

cc: Leanne + whom

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1997

Leanne -

Could you please
draft a reply in
Bruce's signature?

Thanks
Elena

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Barbara B. Kennelly (D-CT).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

BARBARA B. KENNELLY
1ST DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY
VICE CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



201 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2265

ONE CORPORATE CENTER
HARTFORD, CT 06103
(203) 278-8888

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
May 22, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

MAY 23 PM4:41

Dear Mr President:

I was very pleased to hear you reiterate your commitment to make our streets safer during your address at the Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony honoring those officers who have fallen while trying to protect our citizens. I applaud your efforts thus far to provide a balanced approach of punishment and prevention to combat the growing problem of juvenile crime in our communities, and I share your concern that the Juvenile Justice bill is completely inadequate because of its one dimensional approach to fighting juvenile crime.

I agree that prevention and early intervention programs are the key to reducing juvenile crime across America. This is evidenced by the success of the Boston Model in fighting violent crime and targeting prevention programs towards at-risk youths. However, I also believe that severe punishment is sometimes necessary to deter violent criminals and gang leaders. In my own city of Hartford, gang violence increased dramatically in 1993 and 1994. Eventually, a special Federal Task Force was formed to assist state and local law enforcement in arresting leaders of the three main gangs in Hartford. This effort was successful, and crime rates dropped. Now, however, many of the gang leaders who were arrested are being paroled, and a rash of shootings and arson has once again erupted in Hartford.

So while I know first hands that punishment works, I can also see the urgent need to support prevention programs. In Hartford, and elsewhere we must ensure that at-risk children are not drawn into joining these gangs. We must ensure that young people have someplace to go during those critical hours after school and before parents return home from work.

I support your continued efforts both to fight juvenile crime and to ensure that our children can grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

Sincerely,

BARBARA B. KENNELLY
Member of Congress

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

U.S. House of Representatives

Vic Fazio, Chairman
Barbara B. Kennelly, Vice Chair

June 20, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President
United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of the House Democratic Caucus and the Caucus' Children's Health Care Task Force, we are encouraged by the efforts you have made in the budget agreement to provide for health care coverage for many of the ten million children in this country who do not have health insurance.

We believe that we can achieve our mutual goal of providing meaningful health coverage to uninsured children if the \$16 billion in the budget agreement is invested in a cost-effective manner. As a Caucus, we have developed an alternative that combines enhancement of the current Medicaid program with an expanded "Medikids" competitive grant, and limited private insurance reforms.

Specifically, our approach contains four significant elements:

- 1) An enhanced Medicaid match to provide incentives to states to cover all children under age 19 up to 150% of poverty and pregnant women up to 185% of poverty. All states are eligible, and states that already meet this level of coverage would be able to use the funds for existing or new efforts to cover additional low-income families at a higher percentage of poverty.
- 2) A competitive "Medikids" flexible grant to help states reach out to children in families up to 300% of poverty. Middle-income families who do not have health insurance coverage for their children would be eligible for either a state-sponsored expanded Medicaid package, or assistance in the purchase of private insurance for those children. States would be allowed to develop a sliding scale premium or co-payment for these families. The matching grant would be available at a 75% federal/25% state share. The grant should be distributed to the states on the basis of the number of children in families whose income is between 100% and 300% of poverty. This formula does not discourage future state initiatives, or penalize states that have already provided health coverage for children.

*Chris
Planning
for
6/23/97*

President William J. Clinton
Page Two

- 3) Private health insurance reforms to require that health insurance companies that offer individual policies provide children-only policies at reasonable premiums.
- 4) Outreach to enroll the nearly three million children who are currently Medicaid-eligible.

Our plan assists both low-income and middle-income families with providing affordable health insurance for their children. It assures that children are covered by an adequate benefits package and cost-sharing protections, and it provides the proper balance of state flexibility with public accountability.

We agree with your assertion that to simply distribute the funds through a block grant would not guarantee that we would achieve the goal of providing health insurance to children, nor would it ensure that there would be a benefits package that would provide meaningful coverage for uninsured children.

We urge you to support our approach as you continue to work with the Congress to develop the budget reconciliation agreement. Furthermore, we offer the strength of our membership to promote this approach and join you in seeking public support for legislation that truly reaches the children who so desperately need the help.

We have developed consensus around a plan that meets the goals you have articulated and we look forward to working with you to achieve those goals. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

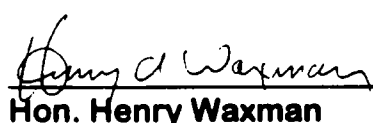
Sincerely,


Hon. Marion Berry


Hon. Anna Eshoo

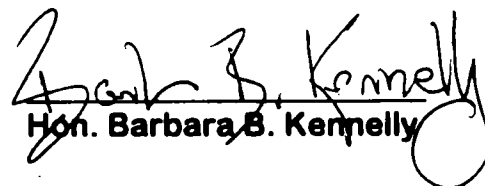

Hon. Frank Pallone


Hon. Martin Sabo


Hon. Henry Waxman


Hon. Elizabeth Furse


Hon. Vic Fazio


Hon. Barbara B. Kennelly

Sam Egan

Alfred H. Hoots

Jay W. Johnson

Ernest E. Godey

Carrie P. Meek

Bob Hoyer

Elmer A. Auscher

Jan Harker

Walter M. V. V. V. V.

Paul L. L. L.

Tom Barrett

Pete B. B. B.

John T. T. T.

Demetrius K. K.

Bob H. H.

Ch. Edwards

Ed Pastor

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Tom. J. J.

Alfred R. R.

Harold Bishop

Monty Muhl

Blaise
Indira K. Patel

Gregory K. K. K.

Jim Orris

Jim Barcia

Fred Hoyer

Carl Boner

Joe M. Kelly

James M. Mullen

Bob H. Hoyer

Jim M. M. M.

Mike L.

Norm Dick

Ben Cardin

Wm M. Clayton

Tom Link

John W. Oliver

Zoe Ly

Bart Sarpak

Rebecca

David G. Jones

Elizabeth

Arlene Water

Corrine Brown

Ma Fui

Bob Wise

Chita Lowrey

Tom Allen

Rubin H. Hargrave

Cyril M. King

Patrick Flannery

John Lewis

Cyril Conant

Richard A. Ashcraft

William D. Cayne

Tommy

Cam & Mally

The Butcher

John Sprau

Louise Slaughter

Pat Tannen

Jim Moran

Wm H Lynn

Ed & Dottie

Sander Lee

Myra Plumer

Joette Sams

Orlando L. Watts

Sam Lane

Erl L. Engel

Neil Albertson

W. M.

William D. DeLoach

Myra Plumer

Norman C. Green

Booie

Jack

Rod Blaggach

Charles

Butt Taurae

Butt Taurae

Mike Han

Ed Markey

Carolyn McCarthy

John Rye

Robert D. Kennedy

Earl Blumenauer

Steven Brown

Donald R. Payne

Harold Miller

John D. Smith

Ed Stanger

John J. Stanger

John J. Stanger

Charles F. Smith

John J. Stanger

Darlene Hooley

John Baldacci

Christopher Kelso

Debbie Stabenow

Howard L. Snowell

Gary Miller

Tom Sawyer

Ron Kind

Jim McInerney

Nancy Pelosi

Phil Jones

Adam Smith

J. E. [unclear]

Karen McCarthy

Elyse E. [unclear]

Rick Bomher

John [unclear]

Thy [unclear]

W. H. [unclear]

Henry B. [unclear]

Lynn C. [unclear]

Bob [unclear]

John [unclear]

David [unclear]

Bud Cramer

[unclear]

Jed Strickland

Bob Krum

Vin Snyder

Red Holt

Chick

Harold V. Jellum

Robert J. Matsui

Herb Longman

Robert E. Seal

James E. Seal

Nancy Kaptur

Paul E. Kynicki

Lillian Raybel Mard

Calvin Doolley

Ben H. Cyprian

Tai Holden

Virgil Goodrich

William D. Delaney

Jim Jr

Chad Steinhilber

Jim Danner

David L. Luce

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1997

*To
Jennings
6/23*

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED
CHRIS JENNINGS

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

TED STEVENS, ALASKA, CHAIRMAN

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI
JAN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
OPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
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ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
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DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY
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PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA

STEVEN J. CORTESE, STAFF DIRECTOR
JAMES H. ENGLISH, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

June 11, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

JUN 16 AM 9:40

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing concerning a vital issue on which I know we share a common goal -- extending health insurance to the children of the working poor -- and to provide you information on my legislation to achieve this goal, the "Healthy Children's Pilot Program Act of 1997, " (S. 435).

Now that the fiscal year 1998 Budget Resolution has passed, including \$16 billion over the next five years for children's health insurance, it is time to determine the precise nature of the insurance plan. I believe that the bill I introduced on March 13, 1997 provides a solution to this health care problem in a compassionate and fiscally responsible manner, and therefore deserves your support as part of budget reconciliation legislation or as a free standing measure.

My legislation would establish a five-year pilot program within discretionary spending accounts to provide health insurance to an estimated 4.2 million children who are ineligible for Medicaid or employer-based coverage but whose families lack the resources to obtain coverage on their own. S. 435 relies on a State-run voucher program and is capitalized by the auctioning of federal spectrum assets, revenues from which would go into an on-budget trust fund to be used only for the purpose of the health insurance pilot program.

Senators Hatch and Kennedy have also introduced a bill which would provide health insurance to the nation's uninsured children and I know that you have expressed appreciation for their thoughtful efforts on this issue. The bill that I have introduced, however, is drafted to provide this vital health coverage in a more cost-effective manner than the Hatch-Kennedy proposal. First, my proposal phases out earlier and stops earlier than other proposals, which I believe is the right approach. My proposal targets only the children of the "working poor" because it phases out benefits beginning at 185 percent of the federal poverty line and eliminates subsidies at 235 percent of poverty. This cutoff level, approximately \$38,000 for a family of four, is already a bit higher than median household income in the U.S. -- \$34,076 (\$34,524 in my own state of Pennsylvania). The Hatch-Kennedy bill allows States to set any income limit, which would mean that wage earners making less than the median household income would be paying taxes to subsidize the health benefits of those making more than the median household income. This is a kind of "Robin Hood in reverse" approach.

Second, any legislation on this issue should not eclipse existing State programs that work well for children. In light of the lessons learned during the debate on universal health care coverage, and the decision to advance health care in an incremental manner, it would not be prudent

to create a health care program for the children of our nation's working poor that creates a large mandated package of benefits, as does the Hatch-Kennedy proposal.

