

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records  
**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** National AIDS Policy Office  
**Series/Staff Member:** Kristine Gebbie  
**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 3774  
**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**  
Photo Session with President Clinton 5/6/94

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1994

**SCHEDULE FOR MEETING WITH GEBBIE  
AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH THE PRESIDENT**

- 3:15pm Participants arrive at the Office of the National AIDS Policy Coordinator located at 750 17th Street, NW (located directly across from the New Executive Office Building)
- 3:30pm Participants meet with Coordinator Gebbie and OPM Director, James King in the Old Executive Office Building room 476.
- I. Welcome from Kristine Gebbie
  - II. Comments from Mr. Ivits
  - III. Presentation of awards by OPM Director, James King
  - IV. Comments by recipients
  - V. Closing by Kristine Gebbie
- 4:00pm Depart for Oval Office
- 4:10pm Photo opportunity with the President
- 4:30pm Press availability at "stakeout"
- 4:45pm Depart White House

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**Office of National AIDS Policy**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 1994

**PRESIDENT CLINTON PRAISES FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
FOR PROGRESSIVE HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Today, President Clinton praised employees of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) from Dallas, Texas. The President spoke with supervisors and managers of Christopher J. Ivits, a retired FLRA employee living with AIDS. Mr. Ivits wrote the President praising his supervisors for assisting him to continue productive employment as long as his health permitted. In addition, FLRA maintained a workplace atmosphere free of fear or intimidation for people living with HIV and AIDS. On September 30, 1993, President Clinton ordered all Federal Departments and Agencies to conduct HIV/AIDS education and prevention training and to review their workplace policies and procedures to make sure they accommodate people living with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses. The employees honored from FLRA were Joe Swerdzewski, Nancy Speight, James Petrucci, Susan Jelen and Kathy Koch. Joining the President was Kristine Gebbie, National AIDS Policy Coordinator, and James King, Director, Office of Personnel Management, who presented the employees with certificates of appreciation.

"In the competitive world economy which now exists we cannot afford to waste a single worker. People living with HIV/AIDS or any life threatening illness should be encouraged to work as long as they are able to remain productive," said the President. "I am pleased that Federal employees are taking the lead in instituting workplace policies and procedures which accommodate workers with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses; not only is it the right thing to do, it is also good business."

Kristine Gebbie said, "The Federal workplace is joining leading edge businesses like Motorola, Levi Strauss, Digital, Polaroid, AT&T, Bank of America and others too numerous to mention, in recognizing that employees living with HIV and AIDS can remain productive, often for many years, despite their HIV infection. These businesses and the Federal Government have realized that appropriate prevention education for their employees, coupled with workplace policies designed to keep people working as long as possible, are the most effective way to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on their employees and their families."

Christopher Ivits commented, "The attitude of my supervisors and the policies in place at the FLRA in Dallas allowed me to continue my service to the government as long as I was physically able. I believe the opportunity to continue contributing to society and interacting with my co-workers, combined with their moral support, improved both the quality and length of my life."

Susan Jelen, Mr. Ivits supervisor, said, "My office benefited from Chris' experience and professionalism despite his HIV infection. The accommodations made for Chris did not interfere with work and the staff was happy to help a colleague and friend. Because we worked openly with Chris from the beginning, when it became necessary for him to retire, we accomplished the transition with no interruption to our office."