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THE WHITE HOUSE

September 9, 1993

Mr. Dick J. Batchelor, President
DBMG Inc.
201 South Orange Avenue
Suite 1017
Orlando, Florida 32801

Dear Dick:

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of this administration. You have been a great friend, and Bill and I are deeply appreciative.

Your offer of assistance on health care is most welcome. I have asked Jeff Eller, who is heading our communications effort, to be in touch with you.

Once again, thanks for all of your support. Please let my assistant, Pam Barnett, know when you will be in Washington next and we will arrange for you to spend the night at the White House.

With warm personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Jeff Eller

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 1, 1993

Mr. John Battaglia
343 East 66th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Battaglia:

Thank you for sending your health care proposal to your representative, Peter Deutsch, who has shared it with me.

As you know, many uninsured patients seek care in hospital emergency rooms because they do not have access to affordable care. Treatment of such patients in hospital emergency rooms adds considerably to the overall cost of health care. At the same time it does not address the need to provide these citizens with regular, preventive care. The President's plan will address this urgent need by providing all Americans with the security of comprehensive health insurance coverage. It will also provide for a universal health security card and take advantage of the latest technology in processing claims. I hope that the proposal will have your support when it is released.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Representative Peter Deutsch

RAY BOURHIS & ASSOCIATES
1050 BATTERY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
(415) 392-4660

FAX TRANSMISSION - FAX PHONE NUMBER (415) 421-0259

DATE: August 6, 1993

TO: First Lady Hillary Clinton

FIRM/COMPANY: THE WHITEHOUSE

FROM: Ray Bourhis, Esq.

CASE: _____

REGARDING: Budget Proposal

NO. OF PAGES Two
(INCLUDING
FAX PAGES)

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RECEIVING THIS FAX TRANSMISSION, PLEASE
CALL JENNIFER AT THE ABOVE OFFICE NUMBER.

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RAY
BOURHIS
&
ASSOCIATES

Law Offices

1050 BATTERY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
415/392-4660
FAX 415/421-0259

August 6, 1993

President Bill Clinton
THE WHITEHOUSE
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President Clinton:

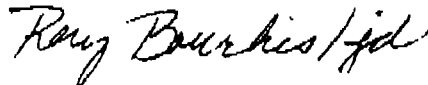
Although Moira and I have strongly supported your budget proposal, we are very strongly opposed to the retro activity of the individual tax increase.

We would be in the 39% federal bracket, in addition to our state taxes. To have this suddenly imposed and made retroactive to January 1, will pose very substantial problems to us and to many others as well. These problems will not be alleviated by a provision to delay payment.

The fact that income averaging is no longer enforced creates the additional problem that high-income earners cannot average their income over a period of years. Therefore, they are really overpaying on average if their income is substantially higher in some years versus others.

I also have serious concerns that this provision will have an adverse effect on economic growth.

Sincerely yours,



Ray Bourhis

cc: Hillary Rodham Clinton

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1993

Ms. Nancy Brinker
Founding Chairman
The Susan G. Komen
Breast Cancer Foundation
5005 LBJ Freeway
Suite 370 - LB 74
Dallas, Texas 75244

Dear Ms. Brinker:

Thank you for your letter inviting Mrs. Clinton to attend your October 22nd awards luncheon and for all you have done for the cause of breast cancer awareness and research.

I have forwarded your letter and materials to Patti Solis, Director of Scheduling. You will be hearing directly from her as to Mrs. Clinton's availability.

Best wishes for a very successful event.

Sincerely yours,

Pam Barnett
Executive Assistant
to the First Lady

cc: Kathie Berlin

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 21, 1993

Dr. Alan J. Bundza, D.C.
755 Boardman-Canfield Road
Building F, Unit #3
Boardman, Ohio 44512

Dear Dr. Bundza:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Anderson Knee Stabler. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the President's health care advisors for further consideration.

Clearly we need to emphasize prevention of injuries if we are to control the skyrocketing costs of health care. I appreciate your sharing information about this preventive strategy.