My legislation instead assumes the cost of State children's health insurance programs targeting the working poor, while at the same time requiring States to maintain their effort on children's health care spending. Pennsylvania's BlueCHIP program, after which my Healthy Children's program is modeled, exemplifies a successful alternative insurance program covering children of the working poor who are ineligible for medical assistance. At an approximate cost of \$800 per child per year, or about \$67 per month, BlueCHIP offers a comprehensive benefit package, including doctor office visits, immunizations, diagnostic testing, emergency care, outpatient surgery, dental, vision, hearing, prescription drugs, hospitalization, and mental health. The flexibility of the Healthy Children's Pilot Program would allow such a successful program to continue, as opposed to mandating a rigid, federally determined benefit package that doesn't allow States to work as laboratories to find the benefits that best suit the needs of their citizens.

Finally, my bill is able to provide health care coverage for less money than the Hatch-Kennedy bill because my bill is based on detailed statistics and calculations based on the costs of providing comparable benefits under Pennsylvania's BlueCHIP program. The Hatch-Kennedy bill is estimated to cost considerably more because its proponents have no way of knowing how many States will participate or what eligibility standards will be set and thus how many people will be eligible. Accordingly, there is no guarantee they will need \$20 billion. However, they will have instituted a regressive tax increase which is permanent. Further, by creating a mandatory spending program, as does the Hatch-Kennedy proposal, there is no flexibility to reevaluate how much funding child health insurance needs, and to adjust the funding levels as necessary. My discretionary spending proposal can be fully funded within the overall figures of the budget agreement (\$10 billion/5 years) and still allow \$6 billion for the Administration's recommended Medicaid outreach approach.

Ensuring that children of our nation's working poor have adequate health insurance is the next, crucial step in our process of bipartisan, incremental health reform. My proposal seeks to achieve incremental expansion of health care coverage in a prudent fashion -- a fully funded program with carefully crafted eligibility rules for a limited period of time, a program based on state administration and personal choice and responsibility.

I look forward to working with you on the important issue of health care, particularly where it involves children.

My best.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 9, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Dan Schaefer (R-CO).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

DAN SCHAEFER
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

2160 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-7342

3615 SOUTH HURON STREET, #101
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110
(303) 762-8890
FAX: (303) 762-7222



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.**

June 5, 1997

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND POWER
CHAIRMAN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE:
BENEFITS

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

JUN 5 AM 11:50

Dear President Clinton:

As a former educator, I am pleased to note your recent activities aimed at addressing the declining infrastructure in America's schools. I agree conditions are reaching crisis levels, particularly in inner cities.

Clearly, federal, state and local officials are struggling to see that adequate financial resources are available to ensure that students have the resources they need to learn. As you know, the debate about how to meet that goal is ongoing. In the meantime, however, it would be most beneficial to look in other places for immediate relief. In our search for a break from financial woes, we should not overlook obvious ways to liberate existing funds being spent on unnecessarily inflated costs. Electricity is one of these expenditures.

As a matter of fact, utility bills are the largest non-labor expense schools face. Nationwide, K-12 public schools spend more than \$4.25 billion each year on electricity. For example, in 1996, Dade County public schools in Miami, Florida and Fairfax County, Virginia spent \$30 million dollars each. In Chicago, just on electricity, public schools spent \$40 million.

Today, everything, except electricity costs, is a negotiable expense for school districts. Schools routinely join together to shop for pencils, computers, books and other supplies--and get the best price for doing so. Yet, in the case of electricity, most schools are barred by state law from shopping around for the best bargain. Individual schools are bound to the electricity rate dictated by the monopoly utility whose service area they are located within. As a result, the precious dollars schools have to spend do not stretch nearly so far as they might otherwise.

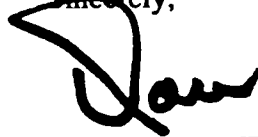
Congress is currently debating changes to the electric utility industry that will provide choice for all classes of consumers. In addition, the American Association of School Administrators and the National School Board Association are endorsing customer choice for electricity consumers. It is schools that stand to be one of the greatest beneficiaries of this effort. Direct savings on electric bills are estimated to range from 25 to 40 percent.

For inner-city school districts in states with high electricity costs, such savings---freed up for use on upgrading infrastructure, or paying additional teachers---could make a real difference. By giving schools-and all other consumers-the power to choose, they will be free to find the best price for electricity.

Mr. President. I look forward to working with you to improve school infrastructure. I encourage you to join the fight and as we undertake this worthy venture, let us not forget existing areas of school spending where significant savings can be realized.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

DAN SCHAEFER
Member of Congress

cc: E. Dwyer &
return

Eliz. -

Could you please draft
a response on Bruce's
signature? Thanks

Eliz.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and others.

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please have the Secretary review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002

June 3, 1997

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
INTELLIGENCE
HELSINKI COMMISSION

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

JUN 5 AM 11:52

Dear Mr. President:

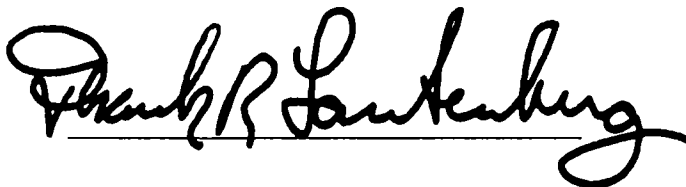
Thanks to your leadership, we have turned the corner in the battle to save our children from the dangers of tobacco addiction. However, tobacco is also a serious health hazard for those who choose not to smoke. Therefore, we are writing to ask that you issue a directive to all federal agencies to protect federal workers and Americans who visit federal buildings from the deadly effects of secondhand smoke.

A recent Harvard University study tracked 32,000 nonsmoking women for ten years and found that regular exposure at home or at work to secondhand smoke nearly doubles the risk of heart disease. Health experts have estimated that over 50,000 fatal heart attacks each year are caused by exposure to tobacco smoke. In addition, over 3,000 nonsmokers die each year from lung cancer induced by secondhand smoke.

As you know, many federal agencies have followed the lead of the White House by banning indoor smoking. However, there are still federal office buildings that place the health of Americans at risk by allowing secondhand smoke to circulate indoors. In light of the recent study on secondhand smoke's adverse effects on the heart, we believe it is critical to free federal employees and those who visit federal buildings from this health risk. We respectfully ask you to issue a directive to all federal agencies to ban indoor smoking.

We could set no better example for our nation's businesses and community organizations than to create a healthy, smoke-free environment in our places of government.

Sincerely,



REPLY TO:

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002
(202) 224-4744

E-mail: frank.lautenberg@lautenberg.senate.gov
Internet: www.senate.gov/~lautenberg

ONE NEWARK CENTER 14TH FLOOR
NEWARK, NJ 07102-5257
(201) 645-3030

BARRINGTON COMMONS
208 WHITE HORSE PIKE
SUITES 18-19
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007-1322
(609) 757-5353

President Clinton
Page 2

Jack Reed

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

COMMITTEES:

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
AVIATION
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HEALTH

MEMBERSHIPS:

PROFESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS (SECRETARY)
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES
CONGRESSIONAL SUNBELT CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL SPACE CAUCUS
OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CORRINE BROWN
3D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

May 21, 1997

REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

☐ 1610 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0123
FAX (202) 225-2256

DISTRICT OFFICES:

☐ 314 PALMETTO STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 354-1652
FAX (904) 354-2721

☐ 75 IVANHOE BOULEVARD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ORLANDO, FL 32804
(407) 872-0656
FAX (407) 872-5763

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA
TOLL-FREE
(904) 254-0914

WHS
DPC

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

MAY 28 AM 10:10

Dear President Clinton:

As the budget for Fiscal Year 1998 (FY98) continues through the legislative process, I would like to bring to your attention the negative effects the proposed cuts to Medicaid - in particular the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments - will have on my district. As the budget agreement stands now, savings in the Medicaid program will drastically hurt the poor and elderly of my district who will be unable to receive adequate health coverage.

Before 1991, there were states that used some of their federal Medicaid payments to fund transportation and infrastructure projects. States with lower uninsurance rates than Florida convinced the federal government that large amounts of federal Medicaid dollars were necessary for DSH payments. By 1993, this abuse was stopped, but the government continues to give these states a larger share of Medicaid dollars for DSH payments.

As a result of this abuse and misappropriation of formula funding, Florida's federal DSH portion is the smallest of the country's 10 most populous states and ranks 42nd in the nation for Medicaid costs per recipients. For FY97, Florida receives only \$205.8 million in federal DSH funds despite the state uninsurance rate of 17.2 %, which is 2% above the national rate.

Under the budget agreement, Florida will lose \$548 million in federal DSH payments over 5 years. That's a 42% reduction in what Florida has received over the past 5 years! In my district alone, the budget cutbacks could cost hospitals nearly \$191 million in federal, state and local DSH payments. Because of this cutback and uneven distribution of DSH payments, the most needy people in my district will be left out in the cold and without proper care.

As you can see, Mr. President, the funding formula in the budget penalizes states that have adhered to the program and rewards states that have abused it. New Hampshire and Louisiana, for example, have had obvious abuse in their programs. But their DSH payments are only being cut by 2.8% and 5.1% respectively, compared to Florida's 42%. It is obvious that Florida consistently needs more DSH payments than other states, but gets less.

This injustice must be changed and I hope that you will be part of such a change. Florida is too important of a state to be ignored. The funding formula for DSH payments should be readjusted so that states receive adequate funding based on their uninsurance rates. I am not looking to blame or penalize states that have abused the Medicaid program, Mr. President. I am just looking for fairness.

I will appreciate any assistance that you can bring to helping the poor and needy in my district who rely on DSH payments for health coverage. Thank you for your consideration.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corrine Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

cc - McCohen +
whun

Mike -
Could you look into
this matter + draft a
reply? Many thanks.
K. Leven

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BASIC RESEARCH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
410 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
713-655-0050

May 21, 1997

*Eluc & H
DPC*

President William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

MAY 28 AM 10:10

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of Texas Southern University (TSU) which is located in the 18th Congressional District. TSU and its 8,000 current students recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is ranked as one of the best educational institutions in America by U.S. News & World Report. Over 30 percent of the nation's pharmacists graduated from TSU, as well as 50 percent of African-American lawyers and 22 percent of the Hispanic lawyers in Texas. Houston's second largest university also educates more than one-third of its teachers. As you can see, Texas Southern University is an integral part of Houston, the State of Texas and our nation.

