels private-sector investment, as well as private-public partnerships, in science and technology. Our commitment is and has been to sustain priority investments in education, the environment, research and technology while making the difficult choices needed to continue our success in deficit reduction and to reach a balanced budget.

Your letter emphasized the special importance of maintaining federal funding for university-based research. I share that view. America's research colleges and universities are the bedrock of American leadership in science and technology. As the Nobel Prize awards themselves demonstrate, our universities are without peer in producing new knowledge, stimulating innovation, and training the scientists and engineers who will do so much to shape our future. Research at America's colleges and universities and medical schools is and will remain a priority for the Administration.

As you know, there have been calls for sharp cutbacks in the investments necessary to sustain America's capacity for leadership in the twenty-first century. We need a national debate about the commitments we must make for our future. Responsible voices must be heard. Given your deep concern about the need to maintain U.S. leadership in science and technology and higher education, and your unique stature, I urge you to examine and help clarify the public policy alternatives facing our nation. The American people deserve the benefit of your analysis and perspective.

We look to you and your colleagues to help promote opportunity for all Americans in a new age of scientific discovery and advancement.

Sincerely,

Okay for Signature by
Dep Stf Secretary
Date 9/11/96

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

HITE HOUSE
SHINGTON

Mr. President:

The other letters will be penned.

Todd Stern

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9/9/96

9/9/96
Called Jim Dorsland
to get front page
re-done - date
9/9/96

changed name
to Jack

C. Chubb

Administration's approach to the
understand your concerns and want
views.

we have a responsibility to
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climate, damaging our health and
our environment.

At the recently completed Second Conference of the Parties,
the United States announced a new framework for action under
the Climate Convention. I believe that this framework is
balanced and addresses many of the concerns set forth in
your letter.

First, the United States rejected proposals by some countries
for emissions reductions that could not realistically be achieved
and, instead, called for "realistic, verifiable and binding"
targets. Second, the United States supported the use of market-
based mechanisms, including emissions trading among nations, to
promote cost-effective reductions. Third, we rejected the use
of inflexible, harmonized "policies and measures." Finally, we
stated that all countries, including developing countries, must
participate in meeting this global challenge.

Establishing a sound framework is a critical first step in
the negotiating process. We are already conducting additional
economic analyses and technical assessments. As part of this
process, we will be consulting with the Congress, the business
community and other nongovernmental groups. Based on this
effort, we will at some later point in the negotiations be
able to support a specific target and timetable.

Rerun w/ Sept. 9 date
and

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Mr. John F. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer,
and President
General Motors Corporation
3044 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear ~~John~~:

Jack

Thank you for your letter on my Administration's approach to the global climate change issue. I understand your concerns and want to take a moment to explain my views.

As a starting point, I believe we have a responsibility to address this issue. The scientific community has sounded a clear warning that escalating emissions of greenhouse gases could lead to major changes in the Earth's climate, damaging our health and our environment.

At the recently completed Second Conference of the Parties, the United States announced a new framework for action under the Climate Convention. I believe that this framework is balanced and addresses many of the concerns set forth in your letter.

First, the United States rejected proposals by some countries for emissions reductions that could not realistically be achieved and, instead, called for "realistic, verifiable and binding" targets. Second, the United States supported the use of market-based mechanisms, including emissions trading among nations, to promote cost-effective reductions. Third, we rejected the use of inflexible, harmonized "policies and measures." Finally, we stated that all countries, including developing countries, must participate in meeting this global challenge.

Establishing a sound framework is a critical first step in the negotiating process. We are already conducting additional economic analyses and technical assessments. As part of this process, we will be consulting with the Congress, the business community and other nongovernmental groups. Based on this effort, we will at some later point in the negotiations be able to support a specific target and timetable.

9/9/96
Called Jim Donsland
to get front page
re-done - date
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changed name
to Jack

C. Chubb

Let me also say that I appreciate your support for accelerated research on climate change and alternative technologies. My Administration remains strongly committed to this endeavor. However, Congress reduced my fiscal 1996 request for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources by almost 40 percent and my request for the largely voluntary Climate Change Action Plan by roughly 50 percent, making it difficult to continue pursuing these goals. Some members of Congress support significant reductions for fiscal 1997 as well.

Vice President Gore and I are dedicated to promoting both sustainable economic growth and responsible stewardship of the environment. We firmly believe that each of these objectives can be accomplished without detriment to the other.

In addressing the issue of climate change, I hope we can count on your assistance and expertise. Thanks again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Clinton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.