

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office
Series/Staff Member: Sandra Thurman
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 40015
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Kher, Renuka H.

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	66	6	1	1

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	Re: Enclosures [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
002. form	Re: School application [Personally Identifiable Information] [Personal] (7 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)
003. form	Re: School application [Personally Identifiable Information] [Personal] (6 pages)	10/18/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office
Sandra Thurman
OA/Box Number: 40015

FOLDER TITLE:

Kher, Renuka H.

2018-0764-F

jm2006

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]
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Renuka Kher

(b)(6)

[001]

Enclosed in this file are:

➤ 3 CONFIDENTIAL recommendation letters in support of Renuka's application to medical school:

- 1) Sandra L. Thurman
- 2) R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
- 3) Daniel C. Montoya

➤ AMCAS 2000 application with personal comments (specifying motivations for pursuing medicine)

➤ Current Resume

➤ Copy of Secondary Application to Harvard Medical School

➤ The AMCAS application and recommendation letters have been submitted to the following schools:

- 1) Harvard Medical School
- 2) Boston University
- 3) Tufts University
- 4) Emory University
- 5) George Washington University
- 6) Albert Einstein (Yeshiva University)
- 7) Michigan State University



Renuka Kher <renukakher@hotmail.com>

12/14/99 04:09:44 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cheryl S. Bauerle/OPD/EOP

CC:

Subject: Visions Worldwide Advisory Council

Cheryl, Here is the list of members on the advisory council. sorry it took me so long!
renuka:)

Visions Worldwide Advisory Council

David Bloom, PhD, Deputy Dir. of the Harvard Institute for International Development

Max Essex, DMV, PhD, Chairman Harvard AIDS Institute

Paul Farmer, Md, PhD, Director
Institute for Health and Social Justice,
Harvard Medical School

Daniel Federman, MD, Dean of Medical Education,
Harvard Medical School

Byron Good, PhD, Prof. of Medical Anthropology,
Harvard Medical School
Dept of Anthropology at Harvard

Jim Young Kim, MD, PhD, Director, Partners in Health
Harvard Medical School School

Richard Marlink, MD, Executive Director, Harvard AIDS Institute

Madhu Bala Nath, Gender and HIV Advisor, UNDP Program and Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS; UNDP and UNAIDS

Daniel Tarantola, MD, Director International AIDS Program, Francois Xavier Bagnoud Center, Harvard School of Public Health

Somar Wijayadasa, UNAIDS Representative to the UN

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

FILE

June 23, 1999

Director of Admissions
School of Medicine

Dear Admissions Officer:

It is with great pleasure that I give Renuka Kher my highest recommendation for admission to medical school. During the time I have known her, she has shown the intelligence, character, compassion and dedication that will make her an exemplary student and physician.

I have watched Renuka grow from a political novice, after completing her master's degree in public health and working as a White House intern, to the hard working, skilled professional she is today. She distinguished herself early on from among the large group of promising young people who are drawn to intern at the White House. It was apparent to both me and my staff that she could handle the responsibilities of someone with years of experience. I have rarely seen a young person fit in so quickly and so well.

In addition to the enormous responsibility of handling scheduling and briefing for me and my Deputy, Renuka has also played an integral part in coordinating the 12th and 13th meetings of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. While it is customary to highlight specific instances of excellence in a letter such as this, the nature of Renuka's work for me requires that excellence be the norm. It is expected that every task she handles be flawless; only mistakes and missteps are noticed. She has undoubtedly proven her competence and gained my trust and respect. The results of her dedication on the job and overall command of the tasks before her have made Renuka an invaluable part of our team.

Renuka also had the unique opportunity to observe and learn about the challenges and rewards of policy-making and political life. She has gained a stronger understanding of the interplay between political, social and economic factors that influence health policy, specifically HIV/AIDS policy, at the national level. She is now eager to expand her realms and pursue a degree in medicine—a pursuit that will equip her with the knowledge and skills to fulfill the personal and professional goals she has set for herself.

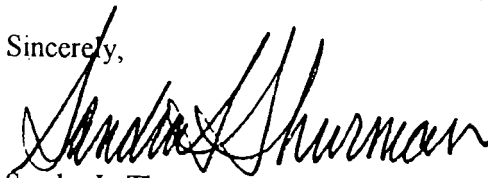
I have worked in the areas of social work and hospice care, and have advocated and fought on the frontlines of the HIV/AIDS epidemic since the beginning. I learned very quickly what it takes to truly handle the relationships between health and policy, and the social issues that surround both. It is clear to me that today, more than ever before, the medical community and more importantly *society* needs physicians who have that understanding—that sense of responsibility to those in need and to those who remain most vulnerable to disease due to inequality, injustice and discrimination. The next generation of health workers must be ready to face many more barriers and obstacles than we ever did in the current health care system. I am confident that Renuka has this ability and will rise to meet any challenge that is presented to her.