In March of 1996, The Department of Education placed TSU under financial aid reimbursement. That action came after an audit showed the university could not prove all of its students were eligible for federal aid. TSU is now required to pay federal financial aid to students up-front, then file for reimbursement showing proof that the students are qualified aid recipients.

Under the able leadership of the new TSU President James M. Douglas, changes were made in its financial aid operations in order to address this problem. President Douglas has hired an experienced, new director of financial aid, eleven new employees for the Financial Aid Department and committed significant resources in order to implement an action plan that was approved by State of Texas auditors. He has also cut faculty, staff and some operations in the past year, saving \$1.3 million.

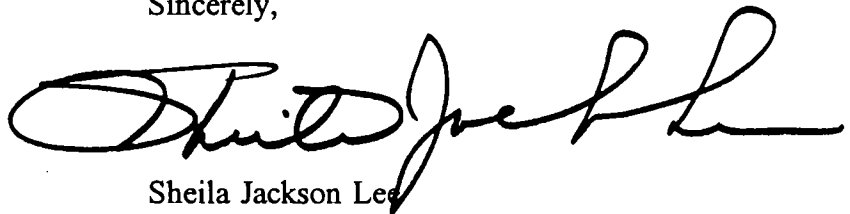
Under his new plan, over 95% of the student files forwarded to the Department of Education for reimbursement have been approved. The University will soon complete the implementation of operating procedures that award student financial aid by computer thereby eliminating subjectivity and errors. Recently, at a Texas State Legislative hearing, these changes were recognized by a state auditor as making progress toward curing past problems with administrative procedures. The changes have been significant and have been accomplished in a manner of cooperation and supervision with state and federal officials.

However, continuing under the Department of Education mandate will cause the university serious financial difficulty and a major disruption of service to its students. An emergency funding request to make up for the short-term cash flow problems is now before the Texas Legislature.

Last November, I convened a meeting between President Douglas, Chairman of the Board of Regents Enos Cabell, Assistant Secretary of Postsecondary Education David A. Longanecker and other concerned education officials. We created an atmosphere of trust and understanding. I truly believe we can now obtain a working agreement with the tremendous strides taken by the university administration since our last meeting.

I would like to convene a similar meeting now. Further, I am seeking a commitment from you to help this highly respected Historically Black University maintain its vital role in educating our young men and women for Houston, the State of Texas and our nation by having a draw down for federal education financial aid monies by TSU reinstated. The present procedure of reimbursement is a burden that threatens TSU's survival. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this growing sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila Jackson Lee", written in a cursive style.

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

SJL:jdb

CC: Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley
Director of OMB Franklin Raines

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Sen. Wendell Ford (D-KT).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please have the Secretary review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1701

May 28, 1997

MAY 29 PM 3:50

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great pride that I call to your attention the *History Happens* project -- which was created in my home state of Kentucky.

This innovative project was developed to inspire and educate young people in history using the Word Wide Web, music videos and CD-ROMs. Students can tap into this site (www.ushistory.com) to learn, research and explore history that happened in the White House's backyard. Knowing your commitment to education technology, I felt this project would be of great interest to you and Vice President Gore.

There is no question that maintaining our young people's interest in learning is a priority for our country. I am proud of the efforts made by Arthur B. Rouse and his associates. I hope you will contact me if you would like additional information.

My best wishes.

Sincerely,

Wendell Ford

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Enclosure

HISTORY HAPPENS

STORIES FROM AMERICAN HISTORY ON MUSIC VIDEO

April 24, 1997

Board of Advisors

Arthur B. Rouse III
Chairman
Executive Producer

Sandra Welch
Executive Director of Education
PBS

Marc Jacobs
Baker Children's Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Daniel Smith
Professor of American History
University of Kentucky

Ed Webb
Educational Television Producer
Vanguard Video

William L. Goza
Past President
Florida Historical Society

Liz Hobson
Director of Education
Kentucky Educational Television

Robert K. Landrum
Composer, Arranger
Electrical Fire Music

Arthur I. Anderson
McDermitt, Emery & Will
Boston, Massachusetts

215 EAST HIGH STREET
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40507
(606) 255-9049
fax (606) 281-6557
<http://www.ushistory.com>

Hon. Wendell Ford
173 A. Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ford,

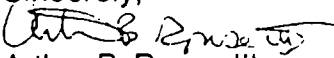
Greetings from Lexington. I am enclosing this press release in the hope that you might help deliver it to the attention of President and Mrs. Clinton and Vice President and Mrs. Gore. I think they might be interested in this grass roots effort, given their recent initiatives in education, volunteerism and the Internet.

The *History Happens* project is an effort to inspire and educate children, ages 7-16, about American history by providing them with music videos, CD-ROMs and a World Wide Web site that illustrate some of the great stories from our rich national experience. Since this seems to be in line with the president's and vice president's recent initiatives, we think they might be interested.

And, this is a made-in-Kentucky product!

Thanks very much for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,


Arthur B. Rouse III

VIDEO EDITING SERVICES, INC.

215 East High Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507-1409
(606) 255-9049
FAX: (606) 281-6537

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 1997

Volunteers Wire Rural Kentucky Elementary School For Net

ATHENS, KY: Athens Elementary, with an enrollment of 275, has been wired for computer networking and the World Wide Web thanks to the volunteer efforts of teachers, administrators and parents. School librarian and technology coordinator Debbie Kiser said, "Access to computers opens up a world of resources available to children. Students will be able to tap into research on the World Wide Web and correspond with "Key Pals" - e-mail pen pals across the world."

Athens Elementary is located in a rural, agricultural area outside Lexington, KY and does not have access to funding afforded to larger schools on a per-pupil basis. Principal Judy Boggs said, "We wanted our children to have access but we don't have a lot of money as far as technology is concerned." She went on to say, "Athens has always had strong parent support. There was no question as to whether we'd have enough parents to do the work."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 1997

Web Site Dedicated to American History Evolves from Kentucky School Experience

LEXINGTON, KY: A World Wide Web site named *History Happens* has been developed to provide young people with knowledge of American history using a medium they know and love, the music video. Athens Elementary School, outside of Lexington, KY, has been a testing ground for this interesting use of new media technology in the teaching of American history. Web site developer Arthur Rouse said, "Kentucky has taken a leading role in education reform by enabling concepts such as teaching across the curriculum and teaching to multiple intelligences. We are proud to be participating by bringing an internet-based teaching tool to the teachers, students and parents of Athens Elementary." Testing at Athens and across Kentucky has encouraged Rouse to make *History Happens* (www.ushistory.com) available nationally.

for informtion contact Elizabeth Aaroe at 606-255-9049

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1997

closed

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-MA) and others.

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II
8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES
SING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY POLICY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
COMPENSATION, PENSION, INSURANCE
AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS



2242 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2108
(202) 225-5111

SUITE 605, THE SCHRAFFT CENTER
529 MAIN STREET
CHARLESTOWN, MA 02129
(617) 242-0200

801(A) TREMONT STREET
ROXBURY, MA 02118
(617) 445-1281

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 21, 1997

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

MAY 22 PM4:30

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to commend your Administration's efforts to extend health coverage to some of the estimated 10 million children who are currently uninsured, through your fiscal year 1998 budget proposal and your resolve to negotiate the inclusion of these provisions in the Congressional budget for this fiscal year.

We support your proposal to provide \$3.8 billion in annual grants to states in order to create partnerships between insurers, providers, employers, schools, and others to develop innovative ways to provide health insurance coverage to children.

However, we wish to underscore concerns that when such funding is distributed, it not be allocated in a way that discriminates against states like Massachusetts which have already committed significant state resources to provide health insurance for uninsured children.

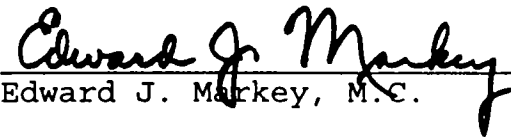
Assuming this particular proposal will, in some manner, be included in the final budget passed by Congress later this year, our questions for you are twofold: (1) Is the Administration committed to ensuring that states like Massachusetts will not be penalized with smaller grant amounts simply because they have already covered most, if not all, of the state's uninsured children? (2) Would such states be able to redirect state funds freed up by new federal funding for other important health care needs in the state, such as improving the Massachusetts children's health care package to provide coverage for services offered under the Medicaid plan of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment, for example?

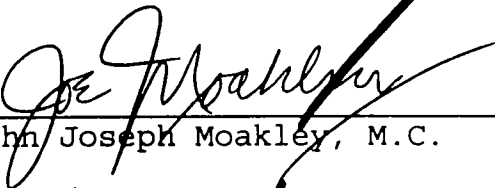
We share your Administration's conviction that our nation should adopt policies which promote the health of all children. Accordingly, we pledge to work with you to do all we can to enact such proposals in the United States Congress.

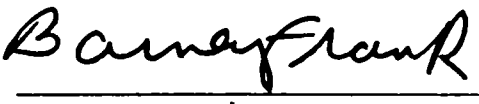
We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and urge your Administration to protect those states which have already committed significant resources to expand children's health care.

Sincerely,

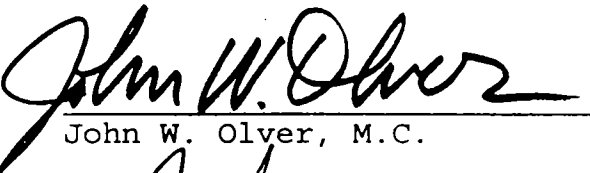

Joseph P. Kennedy II, M.C.

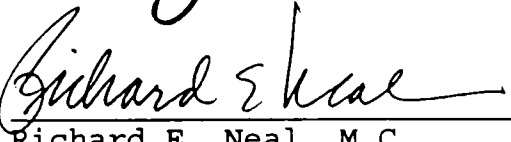

Edward J. Markey, M.C.

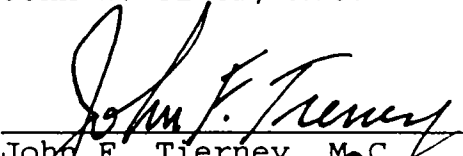

John Joseph Moakley, M.C.


Barney Frank, M.C.

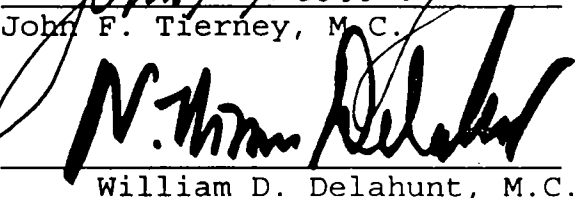

Martin T. Meehan, M.C.


