

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	From: Robin Raiford, To: Mrs. Clinton [partial] (4 pages)	3/8/93	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 13598

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC Health Care Correspondence 93 - Q, R

2014-0159-S

sb281

RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

HRC
HC CORR 93-Q,R

PERSONAL
&
CONFIDENTIAL

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: AG DATE: 12-4-13

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 23, 1993

Robin S. Raiford, RN, BSN
9015 Mulvaney Court
Springfield, Virginia 22152

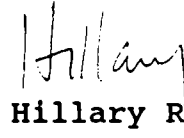
Dear Ms. Raiford:

Thank you for your letter and for all you are doing to care for home ventilator patients. I am glad you were able to join us in the Rose Garden last week.

The President is committed to health security for all Americans, and that includes long-term care either in the home or in a community setting nearby. I hope we can count on your support of the administration's reform proposal in the challenging months ahead.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to your patients and commitment to providing quality home health care.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Robyn Dickey

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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March 8, 1993

9015 Mulvaney Ct.
Springfield, VA 22152

Hillary Rodham Clinton
c/o The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I am writing you not because you are the First Lady of our once again united America, but as a mother, an attorney, but most importantly as the head of the task force to reform health care in America. I have been a registered nurse for 18 years and now live in Northern Virginia. I want to share with you the stories of five special families caught in the trap of the health care system of today's society, and their stories are so devastating that it was difficult to edit this text to only four pages. I want to thank you up front for taking time to read this lengthy letter that expresses the "sound of a tear" in the hearts full of love as these families help their loved ones survive today's current nightmare of health insurance loopholes.

I have been deeply touched over the last few years by taking care of home ventilator patients and have accepted the challenge of caring for an entire family that has had their entire world turned upside down by 13 newly wired heavy duty electrical outlets and all the hospital equipment that has just brought in to accomodate the life support system. Small problem--the insurance companies only authorize the "lucky ones" to have nurses 24 hours a day. Medicaid will authorize 16 hours a day of nurses only and the family does the rest. The most forgotten kind of patient and families of all are on "respite care"--and they can have nurses only 12 hours a week, or to the total horror of a few they have a policy that totally deserts them when it comes to any home care, let alone staffing a home life support case.

In doing this kind of care, I have met one patient who has touched me deeply and I want to share her story with you, since I know she will be one more "Face of Hope" for you and your husband. My patient's name is (b)(6) and one horrible day when she was 14 years old she was riding a moped and was plowed into by a drunk driver. With the moped stuck solidly in the front end of his truck the driver drove off and left her for dead in the gutter. (b)(6) was found minutes later by a policeman who happened to be passing by and did not hardly recognize her as a human being, let alone someone who was alive. The driver who hit her wasn't found until too much time had passed to charge him with DWI.

Today, almost four years later the man who hit her is out of jail since he was only charged with leaving the scene of an accident with an injured person, and (b)(6) is a quadraplegic with only slight movement in her thumb, but enough to power a wheelchair. 001
She had a helmet on that night of the accident, and because of that she suffered no head

injury and is a full time student at a regular high school in (b)(6) just a few miles west of the White House. The complicating factor in her life is that she too is on life support and has a ventilator and additional car battery platform hanging off the back of her wheelchair. Home ventilator patients are rare, and mobile ventilator patients are almost unheard of. This very special patient had to do something very special on election day, she had to be loaded into the family van that the city of Vienna donated to the family after the accident and off she went ventilator and all of course, because she was so proud to be voting for the first time in her life and nothing was going to stop her from voting for the Clinton/Gore ticket! (b)(6) cheered for a Clinton/Gore victory with her whole hearted support because she knows her life is literally in the hands of the Clinton Administration. She needs health care for the rest of her life and like any high school senior, she wants to go to college.

(b)(6) story of survival from day to day is nothing short of incredible and it is beyond the comprehension of most health care professions, and totally beyond the comprehension of anyone who thinks the "devastating" means you got stuck in traffic and were late to aerobics class.. The Mother's Against Drunk Drivers organization is very active in Northern Virginia and (b)(6) incredible story of survival is something that I am sure is behind the bill that is now before the Virginia General Assembly for Virginia to have one of the toughest drunk driving laws in the nation.