Renuka's training in public health has instilled within her a genuine and impassioned humanitarian concern. As a result of working in this office she has also developed a strong desire to work in the international arena and is especially interested in health and human rights. She takes pride in participating in community service and volunteer activities as it allows her the opportunity to see the benefits of her work directly. It is clear that she not only has an understanding of the broader societal dimensions of health but that she will commit herself to being an advocate for her patients in the policy arena to ensure that health disparities— both domestic and international—are addressed.

Renuka can make a valuable contribution to your program. Her natural leadership abilities, interpersonal skills and experience academically as well as professionally would make her an invaluable addition. I am certain that her background and commitment to public health and public service has laid a solid foundation for medical training. She will, without a doubt, give as much as she gets. Renuka's future holds a promising career in medicine and she will emerge to be a leader in all her endeavors.

I give Renuka Kher my highest recommendation for admission into your medical school. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 456-2437.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra L. Thurman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

PRESIDENTIAL

October 1, 1999

FILE

ADVISORY

Committee on Admissions
School of Medicine

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

Please accept my recommendation for Renuka Kher for admission into your medical school. During the time that I have known Renuka, she has exhibited the dedication, leadership ability and personal drive necessary to succeed. She has worked closely with this Council and myself since January of 1999, giving me the opportunity to directly observe her work habits. I was greatly impressed with her indomitable work ethic, her commitment to detail, her ability to navigate complex issues, and her strong oral and communication skills. I am delighted that she has agreed to continue her work with us throughout the year before entering medical school.

As Chair of this council and as a primary care physician for those living with HIV/AIDS, I support Renuka's decision to pursue medicine and more specifically her desire to pursue Internal Medicine and specialize in HIV/AIDS. Considering her diverse interests in international health, human rights and health policy, this career path will allow her the opportunity to work on many of the policy issues that are important to her and that are also important to our healthcare system. I believe these broad experiences and interests will enable her to become a physician who is compassionate and sensitive to the needs her patients.

Before I highlight Renuka's attributes let me begin with a brief background of the Council. The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS was established to provide information and recommendations to the President regarding programs and policies to promote effective prevention of HIV disease, advance research on HIV and AIDS, and promote quality services to persons living with HIV disease and AIDS. The Council is made up of 35 members that come from a variety of professional backgrounds; health care professionals, activists, lawyers, and HIV/AIDS service providers; and reflect the diversity of the United States; HIV positive and negative, male and female, from across the country, from different cultural backgrounds and of different sexual orientations.

Receiving her MPH prior to coming to Washington has been a tremendous advantage for Renuka in understanding and supporting the work of the Council. Clearly, this has allowed her to quickly comprehend that AIDS is more than a medical problem and one that in many regions of the world has become a serious threat to development. As a result of her work with the various subcommittees of the Council including racial and ethnic, research, and prevention, she has come to know the emotional, psychological and social challenges of this disease and the complex needs of this population. She has proven her ability to work both independently and in interdisciplinary groups. She has gained an understanding of how scientific research serves as the foundation for the development of effective public health programs and policies.

Since there are several physicians who serve on the Council, she witnessed firsthand the prominent role they have in policy-making. She recognizes that physicians serve as excellent advocates for their patients because they witness the daily struggles of those who are victims of inadequate policies and circumstances that increase their vulnerability to disease. This population perspective stemming from her education in public health and

experiences with her family in India continues to motivate her to pursue medicine and guide her interests in international health and HIV/AIDS.

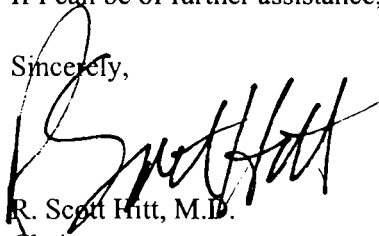
In addition to her work with the Council she has also worked in other health-related areas including hospital administration, epidemiology, and community-based healthcare and AIDS service organizations. She has continually dedicated herself to a variety of professional, academic, and community related activities, constantly pushing to better both her own skills and the lives of others. She is an individual that believes she can make a difference and is deeply dedicated to that goal. Her interest in human rights that led to her volunteer experience in Germany serves as one example of how this desire continues to influence her pursuits. Her drive and dedication are clear, and her willingness to devote the time, energy, and resources necessary to achieve her goals are admirable.

The solutions to many of today's health needs require that public health, medicine, and public policy join forces. Renuka has shown herself to be a dedicated professional with a keen understanding of this balanced relationship. Based on her performance in graduate school I am extremely confident that She will be able to meet the rigorous requirements of medical school. Entering the medical profession is a natural progression and one that I feel she is not only prepared for but one that she will find immensely rewarding. I know with certainty that she will be an asset to your program and will perform beyond expectation.