John W. Olver, M.C.


Richard E. Neal, M.C.


John F. Tierney, M.C.


James P. McGovern, M.C.


William D. Delahunt, M.C.

cc: The Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1997

SL
CR

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Nita M. Lowey (D-NY).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
EXPORT FINANCING AND
RELATED PROGRAMS

CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS
FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2421 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6506
FAX (202) 225-0546



Rita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
18th District, New York

May 6, 1997

Hon. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

MAY 19 10:05

Dear Mr. President:

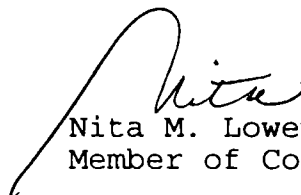
I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Rita A. Brown, Executive Director of the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester. Ms. Brown wrote to you last month, to request that you convene a White House Conference on Race Relations and that she be considered as a participant. A copy of her letter is enclosed for your convenience.

I support both of Mrs. Brown's requests. As you know, I agree with you about the need to focus national attention on the critical area of improving American race relations. A White House Conference on Race Relations would be a perfect vehicle to accomplish that goal.

Given Ms. Brown's most impressive experience in that area, I believe she would be a valuable contributor to the discussion at the Conference. As her letter to you indicates, she is a member of the national YWCA's Racial Justice Task Force, has instituted diversity and anti-racism training in both Westchester and her earlier assignment in New England and is a strong advocate for racial justice in many community organizations.

I hope that you will decide to hold a White House Conference on Race Relations and I ask that you give Rita Brown serious consideration as a participant.

Sincerely,


Rita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

NML:pk

DISTRICT OFFICES:
222 MAMARONECK AVENUE
SUITE 310
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605
(914) 428-1707
FAX (914) 328-1505

97-45 QUEENS BOULEVARD
SUITE 505
REGO PARK, NY 11374
(718) 897-3602
FAX (718) 897-3804

GRANTON I. WILL LIBRARY
1500 CENTRAL PARK AVENUE
YONKERS, NY 10710
(914) 779-9766
(BY APPOINTMENT)

SUNY MARITIME ACADEMY
AT FORT SCHUYLER
BRONX, NY 10465
(718) 829-8027
(BY APPOINTMENT)



YWCA

White Plains & Central Westchester

April 10, 1997

President William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose a hard copy of the e-mail sent to you today concerning your consideration for a White House Conference on Race Relations. I also enclose a copy of my resume and attachments with materials relating to the YWCA's work in eliminating racism.

Only 2 weeks ago, in conversation with colleagues from other YWCA's, I shared my dream that our work could culminate in a White House Conference on Race Relations. I was so very pleased that you and your staff are already thinking about a major conference! Our country needs *real solutions* to attack this problem on many layers and on many fronts.

I personally cannot think of a better legacy for you to leave this country than to elevate this critical issue to a White House level. Accolades to you and to your staff!

Please do go forward with this important Conference, Mr. President. Racism is keeping young people from getting the quality of education they should get; racism an underlying reason that so many men of color (and women) are in our criminal justice system; racism has and is killing the spirit and hope of many in this country.

Your leadership on this issue, Mr. President, as the top leader of America and as a white male, are critical. Thank you for your leadership and for your courage.

In advance, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita A. Brown
Executive Director

✓ cc: Congresswoman Nita Lowey



Date: April 10, 1997

7:30 am PDT Item: M00K8bl

From: HN2301

YWCA of White Plains, New York

To: INTERNET

PRESIDENT@WHITEHOUSE.GOV

Subj: race relations

My name is Rita A. Brown. I am a mid-40's (white) woman and am the Executive Director/CEO of the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester (NY). I have been in this position with 2 community YWCA's for the past 14 years. I read with great interest yesterday's NY Times article "As His Legacy, Clinton Seeks to Improve Race Relations". I would very much like to be considered as a participant in a White House Conference on race relations. My advocacy and action to better race relations includes the following:

- *since 1994: I have instituted regular diversity training for my staff (250 people) and volunteer Board of Directors, with specific emphasis on anti-racism.

- *1995: I was appointed by the National President of the YWCA of the USA to the organization's Racial Justice Task Force. Our emphasis has been to create racial justice and anti-oppression training, as well as, to train trainers, to be able to extend the reach of our organization's anti-racism work across the country. I am also one of four women currently involved in seeking funding from a nationally recognized foundation, under the auspices of the National Association of YWCA Executives for this work.

- *I initiated and directed a New England conference on anti-racism training in May of 1995 for YWCA leaders. Subsequently, our NYS Council of YWCA's received a Racial Justice Award (from Dorothy Height herself) at the National Convention of the YWCA of the USA in June of 1996 in St. Louis.

- *In June of 1996 I participated on a plenary panel on Racial Justice at the YWCA of the USA National Convention. This Convention marked the 25th anniversary of the One Imperative of the YWCA of the USA: "To thrust our collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary."

- *I am currently leading, in partnership with the Human Rights Commissioner of White Plains, NY, a Study Circle on race and race relations. We plan to move Study Circles community wide.

- *I, through my YWCA leadership role, am a co-facilitator of

the Interracial Women's Leadership Roundtable, with Greater Hudson Valley Links, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., the Council of the Junior Leagues of Westchester, and the Westchester League of Women Voters.

*I am a founder and co-chair of the Westchester Women's Agenda, an advocacy group of women leaders; I chair the racial justice subcommittee.

* I am a member of the First Congregational Church of Norwalk (CT); this church is a member of the United Church of Christ, which does a great deal of social justice work in race relations and anti-racism.

I share all of this to demonstrate my abiding commitment, in my work and personal life, to racial equality and justice. I believe that a conference on race relations would indeed elevate the dialogue and awareness that racism is an all too real "problem" for everyone in this country (whether they know it or not).

We need to identify the dynamics of racism and how it manifests itself in the daily lives of all Americans, but of course, with particularly negative effects on our citizens of color. From the dialogue, we need to develop solutions to eradicate the scourge of racism.

Thank you for considering this White House Conference on race relations. I applaud you and urge you to continue to work for real solutions to end racism in our lifetime in America.

Sincerely,

Rita A. Brown

Executive Director/CEO

YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester

515 North Street

White Plains, NY 10605

914-949-6227 x104 (phone)

914-949-8903 (fax)

HN2301@handsnet.com (e-mail)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1997

X
Kivale
draft
reg.
Eck

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Sen. Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) and others.

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 1997

DPC
POTUS

20 PM 1:49

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are respectfully writing to ask you to issue an Executive Order that would create a President's Task Force to establish a National Museum of Women's History.

The National Museum of Women's History project (NMWH) was created to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of women, and to ensure that this heritage is restored to the mainstream culture of our nation. As you may know, the NMWH is a bipartisan, nonprofit, educational institution that raised both public awareness and the congressionally required money to move the "Portrait Monument" to the Capitol Rotunda.

Americans from every corner of our country join tourists from around the globe to visit Washington, DC for a rich history lesson. What a gift it would be for them to learn about the heritage and contributions women have made to every aspect of our civilization. Supporting the National Museum of Women's History by Executive Order would make clear your Administration's intention to honor women's past achievements, and to support and encourage their continuing contributions to our nation.

We ask that you help women take an important step forward by issuing an Executive Order to establish a President's Task Force dedicated to a museum of women's history. The Task Force's objective would be to identify a federal site in Washington, DC, gain legislative authorization of the site, identify private funds for construction and renovation costs, and develop plans to privately fund yearly operating costs.

We fully support the creation of a National Museum of Women's History.
The time to officially commemorate the stories and struggles of American heroines
is long overdue. We hope that you will agree to support this project. Thank you
very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Olympia Snow
Phad Cohen

DAVE KAGEL

Jeff L. Landrum
Ed Keady
Tom Harkin

Carol Bradley Brown
J. L. L. L.

Susan Collins
Patty Murray
Ed Bradley

Janet Christen
Garry Keid
Barbara Boxer
John Warner
Al Gore

Jim Jeffords
Les Stevens

Paul W. Wellstone
Ron Wyden

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1997

5/22/97
JIC

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure



MAY 19 PM 1:43

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

May 14, 1997

Dear Mr. President,

It was good seeing you at
the reception for federal judges. You
were very kind to acknowledge me.
I look forward to working with you
on the judges' compensation issue. Also
I am interested in your proposed "Racial
Opportunity Commission". I chaired the City of
Houston's Human Relations Committee - over

and believe we can really make
the Commission work for business
issues and social issues. In
June I will be meeting with
my Diversity and Opportunity Task
Force comprised of CEO's from
Texaco, Shell and other energy
companies - I hope we can
share ideas on how business
can help us make affirmative
Action work. Sincerely,
Charles J. L.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 27, 1997

*Jeannie-
draft resp.
ER*

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

PATRICK J. KENNEDY
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

WASHINGTON OFFICE
312 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4911
FAX: (202) 225-3290

MAIN OFFICE
286 MAIN STREET, SUITE 600
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
(401) 729-5600
(800) 392-5772
FAX (401) 729-5608



NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER
PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN CAUCUS
NEW ENGLAND CAUCUS
ITALIAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS
FRIENDS OF IRELAND
OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 1997

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

MAY 21 PM 4:55

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you in response to today's Washington Post article, "Clinton Seeking to Move Beyond Rhetoric on Race Issues" regarding the importance of racial reconciliation. I applaud your efforts to investigate and confront the civil rights problems and racial inequities that we face in America.

In particular, I would like to comment on the issues of race within the juvenile justice system. It is no secret that there is disproportionately large minority representation within our juvenile justice system. As was commented on during the recent debate on juvenile justice legislation, we must look seriously at racial inequities that cause a continuing overrepresentation of African-American youths from arrest to incarceration. For example, African-Americans make up 13% of the total U.S. population, yet account for over forty percent of the youths that are housed in public juvenile detention facilities. African-Americans are six times as likely that whites to be admitted to prison. Between 1980 and 1994 the number of white juveniles killed rose 15% while the number of black juveniles killed rose 97 percent in that same period. These statistics prove to us, as legislators and leaders, that we must aggressively work to remedy racial inequities, inequities that span the spectrum of social justice, public health, and economic development.

