

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

HEALTH —
Martha's Vineyard

MEMORANDUM

To: Joel Johnson

Date: August 19, 1999

From: Pete Rouse

Re: Health Care on Martha's Vineyard

Nearly 20% of Martha's Vineyard's year-round residents do not have health insurance. Many of the uninsured are in the low income population.

To respond to this problem, elected officials and other community leaders on the Vineyard have initiated a grass roots effort to develop an island health plan. The county commissioners created the Dukes County Health Council, a 32 member volunteer panel that includes elected officials, health care providers, consumers and community leaders, to research health care options and recommend a course of action that will hopefully achieve the goal of universal coverage of the year-round island population. The Dukes County Health Council, which is chaired by a friend of mine, West Tisbury Selectman Cindy Mitchell, has retained part time staff and a Boston health care consultant (Ms. Pat Fairchild of John Snow, Inc.) to develop an island health plan.

Knowing of the President's commitment to solving the problem of the uninsured and under-insured in this country, Cindy Mitchell sent the attached letter to Bruce Reed on August 9, 1999. Her hope is that, while on the Vineyard, the President could acknowledge the efforts of the Dukes County Health Council. Such an acknowledgment would be consistent with the President's policy agenda and a great boost to the Council's efforts.

It is my understanding that the President will be speaking Monday night at a fundraiser for the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Those remarks might provide an opportunity to commend and encourage the efforts of the Dukes County Health Council.

Cindy Mitchell is taking her daughter to college today, but I can have her call you or a member of Bruce Reed's staff tomorrow if that would be helpful. In the interim, you could call Murray Frank on Martha's Vineyard at 508/693-8373 for further information about the project.

Please let me know if you have any further questions about this request.

ERIC —

PETE IS DASCHLE'S C.O.S. —

I PROMISED HIM I WOULD PASS
THIS ALONG — I'M SURE WE HAVE
NOTHING RELEVANT GOING ON UP THERE,
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT
DEVELOP. . . .

THANKS, JOEL

FROM :

FAX NO. : 5086938535

Aug. 19 1999 08:39AM P2

HEALTH
THE DUKES COUNTY
COUNCIL

August 9, 1999

Bruce N. Reed
Chief Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Reed:

Yesterday's New York Times lead article about the President's efforts to increase the enrollment of uninsured children in health plans - and his expected visit to the Island - prompts this letter.

The Dukes County Health Council was created by the County Commissioners to find a solution to the very significant incidence of uninsured and under-insured residents on Martha's Vineyard. We have been successful in enrolling many of the eligible families in Medicaid but we have more work to do.

Almost 20% of our year-round population is not insured for health care. We have a large low-income population.

We are now in the process of developing an Island Health Plan based upon an analysis of the community's needs. Our goal is affordable, accessible, and high quality health care for all residents. Insurance products for low income families will be subsidized if necessary.

We are building community support for this work through organizations, at public meetings, and in the newspapers.

Our efforts would benefit enormously by some recognition and an expression of support by the President when he is here. Is that possible?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia Mitchell, Chair
(Member/Board of Selectmen,
Town of West Tisbury)

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: Aug. 22, 1999 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Martha's Vineyard Hospital Event

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STEIN	☐	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐	WALDMAN	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	<u>J. Edmonds</u>	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	<u>C. Jennings</u>	☒	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>C. Mills</u>	☒	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒		☐	☐
MARSHALL	☐	☐			

REMARKS:

Comments to Jordan Tamagni

RESPONSE:

Draft 8/20/99 5:00pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR MARTHA'S VINEYARD HOSPITAL EVENT
MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASSACHUSETTS
August 23, 1999

- Thanks to [TK] for inviting us to be part of this evening benefiting the remarkable Martha's Vineyard Hospital. I especially want to thank Louis Sullivan and Mike Wallace.
- Louis Sullivan has blazed a trail in American health care. The first African American to be appointed to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, he has dedicated his life to improving the lives of American families.
- Mike Wallace has blazed a trail of his own -- not only in broadcast journalism but in health care. His courageous decision to discuss his own struggle with depression is shining a light into the darkness for millions of people coping with mental illness. I am especially grateful to him for participating in the first-ever White House Conference on Mental Health we held just a few months ago.
- Summer may be winding down, but the dedicated professionals at Martha's Vineyard Hospital earn the confidence and trust of the people of this island every day of the year.
- This truly is a community hospital. From delivering babies during summer storms ... to performing emergency surgery in the chill of winter ... to providing a safe haven for elderly residents all year round -- Martha's Vineyard Hospital is like a neighbor who is always there to help.
- One of the things I have always been most impressed by is how Martha's Vineyard Hospital maintains the same level of high-quality care -- from top notch emergency room services to a cutting edge intensive care unit -- whether you are serving 12,000 year round residents or nearly ten times that many every summer.
- But we all know that it isn't easy. I have seen many small rural hospitals in my home state of Arkansas and all over the country face the same struggle.
- That is why I am fighting so hard to make sure that we use this time of prosperity to ensure that health care providers like Martha's Vineyard Hospital get the help they need to keep helping families.

- My Medicare Reform plan includes \$7.5 billion to help health care providers provide the highest quality care.
- I am committed to saving our hard-won budget surplus to securing Social Security and to extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund well into the 21st Century. My plan dedicates over \$300 billion to keep Medicare strong. It won't cut other critical investments in health care, like Medicaid and our Children's Health Insurance Program that are helping us reach millions of uninsured children so they can get the health care they need.
- I know I don't have to tell you what's at stake -- especially when it comes to health care.
- Nearly 20% of the families on Martha's Vineyard don't have health insurance. Thanks to the Duke County Health Council -- chaired by West Tisbury Selectman Cindy Mitchell -- and the Health Access Coalition the Council created, you are doing a fantastic job reaching out to uninsured families and children on Martha's Vineyard:
 - The families of every child who registers for school are given information about how to apply for CHIP and Medicaid.
 - The Coalition helps families fill out forms and follows up with state health officials to make sure applications are processed properly.
 - Families who visit local food banks -- and families who receive energy assistance -- are also given information about CHIP and Medicaid.
- This is the kind of creative partnership we are trying to help every community in America to build.
- But the Republicans risky tax plan would threaten our ability to build partnerships like this. It would trigger automatic across-the-board cuts in Medicare, in CHIP, and so many other programs that affect the health of our families. It drains resources needed to strengthen Social Security for the 21st Century, to pay down the national debt, to insure that all of our children receive a high quality education, and to protect the environment for generations to come.
- So I hope all of you who are working so hard to make sure that Martha's Vineyard Hospital can continue to thrive will make your voices heard in this great national debate. We owe it to our families and to our future.