It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that I highly recommend Renuka Kher to become a student at your medical school.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (310) 652-2562.

Sincerely,



R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
Chair

PRESIDENTIAL

September 20, 1999

FILE

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

Committee on Admissions
School of Medicine

HIV/AIDS

To Committee on Admissions:

It is always a pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for an individual as bright and talented as Renuka Kher, but it is the rarest of pleasures to have a chance to recommend an individual who has demonstrated a unique commitment to improving her community and whose social conscience has guided, and will continue to guide, her academic and professional career. Working on a daily basis with Renuka and getting to know her as a person has been immensely enjoyable.

To call Renuka Kher bright, articulate, and amiable is to understate. Ever since she began her tenure here she has impressed me greatly. Let me start by relating all that she accomplished during her time as an intern at the White House Office of National AIDS Policy prior to acquiring her current position.

Renuka was involved in many facets of our work and became a vital part of our team. She assisted in planning and preparing for three quarterly meetings of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), meetings of selected experts from across the United States, who advise the President on HIV/AIDS Policy. She prepared briefing materials, memos, speeches, and testimonies for issues relating to HIV/AIDS. She attended and contributed to HIV/AIDS policy meetings at the State Department, the World Bank, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Throughout all these projects and duties Renuka demonstrated her maturity and ability to work effectively and efficiently with little or no supervision—her acumen was revealed in every assignment she took on.

It is because of her exceptional performance that she was able to acquire her current position as an HIV/AIDS Health Care Consultant to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and as the Liaison to the Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee. She will be working here in Washington, D.C. throughout the year. This position will allow her to continue to develop the skills she acquired in graduate school and will enhance her abilities to work on health care policy at the national level.

I believe medicine is not only the appropriate path for Renuka but that she also possesses qualities that make her a unique candidate. Renuka is self-directed, goal oriented and driven. She is continually striving to better herself and maintain a diverse background as she sees this as essential to her career aspirations. When she began her internship she expressed her interests in international health and human rights. While she was able to learn about both of those issues while working on HIV/AIDS issues she also took the initiative to pursue studies abroad in these areas. In addition to taking courses at the London School of Economics and Political Science, she felt this experience would be

incomplete without a volunteer experience to supplement her studies. As such she participated in an international volunteer workcamp. She chose to work in Malchow, Germany, which is a sub-camp of the former women's concentration camp Ravensbruck. She worked with a group of international volunteers to restore and prepare exhibitions of bunkers that were used as bomb shelters for imprisoned workers by the Nazis during World War II. She chose this particular site because of its importance to human rights and felt it would be a powerful experience, one that she will carry with her as a reminder of the tragedy of silence.

Renuka's participation in these two experiences is consistent with her understanding of public service and her desire to work on social issues that impact health. It is that desire, I believe, that guides her interest in pursuing a degree in medicine. In our discussions about health and society, Renuka has manifested an interest in the intersections of medicine and public health and public policy. This interest and understanding makes her an ideal candidate to enter a profession that will increasingly depend on leadership and advocacy to address the health concerns of our nation.

Renuka has expressed the desire to pursue Internal Medicine and specialize in HIV/AIDS. Her experience working with the PACHA members on issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and services, treatment and research issues has allowed her to gain an understanding of the broad and complex issues involved in an epidemic of this proportion. I think it has provided her with essential perspectives on the varying needs of those living with HIV/AIDS as well as the broader social issues that surround the epidemic. I cannot think of an experience that would better complement her medical education than her experience in public health.

As an individual living with HIV for the past twelve years and as an advocate on behalf of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, I am confident in Renuka's abilities to provide care for those like myself as a future physician. It is without reservation that I highly recommend Renuka Kher for admission into your medical school. Renuka's compassion, integrity, leadership, communication and organizational skills, and deep commitment to public health will make her an excellent addition to your institution and to the medical profession.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 395-1445.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel C. Montoya
Executive Director

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RENUKA H. KHER, M.P.H.

Current Address:

Renukakher@hotmail.com
1502 P Street NW Apt #2
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 319-0441

Permanent Address:

