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Debbie Fine-Activity in the Disability Community

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REVISED

September 15, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: Debbie Fine

SUBJECT: Activity in the Disability Community

Activities:

- Arranged to include ten disability activists from key states in the Medicare/Medicaid briefing today that Andre Oliver and Marilyn Yager organized with the President, Leon Panetta and other senior Administration officials. These activists are from the following states: New Mexico, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Minnesota. I invited them to participate because they are active organizers in their communities and they are committed to going back to educate and organize on an ongoing basis around this issue. They have also committed to doing press back in their communities.
- I arranged for Jack Ebeler, Assistant Secretary at HHS, to speak to approximately 300 members of the National Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers to carry our message on the budget. They are a pretty effective organization on Capitol Hill and engaged in this issue.

Mood

- The community seems to be feeling more hopeful about influencing the course of the current legislative battles around the budget and other issues. They are currently generally supportive of the administration, although they would like to hear us more loudly on some of the issues -- such as Medicare and Medicaid.
- Those present at the Medicare/Medicaid briefing today were very impressed with the President's remarks. They were very supportive of his veto threat, heartened by the inclusion of 'people with disabilities' in his remarks, and convinced that they need to use the power of their voices.
- Many members of the disability community, including those present at the OPL Medicare/Medicaid briefing today, attended the Gingrich/Perot town hall meeting at the Chamber of Commerce. They are sat in the front row and snuck in signs saying "The Devil is in the Details", and tried to ask questions that challenged the truth of

Gingrich's statements. They were not acknowledged by Gingrich, however they felt the press focused on their presence and some of their chants about the importance of remembering the 4 million Americans with disabilities.

- I received positive feedback from several in the community on Mrs. Clinton's speech in Beijing, and continue to receive positive feedback on the ADA roundtable in July and the mailings around it that included the President's remarks and descriptions of other administration activities.
- In terms of my departure, they have requested a meeting with you to discuss next steps. They feel this is a critical year we are going into, and they would like to at least meet with you in person during this transition so that you can hear directly from them. I think they are a little concerned that they are losing a voice in the White House -- although I continue to assure them that that is absolutely not the case -- and so I actually think this would be a good way to reassure them if you're willing to do it.

Fax, Mail and E-mail

- Mailing: I am in the process of putting together a mailing that will be sent next week (when my intern returns) to approximately 1000 activists and organizations. It will include updated budget information (i.e. Medicaid state by state and new Medicaid talking points) and copies of HRC remarks from Beijing.
- Computer: I am e-mailing the new Medicaid numbers and health care talking points to several organizations who will make it available on their web pages, in addition to making it available on the dimenet and internet. (The community has a good readership on the internet.)
- I have faxed out this week appropriate daily budget talking points to a fax list of approximately 100 key organizations and state leaders.

cc: Lee Satterfield
Chris Wayne

September 15, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: Debbie Fine

SUBJECT: Activity in the Disability Community

Activities:

- Ten disability activists from key states participated in the Medicare/Medicaid briefing today with the President, Leon Panetta and other senior Administration officials. These activists are from the following states: New Mexico, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Minnesota. They were invited to participate because they are active organizers in their communities and they are committed to going back to educate and organize on an ongoing basis around this issue.
- The disability community, including those who are attending the Medicare/Medicaid briefings today, are organizing to attend the Gingrich/Perot town hall meeting at the Chamber of Commerce. They are bringing signs and plan to serve as a 'truth squad'.
- Jack Ebeler, Assistant Secretary at HHS, and a representative from HCFA spoke to approximately 300 members of the National Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers, with a strong focus on the budget. They are a pretty effective organization on Capitol Hill.

Mood

- The community seems to be feeling more hopeful about influencing the course of the current legislative battles around the budget and other issues. They are currently generally supportive of the administration, although they would like to hear us more loudly on some of the issues -- such as Medicare and Medicaid.
- I received positive feedback from several in the community on Mrs. Clinton's speech in Beijing, and continue to receive positive feedback on the ADA roundtable in July and the mailings around it that included the President's remarks and descriptions of other administration activities.

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