Again, thank you for your effort on behalf of health care reform. I hope that we can count on your support for the President's comprehensive reform package.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

The importance of choice in a health care plan

NANCY YOUNG

I hope that there will be a new health care system soon. It is long overdue. But I am concerned that the new plan will reinforce a trend to which many Americans are becoming resigned – the restricted choice of doctor.

While the shape of the Clinton plan is still uncertain, I'd like to speak for a group that seems oddly voiceless in the current debate, yet that will feel quickly and profoundly any changes in the system. These are the seriously ill. There's no doubt that the status quo imposes hardships on them. The cost of their treatment can govern their lives as much as does their illness.

But I ask: If you were faced with a disabling or life-threatening disease, would you not insist on selecting your own doctor as your partner in healing? Facing such a situation myself, I feel that limiting a patient's choice of doctors will pose a great threat to the success and efficacy of the Clinton plan.

Those in good health seldom have had to think about the implications of restricted choice, so let me explain what my health situation has taught me. I have become seriously ill with cancer for a second time. Fortunately I have excellent health insurance. What makes it excellent, and makes it worth the high premium, is that it allows me to choose any doctors in the country.

In addition to the physical and emotional implications, a diagnosis of a serious disease means you suddenly have a large managerial responsibility. You have to collect information, evaluate alternatives, make decisions, hire experts, take risks and bear the consequences.

Consulting doctors who have diverse opinions and do not practice in the same or affiliated hospitals is a critical part of this job. This is where HMOs and PPOs fall short. Interestingly, when I sought a second opinion at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, the doctors

told me they collaborated too closely with my doctors at Beth Israel Hospital and that I should go to another, more distant institution to get a true second opinion.

How much does the approach to serious illness really differ among doctors? My own experience says that it differs a lot. In my two bouts with cancer, I have consulted specialists from world-renowned hospitals whose advice, had I taken it, would have cost me dearly. If I had had the mastectomy that I was told six years ago was essential, surely my quality of life would be less than it is now.

But I was uncomfortable with the aggressive, authoritarian communication style of these men. Active, informed patients won't settle for

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joining an HMO with
restricted choice.**

anything less than a doctor with whom there is mutual trust and respect.

To those who suspect this attitude is the fussiness of yuppies who insist on elite doctors as well as gourmet food, I extend an invitation: Come visit the oncology clinic at Beth Israel Hospital where I receive chemotherapy treatment.

In the waiting room is a motley group – in age, race and socioeconomic status. Very few would be called yuppies. Some have traveled considerable distances to be treated there. Could they receive some form of treatment in a community hospital near their home? Yes, undoubtedly. Are they improving their chances for survival by coming to see some of the best oncologists in the country? They obviously think so, and so do I.

I suspect that Hillary Rodham Clinton is importuned constantly by "experts," their views aired daily in the media, who are certain that everyone's primary concern is with the cost of health care. I think how fortunate they are they don't know anyone who is seriously ill, for whom the paramount issue is the quality of care.

I am deeply concerned that "managed competition" will entail joining an HMO with restricted choice. I can't envision how that could work for those of us whose health situation requires finding the best of doctors, by our standards. If we are forced into HMOs, we will consult with practitioners outside that plan and either pay for the privilege or buy additional insurance giving us such an option. So a two-tiered medical system will result, and our financial security will still be held hostage to our need for the best care.

Yet I understand that public policies cannot write blank checks. To reconcile the issues of cost and choice, I suggest that those with a diagnosis of a serious illness for which cure is elusive or impossible be assigned to a "super group." For treatment of that disease, they could go outside their plan to choose doctors anywhere in the country.

There could be limits, but generous ones, on the number of second opinions, but any cap should apply only to doctors seen in the recent past. Renewed opportunity to consult different doctors is necessary because as medical technology evolves, those with serious chronic illnesses will want to seek innovative treatments offered by new doctors, perhaps in distant cities. Wise and humane policies will anticipate that.

I wish Mrs. Clinton success in coming to grips with the complex problem of health care. I just hope she understands that cost is not the only consideration, because when people are ill, they want to get well at all cost.

Nancy Young is a free-lance writer who lives in Brookline.

Boston Globe 7/28/93