

FOIA MARKER

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Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21072

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Back to Life

Stack:

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Row:

67

Section:

1

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1

Position:

3

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. letter	Julio Gomez-Gonzalez to President Clinton re: Back to Life (Personal) [partial] (1 page)	01/30/2000	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office

OA/Box Number: 21072

FOLDER TITLE:

Back to Life

2018-0764-F

jm2215

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]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 2000

Julio A. Gomez-Gonzales
515 NW 125 Street
North Miami, FL 33168

Dear Mr. Gomez-Gonzales:

Thank you for your heartfelt and eloquent letter of January 30, 2000, in which you described the struggle that communities of color in Miami are facing against the stigma of AIDS.

Though we have made strides in the past twenty years towards a better and more tolerant understanding of AIDS, we still have a long way to go. I wholeheartedly agree with your statement that unless people living with AIDS are supported in their self-empowerment, not only their own positive lifestyles but also their vital contributions to society will be stifled and lost.

Though the Office of National AIDS Policy is unable to directly fund or support specific projects, I truly admire your strength and vision and I hope that someday soon, "Back to Life" will become a reality. Dedication and inspiration such as that which you have demonstrated through both words and deeds, is what will bring us to an eventual end in our shared fight against AIDS.

Thank you again for your letter, and I wish you all the best with "Back to Life" and all future projects.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

Sent 6/23

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2-25-60

DATE

MEMORANDUM

FOR:

FROM:

JWAS
HELEN S. CASTLEMAN H-S.C.
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF CASEWORK

I am forwarding the attached letter to your office for appropriate action. Please send a copy of your written response or your telephone report along with the writer's original correspondence and envelope to the following address:

Mrs. Helen S. Castleman
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

If you have any questions, call my office at 202/456-7486.

Thank you for your help.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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2-1-00
JAGG4DOG
DENIAL

515 NW 125 Street
North Miami, Florida 33168
E-mail: Jagg4dog@aol.com

Julio A. Gomez-Gonzalez

January 30, 2000

Mr. Bill Clinton, President of the United States.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I hope that somewhere in your busy day of running the country that this letter will reach you directly. Living in Miami, I witness nearly 18% of my Hispanic community dealing with the daily struggle and stigma of living with AIDS. I want to bring hope and assistance to those of us often forgotten in our isolation. We are as diverse as the multiple binds of economics, dialects, life situations, race/ethnicity's, and sexual orientations. Most of the services for people living with AIDS (PLWA) are focused on the daily survival needs of shelter and medical assistance, as those funded through the Ryan White funds (thanks for the increased funding). A great void exists that I would like to bring to the forefront by using myself as an example.

[001]

(b)(6)

returning to full-time employment and completing my Bachelor's degree. I am currently working on my Master's of Social Work degree at Barry University and continuing work as a hospital services supervisor at the largest public hospital in Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital.

A few years ago I came up with the idea of creating a group called "Back to Life" to assist PLWA reincorporate themselves back into society. Receiving disability benefits is both easier and more difficult. I personally understand the conundrum we find ourselves. Stigma associated with AIDS still exists resulting in discrimination and negative responses from many people in society. Good health care and the means to pay for it is absolutely necessary, when confronted with the

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REJECTION INDUCES DENIAL AND DENIAL KILLS

January 30, 2000

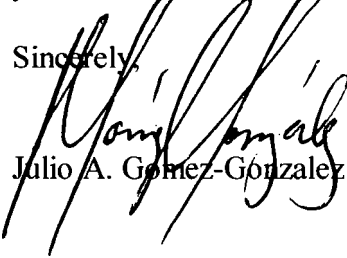
Page 2

Possibility of a long term chronic condition and sometimes life threatening illness. To risk resigning the benefits is a major act of courage and faith in self and society. It says that you are willing to trust that human kind is primarily good and will do right by you, when most evidence is to the contrary. It is also not something that all PLWA can do, as there are many disease courses and life situations.

When we live with AIDS, it does not mean we discontinue to contribute to society. I believe the "Back to Life" group could be a catalyst for others to tap their sense of empowerment and to resist the stigma that society has forced upon us. To have a sense of empowerment allows PLWA to actively choose a life where they find greater fulfillment, resistance to societal stigma and be productive, incorporated members of society. To be included in society means that we are cared for, nurtured and not isolated into lonely lives of despair because we have a specific health concern. It means we contribute to the overall good of society by our actions and visions.

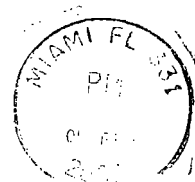
In Miami, communities of color are not fairing well about HIV/AIDS. Many efforts need to focus at basic survival, but those of us who can make a difference must continue to try to encourage others to move back into society. I believe this is my calling, to continue to make a difference and be of service to others. Previously I founded the Latin American AIDS Coalition and the Latino y El SIDA magazine providing education, information and resource referrals, and support towards the community (and those infected.). I left the organizations to return to school to be able to serve better those in need. I write to you for any assistance or direction to make such a group as "Back to Life" possible. I believe with help many people like me could be working on doing something productive for society that is also going to benefit their health status. I hope you as the President of this great country could help me to make a difference in the lives of others and fulfill my calling. Thanks for your time. I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,



Julio A. Gomez-Gonzalez

Julio A. Gomez-Gonzalez
515 NW 125 Street
North Miami, Florida 33168



Mr. Bill Clinton
President of United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
White House
Washington, DC 20500

