

Andrews, Thomas

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

THOMAS H. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT
MAINE

to Melanne
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February 8, 1994

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I wanted you to know how much I appreciated your willingness to travel to Maine yesterday. And, to let you know how much I enjoyed the chance to meet you personally as we travelled in Portland.

There is a great deal to do and a number of hurdles to overcome, but I am confident that with your activism and leadership, we will succeed.

Thank you, again, for making a very special day in Maine a wonderful reality. I look forward to working with you in the weeks, months and years to come.

Best regards,

Tom Andrews

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 1, 1993

The Honorable Thomas H. Andrews
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Andrews:

Thank you for sending me the letter you received from Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition. As you may know, the Health Care Task Force and the health care reform working groups terminated at the end of May. However, I will share the information you have provided with the President's health care advisors in the Office of Domestic Policy for their careful review.

When the President sends his proposal to Congress, you will see that it responds to the concerns we have heard from citizens in every part of the country -- by controlling spiraling health care costs, maintaining quality medical care, and preserving the choice so important to us all. However, the submission of the President's plan is just the first step toward the implementation of a new health care system. I hope that we will have your support as we move ahead, and that you will encourage the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition to stay involved.

Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

THOMAS H. ANDREWS

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

June 8, 1993

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Chair
Health Care Task Force
Room 287
OEOB
Washington, DC 20500

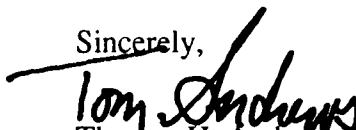
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Recently I received the enclosed letter from Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition.

Maine Ambulatory Care is concerned about regulations for special initiative and basic funding for Area Health Education Center Programs. The letter states their interest in creating a "two-way" communications system that can provide a variety of functions, including support among the primary care clinicians. Additionally, they suggest that these communication networks provide services to community and migrant health centers and work in collaboration with existing primary care associations.

Maine Ambulatory Care has learned from their experience as operators of a Clinician Support Network and recognizes the need for peer support and collaboration. Please take into consideration Maine Ambulatory Care's ideas while formulating your health care proposal.

Sincerely,


Thomas H. Andrews
Member of Congress

THA/ecs

andrews, hc



MAINE AMBULATORY CARE COALITION

P. O. Box 390 • Manchester, Maine 04351

Bonnie Post, *Executive Director*

Susan M. Soucie, *President*

May 12, 1993

Congressman Tom Andrews
1530 Longworth House Office Building, Fth Floor
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Tom:

This letter is to bring to your attention an issue which has been very frustrating for us and to ask for your assistance in resolving it. The Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition has responded twice to proposed regulations as published in the Federal Register by the Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr). In both instances, not only were these comments not addressed, when the final regulations were published, it was reported that no comments to the proposed regulations had been received. This is particularly frustrating since the first omission was brought to the attention of the BHPr, and yet the exact situation occurred again with the subsequent round of proposed regulations. I have enclosed a copies of our correspondences with the Bureau of Health Professions as well as the relevant Federal Register Notices.

The proposed regulations in question were for special initiative and basic funding for Area Health Education Center programs. The rules proposed a funding priority for applications which demonstrated development or implementation of information dissemination systems with the capability to provide state-of-the-art information on clinical mortalities, protocols and other guidelines to primary care practitioners, including those supported by the National Health Service Corps.

We felt strongly that communications systems should not be established simply to disseminate "knowledge from 'experts' to practitioners" but rather should be two-way communications systems which can perform a variety of functions, including support among the primary care clinicians. Second, we felt strongly that any such communications networks developed to provide services to community and migrant health centers should be established in collaboration with existing primary care associations.

As you may know, the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition operates a Clinician Support Network in collaboration with two of the state's family practice residency programs and with financial support from the Federal Office of Rural Health and the National Health Service Corps. We have learned a great deal in the process of establishing and operating this network and feel very strongly that communications systems are important components of support systems for primary care practitioners in rural areas. However, they lose a great deal of their importance if they are viewed simply as a way of disseminating knowledge to the practitioners. Rather, they should be structured so they can be utilized as an effective mechanism for peer support and collaboration.

There seems to be universal agreement that this country badly needs an increased number of primary care physicians if it's to meet the health care needs of its citizens. The Bureau of Health Professions receives significant funding for this purpose. As a federal agency, there is a process which they are supposed to follow to allow for public input into their regulations. We, as the state primary care association whose members include 28 rural community and Indian health centers as well as programs serving migrant and homeless populations, have taken the time to prepare a formal response to BHPr's proposed regulations and BHPr in two instances has ignored the fact that these comments were even received. In the meantime proposals have been submitted and possibly funded base on these funding priorities.

Can you help us with this issue?

Sincerely,

Bonnie Post

Bonnie Post
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Marc Rivo
Fitzhugh Mullan, M.D.

dw

RF

MAINE AMBULATORY CARE COALITION

P. O. Box 390 • Manchester, Maine 04351

Bonnie Post, *Executive Director*

James C. Sullivan, *President*

October 20, 1992

Marc L. Rivo, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Division of Medicine
Bureau of Health Professions
Health Resources Service Administration
Parklawn Building Room 4C-25
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20859

Dear Dr. Rivo:

This letter is in response to the publication of proposed funding priorities for fiscal year 1993 for grants for Area Health Education Centers as published in the October 5th Federal Register. We have the same comments to make on this proposed priority as we did on that for the AHEC Special Initiative. We very strongly agree with the general thrust of the new proposed funding priority for applications which demonstrate the development and implementation of information dissemination systems for primary care physicians. The Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition is the state primary care association for Maine with a membership including 28 rural community and Indian health centers and programs serving migrant and homeless populations. We are very aware of the critical necessity for communication systems to provide information to physicians and other clinical providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas. We currently are operating a Physician Support Network under funding from a Rural Outreach Grant and in collaboration with two of the state's family practice residency programs and our member health centers. A key component of that network is a Fax and telecommunications based communications system.

However, there are two additions we would suggest to the proposed priority. First, we feel the priority should include not only systems which provide information to primary care providers, but one through which these providers can link to support each other and one through which they can link with specialist and others to gather information. Second, we suggest that where these communication systems are developed with clinical providers in community and migrant health centers, the activities should be carried out in collaboration with primary care associations. Many primary care associations already have communication networks in place with their clinical providers and parallel rather than collaborative efforts would be duplicative.

I hope these suggestions are helpful. If you have any questions about them, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Post

Bonnie Post
Executive Director

BP/dt

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THOMAS H. ANDREWS

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MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

November 18, 1993

Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, Debra Andrews, attended the Congressional and Cabinet Spouses briefing on the Health Security Act on November 17 in 902 Hart Senate Building.

At the briefing, Debra's photograph was taken with the First Lady. We are hoping that a copy of that photo can be sent to this office. To help you identify the correct photo, Debra has chin-length blond hair and was wearing an olive green suit with a violet blouse.

The photo should be sent to 1530 Longworth Building, to the attention of Jana Kollias.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have further questions, feel free to contact me or Jana Kollias at 225-6116.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Andrews
Member of Congress

1/12 mailed to Jana Kollias

*12/8
sent to Marilyn*