

Blackwell, Lucien

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 16, 1993

Dear Representative Blackwell:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter in support of my appointment as chair of the health care task force. I appreciate having your confidence. You know that I will do everything I can to rise to the challenge, as the health of so many Americans is at stake.

You were kind to share your experiences working with your wife Jannie. I hope that I will have the opportunity to hear her insights about this one day.

Again, thank you for writing. With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hillary".

The Honorable Lucien E. Blackwell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Shirley - this was one of
the time sensitive
imitations. Patte will
call to decline.

Pam



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

*NRN
file*

LUCIEN E. BLACKWELL
SECOND DISTRICT
PENNSYLVANIA

May 30, 1993

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I write to invite you to address a Health Care Town Hall Meeting that is scheduled to take place in my Congressional District on Wednesday, June 23, 1993. I need not tell you of the importance and timeliness of the health care issue.

The Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, Stokes Auditorium, 1st Floor. Childrens Hospital is located at 34th and Civic Center Boulevard.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a recent flier, distributed by my office to every household in the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which announces the Meeting and provides other health care related information. If you are able to attend, I would ask that you deliver the main address. In addition, if you are able to remain for a period of time and respond to questions, it would make the Meeting one from which my constituents can greatly benefit and will always remember.

I hope you can join us on June 23rd. Should you have any inquiries, kindly feel free to call me or have your staff call my Chief of Staff, Mrs. Corliss Clements James at 225-4001.

Thank you for your interest and your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lucien E. Blackwell
Member of Congress

Enclosure

NOT PAID FOR AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE



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Congressman Lucien E. Blackwell's
**SPECIAL HEALTH CARE
 REPORT**
 TO THE PEOPLE



SECOND DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA • JUNE 1993

HEALTH CARE REFORM — AN URGENT NEED

Work of Hillary Rodham Clinton Critical

A little more than a decade ago, employers were the primary providers of health care for American workers. While most American workers remain covered by employee health care plans, there has been a marked reduction in such coverage, especially among medium-to-large business firms.

According to the Employee Benefits Research Institute, in 1979, ninety-seven percent of medium-to-large business firms provided health care coverage to their workers. By 1991, that total had dropped to eighty-three percent, and the numbers continue to decline as health care costs soar out of control.

The loss of high wages and low job growth have exacerbated the problem of disappearing benefits among workers. It is for that reason that Congressman Blackwell welcomes the appointment of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to head the Healthcare Task Force. The Task Force was charged with the responsibility of drafting the specifics of health care reform legislation within the first 100 days of the Clinton Administration. Its report is now expected in mid-June.

Congressman Blackwell's recent remarks on the need for health care reform are quite timely. The remarks follow:

"The American health care system is in deep trouble. Health care spending is out of control. As a result, millions of Americans with health care coverage are unable to afford any care beyond the bare essentials. Millions more go without coverage altogether. The cost of providing health care to America is expected to rise from \$838 billion in 1992 to an estimated \$939 billion in 1993, and to more than \$1.7 trillion by the year 2000.

In my state, there are fathers with jobs, standing in the soup lines, bent and broken because needed medical care cost fifty dollars, and they only had five. There are families, forced to make choices between long-term care and college tuition. There are

mothers, with children, unable to ease their pain and suffering because the cost of prescription drugs has gone beyond their means to pay. This is a crisis we can no longer ignore.

Driven by seemingly uncontrollable Medicaid and Medicare costs, federal spending for health care is one of the leading causes of the federal budget deficit. According to the Congressional Budget Office, Medicaid costs will increase from \$68 billion in 1992 to \$146 billion by 1998, and will comprise about 9 percent of all federal spending in 1998, compared with 3 percent in 1990. Medicare costs will increase by an average of 12 percent between 1994 and 1998. Those increases are on top of the projected spending of \$134.1 billion in 1993 for Medicare, an amount that represents 9.2 percent of total federal spending. Fraud, abuse and poor management exacerbate the problem.

The high cost is putting health care beyond the reach of more and more Americans. Over the past three years, some 13 percent of employers with 50 or fewer employees have eliminated health care coverage as a benefit of employment. Currently, some 35 million citizens, 14 percent of the entire population, have no coverage, and the number

is rapidly rising. Unless we do something about this problem, we will become a nation of sick people, unable to produce and help the economy to grow. The linkage between health care and economic recovery is clear and, it is grounded in more than just dollars.

We must begin now to contain health care costs, to make long-term care affordable, to make a way for every person in need to be able to pay for medication and to provide health care coverage for all. Of these goals, cost containment is paramount. If we can not contain costs, we can not have affordable health care and medication for all. More importantly, if we can not contain costs, we can not reasonably expect to have a deficit reduction program."



"There is an urgent need for national health care reform," Congressman Blackwell shown here telling First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.



To Representative Lucien Blackwell
with best wishes, and thanks!
Hillary Rodham Clinton