4110 Seymour Drive
Troy, MI 48098
(248) 641-1698

EDUCATION	LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE	London, UK
Summer 1999	Non-degree • Emphasis in International Relations • 2 Courses completed: 1) The Theory and Practice of Human Rights and 2) The Control of War in World Politics	
1997-1998	EMORY UNIVERSITY Rollins School of Public Health Master of Public Health • Emphasis in Health Policy and Management • Member, American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) • Member, American Public Health Association (APHA) • GPA: 3.81 / 4.00	Atlanta, GA
1993-1997	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN College of Literature, Science and the Arts Bachelor of Science • Concentration in Biology • Class Honors (GPA above 3.5) 1996, 1997 • GPA: 3.41 / 4.00	Ann Arbor, MI
EXPERIENCE	JOHN SNOW, INCORPORATED (JSI)	Boston, MA
Full-time	Consultant—Ryan White CARE Act Technical Assistance	Washington, DC
6/99-Present	• Provide general administrative assistance at the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS in support of the HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA. • Participate in weekly conference calls for various subcommittees of the Council. • Develop written documents as requested by HRSA project officer.	(project site)
Full-time	THE WHITE HOUSE	Washington, DC
1/99-5/99	Intern—Office of National AIDS Policy • Prepared briefing materials, talking points, and preliminary background research for the Director and Deputy Director. • Attended and contributed to HIV/AIDS policy meetings at the State Department, World Bank, Department of Health and Human Services, and Kaiser Family Foundation. • Drafted and managed correspondence from the Office relating to HIV/AIDS issues in accordance with administrative policies. • Planned, coordinated, and prepared the quarterly full council meetings that take place in Washington, DC.	
Part-time 1998	PROFESSOR ADELE COHEN Graduate Teaching Assistant—Rollins School of Public Health • Researched articles on health policy initiatives for an Introduction to the US Health Care System course (HPM 500). • Evaluated student performance on coursework and graded semester exams.	Atlanta, GA

Kher, Renuka H.
Atlanta, GA

Part-time
1997-1998

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
Research Assistant—Rollins School of Public Health

- Assisted in the hematology lab at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test for a congenital bleeding disorder in women.
- Designed a coding manual for the WOMEN STUDY questionnaire survey to record quantitative data from interviewed subjects.
- Gained knowledge of basic epidemiological research methodology.

Summer 1998

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
Administrative Intern—Department of Planning and Managed Care

Chicago, IL

- Developed a preliminary model of the quarterly Physician Care Report for the Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine (Dr. Dan Mukundan).
- Participated on the hospital JCAHO oversight committee and administered mock surveys and summary reports to departments within the hospital.
- Attended a one-week didactic session on strategic healthcare management at the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management (Northwestern University).

Part-time
1996-1997

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY PRACTICE
Research Assistant—Cancer Screening Project

Ann Arbor, MI

- Performed on-site medical record review at numerous rural primary care clinics.
- Assisted in determining the effectiveness of cancer screening methods including the individual or combined use of flow sheets and patient cards.
- Assembled patient data and coded individual entries into database.

ACTIVITIES
August 1999

VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE
International Work Camp—Volunteer

Malchow, Germany

- Worked with local German construction crew to restore bunkers in preparation for an exhibit of a sub-camp of the former women's concentration camp Ravensbruck.
- Developed written documents with photographs regarding the former sub-camp to educate and inform local residents.
- Met with survivors of the camp to discuss their experiences and to formulate recommendations for improving the exhibition.

Part-time 1999

WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC--AIDS SUPPORT CENTER
Volunteer—Clinical Trials Department

Washington, DC

- Assisted in the accurate documentation of Case Report forms and incorporated historical medical and technical documents into protocol binders.
- Attended basic training sessions that addressed the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS testing, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues.
- Gained basic knowledge of the design and implementation of study protocols, as well as compliance issues for the FDA and IRB.

Part-time 1998

AID ATLANTA--AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATION
Case Management Intern

Atlanta, GA

- Assisted in the implementation of a new HIV/AIDS wellness program (RightTRACK) to provide patients with guidance on financial management, drug treatment compliance, and nutrition.
- Observed case management sessions with HIV/AIDS clients.

1993-1997

INDIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
President (1996-97) & Member

Ann Arbor, MI

- Led the executive board in developing and implementing the vision for a multicultural organization with over 450 members.
- Directed the development of an annual conference addressing cultural, societal, and professional concerns of Indian-American students across the country.

- Organized and participated in an annual cultural show run by University students and viewed by over 4000 members of the community.
- Coordinated with University offices and student organizations to facilitate volunteer, social, and political activities.

Summer 1996

**MICHIGAN LEADERSHAPE PROGRAM
Participant**

Ann Arbor, MI

- Developed leadership skills and strategies such as developing a uniform vision and leading with ethics and integrity.
- Participated in interactive group clusters that emphasized teamwork, conflict resolution, and collaboration between student organizations on campus.

ADDITIONAL

- Obtained Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training.
- Physicians for Human Rights (Member)
- Physicians for Social Responsibility (Member)
- Volunteers for Peace (Member)
- Attended 1998 American Public Health Association Conference, March and June 1999 Presidential Advisory Council meeting on HIV/AIDS, and 1999 Conference on African-Americans and HIV/AIDS.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, Internet, Word Perfect, Lotus 1.2.3, Medline, and Lexis/Nexis.
- Interests include running, reading, traveling and cooking.