As a member of the House National Security Subcommittee on Personnel, I have seen first hand the many effective programs utilized by the Department of Defense to foster a positive equal opportunity (EO) climate and address racial inequities, programs which I believe have a tremendous amount of applicability to the civilian society.

Because the DoD sees a positive EO environment as a key to readiness, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) was created as the "Center of Excellence" for all equal opportunity training with the DoD and the US Coast Guard. I think we can apply many of DEOMI's lessons to the civilian world in our effort to address racial inequities.

In addition, Charlie Moskos and John Butler's book, Be All You Can Be details a number of initiatives undertaken by the United States Army as it sought to integrate its personnel. The Army chose to not lower its standards but rather raise the recruit up to those standards. The plan consisted of implementing a number of efforts to educate and train its recruits so that they may participate on a level playing field. By investing resources to raise recruits up to the established standards, the mission effectiveness of the institution was preserved and improved. Again, I think we have a tremendous lesson we can apply to civilian society. We need to invest the resources necessary to counter socio-economic injustices. By so doing, we will help a significant portion of a disadvantaged population and improve the quality of life for all communities. As the 1988 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (OJJDP) required states to introduce initiatives to address minority misrepresentation, programs such as these way be able incorporated into the fulfillment of OJJDP requirements and goals.

I would appreciate your response to these initiatives. Please feel free to contact me with any further comments on the abovementioned issues. I look forward to working with you on these issues.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1997

*Pattus
Response*

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Sen Jeff Bingaman (D-NM).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

United States Senate

May 23, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

MAY 27 PM5:49

Dear Mr. President:

I wanted to thank you and Secretary Riley for highlighting the importance of expanding access to Advanced Placement programs last night at your town hall meeting, as well as to ask your support for new legislation I just introduced that builds on Advanced Placement's high standards.

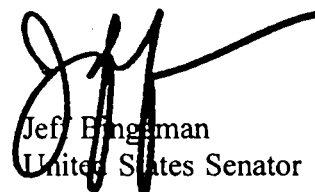
Your support for high standards and accountability is invaluable to many of us who believe that the time has come to make graduating from high school mean something and ensure that more students arrive at college prepared to succeed academically. Your proposed reading and math tests, Presidential Scholars program, Hope Scholarship, and the \$6 million you requested to help low-income children afford AP exams are all part of these efforts.

Towards the same goals, I recently introduced The College Affordability and High Standards Act of 1997 (S.748), which will help train more AP teachers and prepare students for the demanding AP courses. This legislation builds upon the \$6 million you already requested and will help address the low participation rates of our high school students in AP exams that was highlighted in this week's report from the American Federation of Teachers. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senator Hutchison, Senator Mikulski, Senator Collins, Senator Bumpers, Senator Robb, and Senator Wellstone, and I would greatly appreciate your support.

It is my belief that a federal Advanced Placement initiative could be one of the most effective ways of helping lower college costs and raise academic standards. It is an approach that has been widely endorsed and is already in place in 23 states. For those reasons, I will soon be seeking hearings on this issue and gathering additional support from business and education groups and my colleagues.

I thank you again for all your efforts in this area and urge you to give your strongest support to both the \$6 million FY98 budget request and my new legislation building on this approach.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

(+return)

Diana -

could you please draft
a response?

Elena

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Rep. E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (R-FL).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

00710787 18:18 2024000220
E. CLAY SHAW, JR., FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

JOHN C. CROFT, MICHIGAN
JERRY R. MOORE, LOUISIANA
J. COLLINS, GEORGIA
J. S. ENGLISH, PENNSYLVANIA
J. H. ENGLISH, NEVADA
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WES WATKINS, OKLAHOMA

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PORTNEY PETE STARK, CALIFORNIA
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SA OFFICE
BILL ARCHER, TEXAS
CHARLES S. FANGEL, NEW YORK

BILL ARCHER, TEXAS, CHAIRMAN
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RON HADGON, SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR

JANICE MAYE, MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL
DEBORAH S. COLTON, SUBCOMMITTEE MINORITY

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

May 16, 1997

DPC

The Honorable William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

13 AM 8:25

As the nation moves forward on implementing the new welfare reform law, I am writing to express my concerns about the position your Administration has taken on the minimum wage and work requirements for welfare recipients.

This interpretation, unless fixed, will result in many states taking part in the sort of "race to the bottom" we all oppose.

As my comments in this morning's New York Times reflect, the interpretation that most welfare recipients in work programs should be covered by minimum wage laws is a serious setback for state efforts to move recipients into jobs and eventually independence from welfare. In effect, this interpretation would force states to adopt methods—including shortening welfare time limits—that will cut the caseload and thus satisfy "work" participation requirements without helping families on welfare find and keep jobs.

The negative consequences of this decision will be especially severe in low-benefit states, which would have to choose between raising welfare benefits dramatically or limiting participation in work. Thus states could either spend far more state funds or be condemned to failing the welfare work requirements, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars in federal aid. As Governor Carper of Delaware stated, this is an untenable position for the states.

If your Administration thinks your hands are tied by the current labor laws and wants Congress to fix them, I stand ready to help. I have been impressed by the cooperation your Administration has shown to make welfare reform work. I trust you will be equally willing to assist in making it clear that states are not hindered by bureaucratic mandates from achieving the central goal of welfare reform—moving families into work.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


E. Clay Shaw, Jr.
Chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find copies of the letters that were sent to the President from Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX), and others.

I do not believe these letters require a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 1997

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

MAY 19 AM 10:05

Dear Mr. President:

Eight of our colleagues in Congress have asked Mr. Erskine Bowles for a meeting to discuss federal permission to privatize the system for determining welfare eligibility in Texas.

Contrary to what some of our colleagues have said, a waiver that would allow Texas to privatize the eligibility determination for social services is not supported by everyone in Texas. We understand the recent determination by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Texas Integrated Enrollment System. Under federal law, the decision to grant or deny eligibility must remain with the state and state workers. Improvements in automation are one thing, but the discretion to decide the fate of welfare applicants should not to be taken from public servants. Publicly funded programs deserve public accountability.

Whatever grey area lies in this situation is now being addressed by the Texas Legislature. A bill laying down rules for achieving "one-stop shopping" for welfare has passed the Texas House and is set for hearing this week in the Texas Senate. The legislative session ends June 2 and we believe lawmakers are ready to take action.

We ask that you let stand your cabinet's decision to honor the integrity of programs that serve recipients of Medicaid, food stamps and other services. The welfare clients in Texas deserve a solution devised by our lawmakers. Please allow the Texas Legislature to work its will on this delicate matter without any further federal action.

Sincerely,

Mark Furr

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Cin D Rodriguez

Nick Jordan

Rick B. Benthof

Paul Jackson

Nick Larson

~~Phil R~~

John Kist

Gene Kren

Ruben Hinojosa

Congress of the United States

'97 MAY 14 PM5:40

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to encourage you to disallow the portion of the Texas Welfare Plan that involves the Texas Integrated Eligibility System (TIES) presented to the Administration for approval.

We believe the TIES plan, which would allow a private company by automation to decide which applicants would receive public assistance, should and must be disallowed. The State of Texas has 690,000 recipients of its Aid to Families and Dependents, and 1.4 million recipients of food stamps who would be adversely affected by this change.

The need to provide adequate service to the poor is of vital importance and we concur that it is not a function that can be left solely to private entities under this particular plan. Some private entities may not hold the same interest as well-trained social service professionals in providing assistance to those who are less fortunate in our communities.

As local, state, and national governments work to address deficit issues in creative and innovative ways we should all be mindful of the mission and purpose of the social service system. By your example, it is clear that reducing costs and reforming welfare should not mean the abdication of authority in a critical area of public policy. It is important that the process of eligibility determination be a considered, fair, and humanistic process.

While welfare reform has wide-spread support, there is a right way and a wrong way to implement such reform. Therefore, since we understand that a meeting has been requested by those who support TIES, we are requesting a meeting with the Administration to present the opposing view as supported by legislation being offered in the Texas legislature.

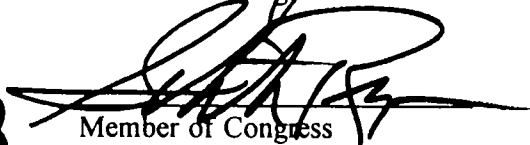
Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your office contacting Kathi Wilkes at 225-3816 for the meeting to be arranged.

Thank you once again for your leadership on this issue.

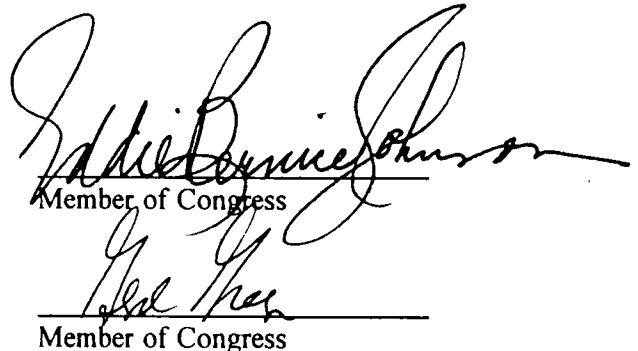
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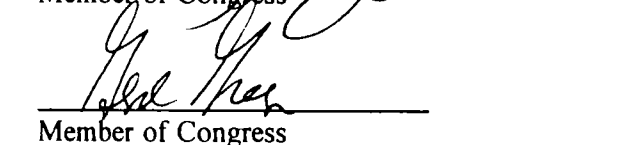
Member of Congress



Member of Congress



Member of Congress



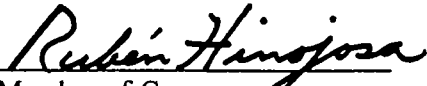
Member of Congress

cc: Erskine Bowles
97:6 MAY 9T 10M

Letter to President Clinton

May 13, 1997

Page Two


Member of Congress


Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

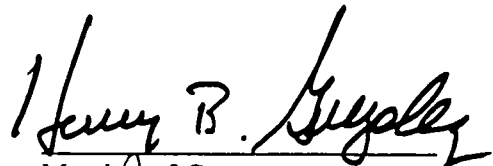
Member of Congress

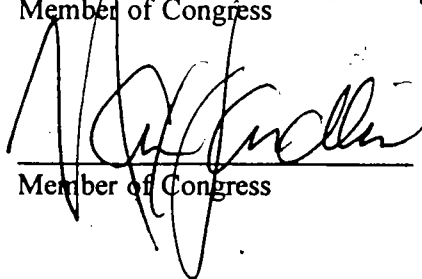
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Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1997

POTUS
Response

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Thomas J. Manton (D-PA).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

THOMAS J. MANTON
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-5207

April 25, 1997

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2235 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3209
(202) 225-3965

DISTRICT OFFICES:
☒ 46-12 QUEENS BOULEVARD
SUNNYSIDE, NY 11104
(718) 706-1400

2114 WILLIAMSBRIDGE ROAD
BRONX, NY 10461
(718) 931-1400

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

MAY 13 AM 10:56

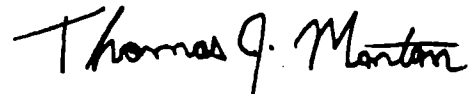
Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to applaud you on signing the **School to Work Opportunities Act** of 1994 and to bring one of its great successes to your attention.