I was at another home ventilator patient's recently when your husband was on television live with the children in the East Room of the White House. I watched the program with my patient and his wife, and numerous times all of our eyes filled with tears as we listened to the children ask your husband some very tough questions about health care reform in the nation. From the little boy who's brother died of cancer and it could have been caused from environmental pollution, to the young boy with AIDS, to the little girl in the wheelchair who wanted your husband to tell the principal of her school to allow her sister into the mainstream of the school. Each time those children were reassured that they would not be forgotten. Being forgotten and abandoned by doctors and insurance companies is an all too familiar occurrence for home ventilator families. Their needs are as simple as those of young children. They just want to be loved and not abandoned. They are thrust back into their homes on very short notice when their bodies "Fail to Wean" due to anxiety or for some reason known only to God, and they are labeled "Orphans" because many of them do not have diseases that fit into a DRG category to be kept in a hospital. The families fear the care they will receive in an institution where personnel are understaffed and they will die from infection or gangrene in a bed sore wound. There are many people on home life support in Washington area and they represent what is going on nationwide with insurance companies in a patient's biggest hour of need. While it is certainly horrible for anyone to be without health insurance at all, it is outrageous that these people are abandoned by the system of health care in this nation!!

I have never in my life been so moved to write anyone in the government a letter, let alone the wife of the President of the United States...But I also have never sensed that anyone in the government cared enough to listen to the little people of the nation. I have known since I heard your husband mention the man who pushed his own wheelchair two miles on election day to work the polls for the Clinton/Gore ticket that I would write you a letter to tell you about (b)(6) and home ventilator patients. I was deeply moved when your husband took time to stop and talk to the man who held up the sign that said "I have AIDS, please stop and talk to me for 3 minutes". I want to thank anyone in the White House Correspondence staff who might be reading this on behalf of Mrs. Clinton. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I have heard the White House has been overwhelmed with mail since the election.

My home ventilator families are aware that I am writing this letter, and they are all hopeful that cases like theirs will not be forgotten in your new health care reform proposal your task force will be drafting. My vent families are all anxiously waiting to see if anyone in the White House writes back or calls me to let me know that you at least received this letter and you will look into this problem of home life support cases. What my vent families do not know is that I am asking if there is any way possible that a brief meeting could be arranged with you Mrs. Clinton and these family members who represent the full scope of ventilator situations....spouse, child, and parent....full care, 16 hr/day care and respite care of 12 hours a week only. I am not sure there are words enough in the english language for me to express the devastation in the lives of these families.

Another vent family has a 26 year old daughter on life support in the home for over 3 years, and I am their nurse 12 hours a week, and that is all they qualify for in their insurance. Her father is a doctor and through a corporate invitation went to the Inaugural Ball at the DC armory. They were thrilled to go, of course....but they had to pay out of pocket \$250 for the "baby sitter" who just happened to have to be a nurse who could care for their daughter on life support. Their life is functioning in four hour shifts so they can always be at their daughter's bedside if she needs something done for her. They are at her side constantly since she cannot speak to communicate.

My last two ventilator patients and their families that I take care of regularly are also struggling for survival and for sleep. They are the spouses of life support patients. One 73 year old wife is caring for her 71 year old husband who has Lou Gehrig's disease and is on life support and they have 8 hours/day of nurse coverage so she can sleep only, so they pay \$1200/week out of their pockets so she can have an extra 4 hours/night of nurse coverage.

The last family I want to tell you about is the struggling to survive where the wife has had Multiple Sclerosis for 24 of their 25 years of marriage and now at age 46 she got pneumonia and needs ventilator support so her lungs won't fill with fluid or collapse from shallow respirations. She is trying so hard to wean off the ventilator since she was thrown back out into her home with little notice and her 24hr/day nurses stop tonight and then they will be totally cut off from any home care nurse coverage in 14 days. The system is so crazy he will have to quit his job so she can qualify for medicaid or risk bankruptcy if he tries to cover it out of his pocket.

Please look into these devastating issues of the health care system in the nation!! The recent triple murder in the Washington area of the 8 year old life support patient, his mother and his nurse is truly a tragic example of how desperate these lives can be.

Mrs. Clinton, if there is any way these 5 special families in the local area can meet with you to express to you the devastation like theirs that is going on in more homes in America than people realize, I would like to personally pay for any nursing costs for these families to come meet with you and I will donate my professional time to assist (b)(6) parents in transporting (b)(6) and her wheelchair life support system to any meeting place that could be arranged. 001

If anyone would like to contact me about anything further related to this issue, I can be reached at my "day job" as a lead clinical nurse at the Kaiser Permanente in Manassas, Virginia at (703) 257-3001. The rare evenings I am home I can be reached at (703) 569-1599. By day I am a proud member of the nation's largest HMO system, and at night and on the weekends I belong to the largest health system in Northern Virginia, INOVA. My children can certainly relate to the little boy in Arizona who wants your husband to take care of the economy so he can see his parents more since they are always at work!!! Being a single parent in Fairfax County Virginia is no easy task, but I am truly grateful I am in a recession-proof job.

It would be a thrill of a lifetime for (b)(6) to meet you or your husband. She is an avid President Clinton supporter and she truly knows that her future is in the hands of this administration. (b)(6) was on "Larry King Live" a couple of years ago and brought national attention to the victims who survive drunk driving accidents. From where her spinal cord is severed, she should be able to wean off the ventilator, but when she goes to the rehab center to wean, she can only stay 21 days or the State will cut her off from the vent waiver program. It is all crazy!!! She is trying to get on with her life, but something as simple as a canker sore in the mouth can slow her down, because they she cannot type with the mouth stick to her computer one letter at a time.