As a result of the **School to Work Opportunities Act**, the Tower Air School to Work Program was initiated in conjunction with Aviation High School. This program, started by instructor Mario Cotumaccio, has already brought many benefits to my constituency. Students at the high school are given the opportunity to intern at John F. Kennedy International Airport for several hours a day. They are applying the concepts they learn in class while acquiring skills that they need to pursue professions that interest them and secure jobs when they graduate from high school. The airline is gaining experienced technicians who become some of the industry's greatest assets. This symbiotic relationship will surely bring many benefits to both the airline industry and the students' education.

It greatly pleases me to see the school and airline helping each other in this fashion. The program's prosperity has drawn much attention and I am certain that it will continue to thrive. The motivation and eagerness exhibited by these students shows us that the **School to Work Opportunities Act** is a proven success.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Manton
Member of Congress

TJM:nv

BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL
EILEEN B. TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL
QUEENS BOULEVARD AND 36TH STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y. 11101
PHONE: (718) 361-2032

APPROVED - N.Y. STATE
REGENTS SUBJECT AND EXAMINATIONS
CERTIFICATE #5169

APPROVED AVIATION MAINTENANCE
TECHNICAL SCHOOL (A/P)
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
#HW2T887K

April 3, 1997

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to start by thanking you for signing the School to Work Opportunities Act of 1994. Aviation High School is soaring high and breaking new ground with every passing day. Thanks to you Mr. President, and programs like the School to Work Opportunities Act, Aviation High School has recently reached new all time highs.

Aviation High School is the only school, at this level, certified under Federal Aviation Regulation Part 147 to operate as a school, whereas upon completion of study, its students are not only qualified, but fit to take and pass with flying colors, the FAA Airman Certification tests. This year alone, well over one hundred students were honored at the annual FAA Awards Ceremony, and even more students received an FAA license. This is the greatest number of students in recent history.

A program established soon after the passage of your School to Work Opportunities Act is the Tower Air School to Work Program. This program was set up and created under the supervision of Mr. Cotumaccio. Through this program, students have the opportunity to work along side with veterans of the industry, learning real life circumstances and problems that arise. This program is an incredible compliment to the thorough theoretical and practical training received in class. Involved in this program are twenty eight students working four hours a day, five days a week.

In a day and age where disappointment, turmoil and failure have become synonymous with public school systems, Aviation High School has not only survived, or merely excelled, but has prevailed as an oasis where a high quality, practical education, leading to future employment in valuable positions has not only become possible, but has become the norm. Enclosed is a videotape showing more about our fine institution. I could keep writing forever about our school, but it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words.

But then again, a live view is worth a thousand pictures. Translating a live view into words would make a letter longer than any law drafted. With this, I would like to cordially invite you to our school. Since you will be at the Met game on Jackie Robinson Night, it would be very easy for you

BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL
EILEEN B. TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL
QUEENS BOULEVARD AND 36TH STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y. 11101
PHONE: (718) 361-2032

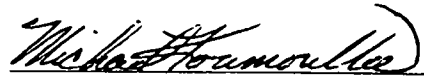
APPROVED - N.Y. STATE
REGENTS SUBJECT AND EXAMINATIONS
CERTIFICATE #5169

APPROVED AVIATION MAINTENANCE
TECHNICAL SCHOOL (A/P)
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
#HW2T887K

to follow Roosevelt Avenue straight to our school. We understand that you have a very busy schedule, and that your mobility has been hindered by your injury, but it would be a great honor to have you come and see one of the fruits of your labor.

I would like to thank you one more time for the passing of the School to Work Opportunities Act and I would also like to thank you for your time. We hope and pray that you will not let us down.

Sincerely,



Michael Koumoullas,
V.I.C.A. President

L

Inside:
What & Where,
Sports,
Dining, Gardens,
Real Estate
Classifieds
And More

I

Dennis Duggan



Remembering
Jimmy Cagney
Page E3

F

Priest
Runs
To Stop
Hunger
In Its
Tracks
Page E2

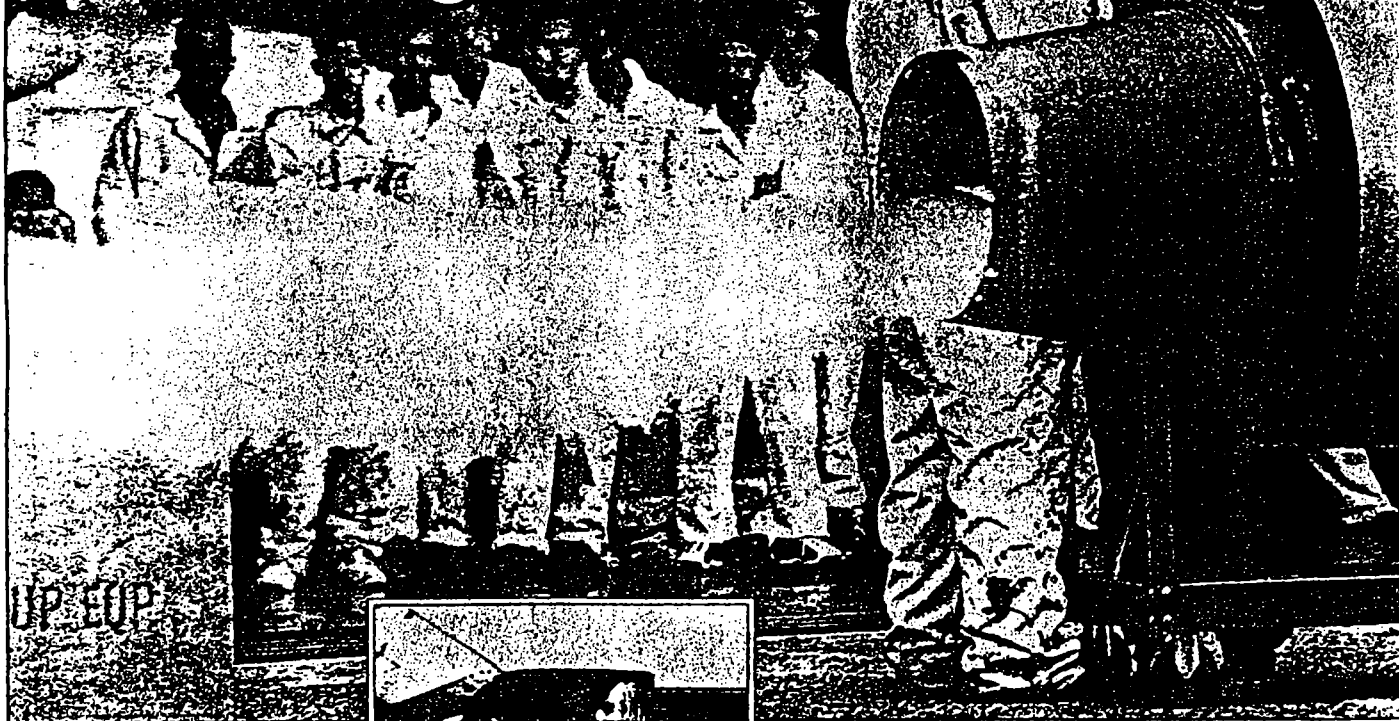
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Newsday

Sunday, October 27, 1996

Where Careers Take Wing

Intern Steven Go and Aviation High School instructor Mario Columaccio fire up an engine. Below, students study instruments.



Newsday Photos / Ken Sawchuk

*High school
interns haul their
toolboxes to JFK
for experience
that won't fit into
a classroom*



BY MARGARET RAMIREZ
STAFF WRITER

INSIDE HANGAR 17 at John F. Kennedy Airport, 19-year-old Donny Boodram stands under the wing of a Boeing 747, meticulously inspecting the engine before it taxis down the runway. Rotors rumble behind and jet fuel burns beside him, transforming the job into an intoxicating experience.

"I've had a fascination with flight ever since I was a

Please see CAREERS on Page E5

Where Careers Take Wing

CAREERS from Page E1

kid," said Boodram, who grew up in South Ozone Park. "I always wondered how this big hunk of metal flies into the clouds. Now, I'm here putting all the theories to work."

Boodram, along with 20 other students from Aviation High School, launched into a professional career this year as an aircraft maintenance technician directly after graduation through a new internship program between the school and Tower Air.

Seniors in the program spend their regular school hours, Monday through Friday, at Aviation High School in Long Island City on Queens Boulevard. When classes end at 2 p.m., the students pack up their toolboxes and head to the airport for four hours of hands-on experience under the hood of a jumbo jet. The program is an overnight success in the airline industry. After the first crop of interns graduated in June, 18 of them were hired by Tower Air as full-time technicians earning a starting salary of about \$30,000.

This year, several other airlines, including United, Northwest and a subsidiary of American Airlines, have expressed interest in learning more about the program. In many ways, the presence of Aviation interns at the airport is injecting a dose of enthusiasm into both the school's 2,200-member student body and the often criticized industry.

Mario Cotumaccio, 31, an instructor at Aviation High School who also works at Tower Air as an avionics technician, designed the program after he found that graduates were having a difficult time landing jobs in the competitive field. Although graduates leave the school certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to be aircraft technicians, the majority don't have the experience that the airlines seek.

"This program not only gives them the skills they need to get a job," said Cotumaccio, who is himself an Aviation graduate, "it also gets them motivated."

Interns are rotated throughout various aircraft maintenance departments such as avionics, airframe and powerplant systems and work under the supervision of a licensed Tower Air technician. Kenneth Kvaranlan, of Tower Air, manages the avionics department, which handles aircraft electronics. He said once the students are trained, they become assets to the airline.

"We throw them into the fire and give them something they can't get on Queens Boulevard," he said, pointing to the airplane looming over him in the hangar. "You can't fit this thing into the schoolyard."

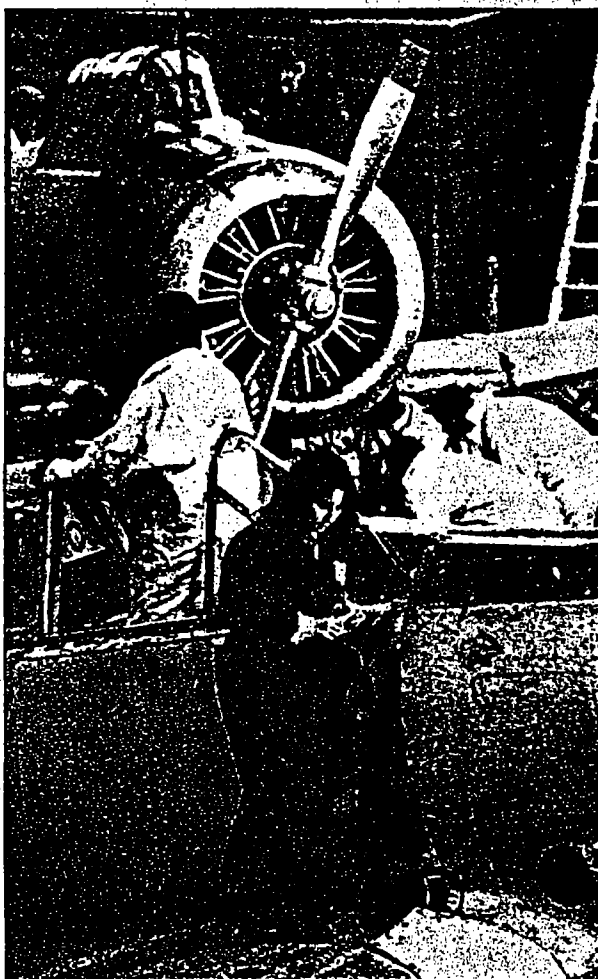
Dominik Bogdan, 19, currently a senior at Aviation, has been intrigued by airplanes since he immigrated to Queens six years ago from his native Poland. Most of the fighter planes over there, Bogdan said, are Russian MiGs, relics of the Communist regime. For him, working on modern aviation equipment has been a dream.

"I really enjoy this field and hope I can use this experience in twenty years when I go back to Poland," said Bogdan, who now lives in Briarwood. "The industry in Eastern Europe is pretty bad, and I was hoping to go back someday and teach."

Safraz Khan, 17, became interested in aviation when he and his family boarded a plane that carried them out of Guyana and into New York nine years ago. He said the internship is reviving student interest in aviation careers.

"Ever since this program started, it seems like everybody is excited again," Khan said. "Most of the other kids are like, 'hey, can you get me a job?'"

Adriana Valverde, 17, is one student who has changed her mind. The Woodhaven senior said her uncle has been struggling to break into the field and spending thousands of dollars to get his licenses,



Above, student Elizabeth Lopez at the instructional hangar. Below, students Frantzy Willy, left, and Benjamin Wong, right, roll a plane into the hangar.



which Aviation high school graduates earn free.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to go into aviation when I first got here," she said. "But now that I see all the training that they give you here — this school is like a gift."

The new attitude at Aviation High School is part of a larger trend at vocational schools throughout the nation as they race to revamp their image. In the past, most trade schools earned a reputation as being second-class learning centers that produced only blue-collar workers. Today, vocational schools like Aviation are giving equal weight to rigorous academic

instruction and vocational training.

"These graduates will be highly skilled and highly educated and they will be the most qualified workers to compete in the new global economy," instructor Cotumaccio said. "But the city doesn't realize it."

Principal Eileen Taylor agreed that school officials did not place enough emphasis on vocational education. The reason, she said, is that vocational instruction is more expensive than academic. At Aviation, the FAA mandates 60 percent of the school's instruction. So, when a 14 percent citywide budget cut slashed the school's funding this year, Taylor was forced to improvise and sacrificed support services so aviation requirements could remain in place.

"We could use a lot of help," she said. "I wish we could also get some more engines. Right now we rely on donations."

Assistant Principal Deno Charalambous, an Aviation graduate himself, said vocational schools have never been valued as much as traditional schools. He said the concept is changing, but change takes time.

"When I was a student here, it was different," he said. "I was too poor to afford college and needed a job right away. Now, after students graduate, they do both. They work during the day and go to college at night."

Taylor calls Aviation High School New York's best-kept secret. She touts statistics showing that of the more than 500 Aviation seniors, close to 85 percent now go on to college. Others in the remaining 15 percent attend the military or go directly into the aviation industry. Interviews with the interns hired by Tower Air found most are working at night toward a bachelor's degree.

"We let our students know that when they leave here, there are a lot of doors open to them," Taylor said. "We support and encourage them as much as we can."

Roots of that family feeling at Aviation run deep. While interning at Tower Air, Boodram said he was amused at the reaction he got when he wore a school T-shirt to the Tower terminal.

"One day, I had my Aviation Senior '95 shirt on and as I walked through the hangar people kept yelling, 'Hey, I'm class of '91, '93, '97,'" he said. "It shouldn't have surprised me, but it did."

Kvaranlan, of Tower Air, added that the internship could not have begun at a better time. Like other industries, airlines go through employment cycles. As a large majority of the technicians reach retirement age within the next five years, he predicted, airlines will begin hiring in mass numbers.

"It comes in waves," he said. "We had a wave of hiring after the Vietnam War, then in the 1980s, and now we're approaching another one as a lot of the techies get older."

But, as the hiring trend picks up, so does criticism of the industry. After recent accidents like the crash of TWA Flight 800, the industry has come under intense scrutiny and been repeatedly slammed for shabby safety and maintenance. Mike Jimenez, an instructor at Aviation, said after accidents occur the blame is placed too quickly on technicians.

"There is a lot of ignorance out there," he said. "And if you examine the evidence, you will find that, in the end, the problem very rarely is aircraft maintenance."

Said Charalambous, the assistant principal: "We teach these students that you have to be responsible for your work because people's lives ultimately rest in their hands."

Some students, like Bogdan, remain unfazed by the critics and hold strong to their passion for flight. His plans after high school include attending Dowling College on Long Island and, eventually, becoming a pilot.

"I took a couple of lessons and knew that was what I wanted to do," he said. "Up there, you feel so free." ■

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

PAT ROBERTS
KANSAS

302 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605
202-224-4774

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
AGRICULTURE
INTELLIGENCE
ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 5, 1997

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

MAY 9 PM 1:59

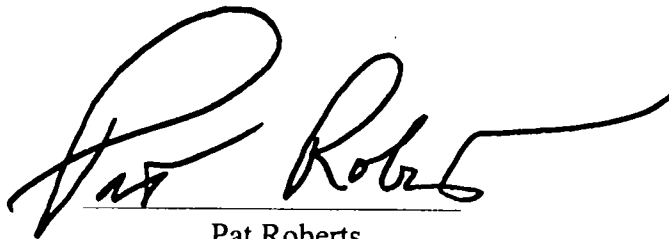
Dear President Clinton:

We are writing on behalf of our constituent Ms. Rochelle Chronister, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Secretary Chronister is opposed to the proposed plan to extend the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to welfare cash assistance recipients. We have enclosed copies of all pertinent documents.

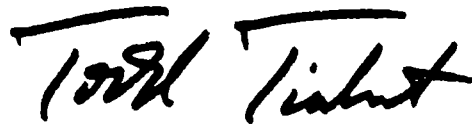
We share Secretary Chronister's opposition to this proposal and urge you to give her comments your utmost consideration.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts



Todd Tiahrt

PR:jt
Enclosure



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

915 SW HARRISON STREET, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612

97 MAR 11 PM 8:08

ROCHELLE CHRONISTER, SECRETARY

March 6, 1997

The Honorable Pat Roberts
116 Dirksen Senate O.B.
Washington DC 20510

Re: Welfare Reform - Fair Labor Standards Act

Dear Senator Roberts:

I am writing to express my concern about the Administration's plan to extend the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to welfare cash assistance recipients who are required to be in work programs. This proposed action would have the effect of turning a beneficiary of state services into an employee.

In 1996, Congress passed the welfare reform package, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (P. L. 104-193). This measure has strict requirements for states to place specified percentages of recipients in work activities at specified hourly levels as a condition of receiving the federal block grant that provides cash assistance. The Administration's proposal will make it impossible for many states to meet these requirements.

Further, operation of the Administration's proposal will raise the following issues.

1. We have made worksite agreements with public, private not-for-profit and private for profit organizations. We expect many of these to drop out of our program, because of the complexities of administering the Administration's proposal for recipients in the work experience programs.
2. Limiting work experience to the product of the cash (or food stamps or child care) benefit divided by the minimum wage would yield a number of work experience hours that would vary from individual to individual and from month to month. This would be difficult to administer.
3. Extending the provisions of the FLSA to recipients of welfare benefits is a way of partially restoring individual entitlement to benefits, expressly abolished by P.L 104-193.

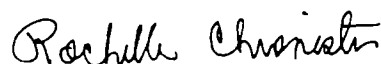
Senator Roberts
March 6, 1997
Page Two

4. In order to meet their work participation levels required by P. L. 104-193 some states would need to raise their welfare cash grants, an unacceptable dilemma in the light of recent changes in the public welfare system.
5. Paying minimum wage and ancillary benefits to welfare recipients in work experience programs would tie future increases in the minimum wage to automatic increases in public welfare costs in the states.
6. Costs associated with extending provisions of the FLSA to welfare recipients in work experience represents an unfunded mandate to the states. Subjecting state public welfare programs to a new, limiting federal mandate is inimical to the welfare reform law's encouragement of states to design programs that work best for them.

For additional detail, I have attached information prepared by my staff and supplied to the American Public Welfare Association and the National Governors' Association who have requested input from the states on this issue.

I hope that you agree that the Administration's approach on this issue is contrary to congressional intent in passing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. I request that you do whatever you can to persuade the Administration to modify its position on this issue.

Sincerely,



Rochelle Chronister
Secretary

RRC:ciu
Attachment

cc: Senator Sam Brownback
Representative Jerry Moran
Representative Jim Ryun
Representative Vince Snowbarger
Representative Todd Tiahrt
Connie Hubbell, Commissioner, Income Maintenance/ Employment Preparation Services

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING WORK EXPERIENCE IN KANSAS

Q: What types of work experience programs does your state currently provide or plan to provide in the future? What purpose do they serve?