These patients and families are all "Faces of Hope" to me and always are an incentive for me to not "Stop thinking about tomorrow". Whatever economic barriers confront me as a single parent, it is nothing compared to one day in the life of a home ventilator family.

Thanks again for listening and for caring. I know your health care reform package you will draft will be as fair as it possibly can be considering you are trying to restructure a monumental mess in today's society. Please help me make a difference in reaching out and touching the lives of these special people. I applaud the efforts of your husband's administration so far and your noble efforts to hear the needs of all the people with regard to health care. The Clinton Administration is truly trying to heal the world and make it a better place for all the people to live.

Sincerely yours,



Robin S. Raiford, RN, BSN

THE WHITE HOUSE

November 15, 1993

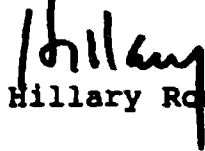
Mike Rankin, M.D.
Chief, Psychiatry
& Mental Health Services
Department of Veterans Affairs
Mental Health Clinic
427 13th Street
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mike:

It was so good to hear from you again. I deeply appreciate your kind words of encouragement and your support of our health care reform effort. I'm enclosing a copy of *Health Security: The President's Report to the American People*. I hope you find it useful.

With warm personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Marsha Scott



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mental Health Clinic

427 13th Street

Oakland, CA 94612

R

November 2, 1993

In Reply Refer To:

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Esq.
The White House
Washington,
D.C.

NOV 11 1993

Dear Counselor,

Brava!!

Hillary, as a physician for 30 years, and a consumer of health care for 56, I cannot agree more with your comments about the health insurance cartel. It needed to be said, and you said it well. Outstanding!

What you have done through all of this, of course, is to give the country a crash course in health economics. You've changed the debate on health care reform from "whether" to "when," and I'm most grateful. So are many of my progressive colleagues.

During the campaign, Marsha, Martha Whetstone, and Willie Fletcher asked me to speak to the Jewish, Vietnam veterans, gay/lesbian, and physicians groups, since I hold leadership positions in all four. The gays, Jews, and veterans were great. The docs were a pill, and many still are. But give us a little time--the best of our profession are already with you. If we have to drag the rest with us, kicking and screaming, so be it. And on a personal note, I like what's envisioned for the VA health system very much. I think that's exactly the way to go.

I'm sorry we didn't have a chance to talk when you were in San Francisco to speak to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at our Biennial (B.J. Tannenbaum isn't the only Arkie on the U.A.H.C. Board of Trustees. I'm a second, and Rodney Angel might have joined us in time. That would have been remarkable--two on the Board from Lake Village, which has a Jewish population of about 5!).

I hope you know how much you are admired in our Reform Jewish movement, Hillary. I've never seen such excited anticipation before a keynote speaker, and we've had some good

ones. Even you had a hard act to follow--Marion Wright Edelman spoke to us the evening before, so we were on a high even before you arrived. It was quite a convention, thanks to the two of you.

And I'm glad you and the Sapersteins are friends. I've worked with David since I joined the Commission on Social Action of the UAHC several years ago. He's my rabbi too, and as you said, a mensch.

So, I might add, are you.

Sincerely,



Mike Rankin, M.D.
Chief, Psychiatry and Mental Health Services
Oakland, CA, V.A. Medical Center

ps It was good to meet Vic Fleming when the President was in town for the AFL/CIO speech. Susan's grandparents, the Burnside's, lived next door to us in Lake Village, but I'd never met Vic.

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 1, 1993

Arnold O. Rholl, M.D.
528 Janalyn Circle
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

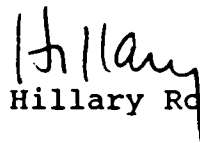
Dear Dr. Rholl:

Thank you for your letters regarding the need for greater accountability in the health care system. I appreciate your willingness to provide this information to the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform.

Eliminating fraud and abuse are important parts of the President's health care plan. While the legislation will soon be transmitted to Congress, this is just the first step toward implementation of a new health care system in which every American has the security of quality, affordable health care. We will need the sound advice of people like you at many points during this process. I hope that you will write again after the plan is released if you have suggestions on how to strengthen accountability measures within the legislation or through its implementation.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Representative Jim Ramstad

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 1, 1993

Mr. Peter Rizzo
204 Water Street
Streator, Illinois 61364

Dear Mr. Rizzo:

Senator Paul Simon forwarded your suggestions on health care reform to me.

The President's health care reform proposal will achieve many of the same objectives as your own reform proposal. I appreciate your taking the time to write and share your views.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Honorable Paul Simon