A: Kansas has provided a community work experience component for work program participants since 1983. AWEF was implemented in 1995 to expand the work experience component into the private sector and to allow for increased hours of assignment necessary to meet the increasing participation rate. The component became available to food stamp only recipients in April 1996. The purpose of the program is to provide a work environment that will teach work skills and work habits. The work experience component also allows the participant to establish references for job-seeking. Kansas considers both CWFEP and AWEF to be training programs.

Q: What percentage of your caseload is currently in these activities? How do you expect this to change over time?

A: We currently have 20% assigned to the work experience program. Beginning March 1, parents of children 1-3 become mandatory. We anticipate participation in work experience to increase to over 40% fairly quickly.

Q: What limitation does your state impose on the length of time an individual may participate in a work experience position?

A: Established policy is for initial assignments to private for-profit work sites to be for thirteen weeks or less. The length of the assignment is based on the training guidelines for specific occupations as listed in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. The maximum length of assignment to any worksite is nine months.

Q: What types of agencies and organizations do you place individuals with?

A: Worksite agreements are made with public, private not-for-profit, and private for-profit companies.

Q: Do you consider these individuals to be employees? If so, who is the employer?

A: We do not consider work experience employment; participants are not considered employees.

Q: Do these individuals receive a paycheck or a benefit check?

A: They receive a benefit check. Hours of assignment are not tied to the amount of the benefit.

Q: What, if any, employee benefits are provided to these participants and by whom?

A: Participants in this component do not receive any type of employee benefits. Kansas currently provides worker's compensation coverage by paying medical expenses with the medical card and providing death benefits or scheduled injury benefits through program funds. Private sector placements usually add clients to their private workers compensation policy.

Q: What would be the implications or what concerns would you have if your state was required to comply with the minimum wage (and other requirements) of the Fair Labor Standards Act for your work experience slots?

A: General FLSA issues:

-- Most of our work program jobs are not "professional" positions and would not be exempt from overtime under FLSA. Would additional grant money need to be paid for hours worked over 40 and would those hours have to be paid at time and a half?

-- Does the application of the FLSA trigger leave for clients under the Family and Medical Leave provisions? FMLA is not always paid leave. If a client claims leave under FMLA, would the agency still be required to pay benefits? Could a sanction be imposed if the client requests leave under FMLA?

-- FLSA specifically covers state and local government employees. Are clients employees of the work site or state employees? If state employees, do they qualify for paid vacation and sick days? retirement benefits? paid health insurance?

-- FLSA has specific exemptions for "learners". All employers are eligible to apply for this exemption and Dept of Labor determines on a case by case basis. Can work program participants be called learners as most work programs are essentially training programs? This would exempt work experience from minimum wage rules.

-- What about the Americans with Disabilities Act? Many of our clients have disabilities that might be covered by the ADA. Who pays if a client requests some type of accommodation?

Other Concerns and Unintended Consequences of Applying FLSA to Work Experience:

--Work sites will drop out because they will also be subject to FLSA and other labor regulations and won't want the risks.

--Kansas ranks in the middle of the 50 states in its payment level of grants to recipients. Using the minimum wage standard, Kansas could meet the 20 hour work participation requirement for single parent families with no child support income. It could not meet the

35 hour requirement for 2 parent families, nor will it meet the participation rate for single parent families when it climbs to 30 hours. Kansas could not meet even the 20 hour requirement for any single parent family for whom we collect child support, which is about 25% of the cases.

This is because the amount of child support we collect in their behalf is assigned to the state and would have to be subtracted from the amount of the cash assistance grant in order to arrive at the amount of the grant they would be required to "work off" at minimum wage standards.

--Kansas used minimum wage as the standard to arrive at the number of required hours of CWEP participation for General Assistance recipients many years ago. We learned that work sites would not accept recipients whose assignment was for less than 20 hours per week. They found the cost of training a recipient and monitoring their participation was too cost intensive for a less than 20 hour per week commitment. They also did not want to work with recipients whose hours fluctuated from week to week.

--If Kansas can not meet its work participation rate due to the administration's planned changes to the work experience requirements, work experience may be dropped as a component of work. The other alternative, to raise grant payments to the equivalent of minimum wage x 35 hours to assure work experience assignments which meet work participation rate requirements, is not a viable alternative in Kansas. The Kansas Legislature would never approve a grant increase of that magnitude. What incentive would recipients have to find unsubsidized employment if welfare pays them the equivalent of minimum wage, and assures them complete medical coverage through Medicaid (which is not a guarantee in the private sector). The issue of a lack of incentive really escalates if one assumes that deeming work experience participants to be "employees of the state" means they will be entitled to the same retirement benefits, vacation/sick pay, health insurance benefits, etc. as other employees. The administration's plan seems to totally undermine the intent of the federal welfare reform legislation. It is also not in the best interests of the recipients. In many areas of the state, particularly the rural areas, work experience placements are the only avenue for work training. If that avenue is closed, the only alternative is job search. While this may allow us to meet our work participation rates, it is not going to help an unskilled welfare recipient with no work history or references to get a job. This is not the type of program Kansas plans or wants to run.

--If the minimum wage becomes intrinsically linked with welfare, it is likely there will be no future increases in the minimum wage. While cash assistance accounts for only 1%-3% of the federal budget, taxpayers see it as a black hole. Trying to get taxpayers (and their Congressional representatives) to go along with an increase in the minimum wage which would cause an increase in welfare payments would be an uphill battle.

Q: What would the implications be for your program if other work laws, such as unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, FICA, etc., were applied? Would the state or participating agency bear the cost? Can you estimate the increased costs of applying these laws? Would this affect your state's ability to provide work experience

as an option in your welfare-to-work program?

A: If we tried to make the participating agencies bear the cost of this, they would drop out. While many businesses and non-profits have a desire for altruism, they will not endanger their operating capital in order to "do their part" for welfare reform. It would, therefore, become the state's responsibility to bear this cost. A very quick estimate based on work experience participants working 20 hours at \$4.75/hour is an additional \$2.5M to \$4.5M annual cost depending on who pays the "employee's" share of the FICA tax. If providing services to help recipients find jobs is the true goal of welfare reform, then this money would be much better spent on skill-specific training programs and job retention programs. This would impact greatly on the state's ability to operate a welfare-to-work program.

Q: Are there other types of welfare-to-work activities that you would be concerned about if FLSA and other laws were to apply?

A: This could impact the community service employment mandate of the federal welfare reform law for any state that did not opt out of this requirement. It would also affect community service components of the welfare-to-work program. This could also impact some stages of customized training programs which have been developed in Kansas.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

MIKE MCINTYRE
7TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RISK MANAGEMENT AND
SPECIALTY CROPS
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
MILITARY PROCUREMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3307

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3307
(202) 225-2731
FAX: (202) 225-5773
DISTRICT OFFICES:
218 FEDERAL BUILDING
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28301-5088
(910) 323-0260
701 N. ELM STREET
LUMBERTON, NC 28358-4895
(910) 871-6223
208 POST OFFICE BUILDING
WILMINGTON, NC 28401-3957
(910) 815-4959

May 1, 1997

DIS

MAY 8 PM 2:36

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President
United States Of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

One of my constituents, Dr. Reginald Oxendine, requested that I forward to you a copy of his computer program Reading With Phonics is Fun. His program is a good example of combining technology with sound educational principles. I would appreciate it if you would contact Dr. Oxendine upon review of his program.

Please send me a copy of your response to Dr. Oxendine's program. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

MM:jn

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President by Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY).

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter going to Capitol Hill. We did not want to fully answer the issues addressed in the Members' letter without advice from your office; therefore, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

CHARLES B. RANGEL

15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE

WAYS AND MEANS

RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

2354 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4365

DISTRICT OFFICES:

MS. VIVIAN E. JONES
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

163 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 663-3900

2110 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10029
TELEPHONE: (212) 348-9630

PLEASE RESPOND TO
OFFICE CHECKED

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 1997

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

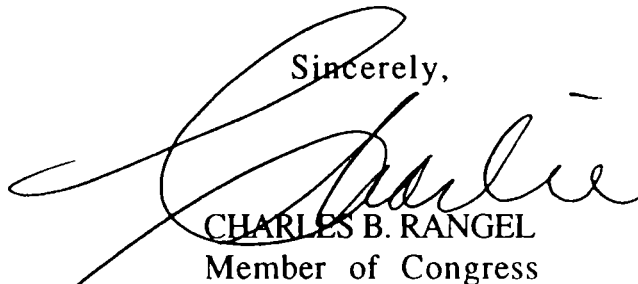
Dear Mr. President:

As you know, I am a strong supporter of your educational proposal. Furthermore, I am pleased that you have made this issue a high priority in your Administration.

During our recent discussions, I indicated that I would introduce legislation which would augment your education bill. My legislation addresses educational improvements at the K-12 levels and modifies the Administration's Higher Education proposal. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of H.R. 1512, the Education Opportunities Tax Act of 1997, bill summary and an introductory statement.

Hopefully, you will consider this legislation for inclusion in your budget. If I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,


CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

CBR/db

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1997

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Jennings
5/5

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

April 22, 1997

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

APR 28 PM 12:15

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strongest concern and opposition to any proposal by your administration to drastically reduce the Medicare reimbursement rates for home oxygen.

It is my understanding that, as part of the negotiations with Congress to reach a budget deal, the Administration has recommended that payments to providers of home oxygen services be reduced by 40%, in contrast to your support in the 104th Congress of a 10% cut for home oxygen services. Such a reckless reduction would have devastating consequences for the hundreds of thousands of patients nationwide who depend on home oxygen to sustain and maintain their quality of life. Approximately 10,000 home oxygen patients in Maryland alone would be directly affected. In addition, as payment for oxygen services comes from Medicare Part B, pulling the plug on patients' home oxygen and forcing many of them back into more expensive inpatient settings would derail your efforts to protect the Part A Trust Fund.

Of equal concern for me is the impact that these cuts would have on more than 50 small businesses who provide these services in my state, as well as the 10,000 patients who depend on the related home medical services of these companies every day. A 40% cut in home oxygen payment undoubtedly would drive many of these companies out of business, reducing competition, reducing services and forcing patients to fend for themselves.

Mr. President, I share your goal of balancing the budget and identifying needed savings in the Medicare program, but I cannot support such a draconian measure. I look forward to working with you and your administration in resolving this issue in a way that achieves our mutual objectives of maintaining quality health care in a fiscally responsible manner.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator