

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. paper	Birthplace (Partial) (1 page)	n.d.	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Speechwriting
OA/Box Number: 8168

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC [Hillary Rodham Clinton]/Children's Forum 4/15/94

2012-1004-S

ms493

RESTRICTION CODES

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPE REMARKS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH FORUM
APRIL 15, 1994

[Acknowledgments: Eileen Norton]

Today we live in an age of great promise for our nation's children. For the first time in 60 years, we are poised at a moment in history when real health care reform is within our reach.

No one will benefit more from reform than the youngest among us.

Over the past 30 years, children have become unintended victims of a social and demographic revolution that has reshaped our most basic institutions. The result is a disturbing -- and ongoing -- pattern of neglect that is robbing more and more children of the physical, intellectual and emotional nurturing they need.

Just this week, the Carnegie Corporation issued a long-awaited report outlining the problems facing children aged zero to three. This comprehensive study illustrated the grim circumstances confronting millions of children across our nation today.

Too many American children grow up in poverty, without proper nutrition and health care. Too many American children live in families shattered by violence, substance abuse, or emotional instability. Too many children lack adequate child care. Too many children are deprived of the basic love and affection necessary for them to grow into healthy, functioning adults.

Of course, there is no single answer, no simple cure for all of these social ills. But there are opportunities for progress that we must not squander.

Foremost among those is health care reform. Because after all, good health affects almost every other facet of a child's life.

Today, 9.5 million children do not have health insurance. About 60 percent of children under two have not been fully immunized. One in five children had no contact with a doctor in 1992.

Now we have a chance to change that.

The President's approach to reform reflects his belief that

every American needs health security -- particularly children.

It guarantees private insurance with comprehensive benefits for every American and every family. The standard benefits package includes prenatal care, immunizations, well-baby exams, and preventive services for children, including vision and dental care.

The President's approach offers a comprehensive health education program for children from kindergarten through secondary school. It increases investments in school-based clinics. And it supports specific services targeted at high-risk communities.

Finally, under the President's approach, the National Institutes of Health will receive additional funding for new research aimed at improving preventive medicine, particularly for children.

You all know that a child's earliest experiences usually lay the foundation for later years. If we can guarantee children a healthy start in life, we will dramatically improve their chances of flourishing in school, of contributing positively to their communities, and of succeeding professionally when they are adults.

That's why health care reform is so important. It's not only about giving hope and opportunity to the next generation; it's about who we are, and what we stand for, as a nation.

Thank you for your concern, your ideas, and your help as we work to achieve this important goal.

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STEPHEN M. RIVERS
10725 OHIO AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-5075
(310) 475-0373 • FAX (310) 475-3472

March 22, 1994

George Stephanopoulos
Senior Advisor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Request for videotaped message from First Lady

Dear George:

On Friday, April 15 in Los Angeles there will be an all-day conference sponsored by the Forum on Children's Issues entitled "Achieving the Dream: Health Care...Healthy Kids". The Forum was founded last year by Eileen Norton to focus the attention of the public and policy makers on issues of concern to children. (Eileen is on the board of CDF and is a close friend of Marian Wright Edelman's.)

The two key conference speakers are Rep. Pat Schroeder and Marian Wright Edelman. The thrust of the conference is to make the concerns of children a significant component in the national debate about health care reform.

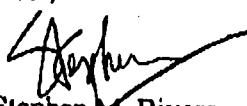
Eileen would very much like to see if it would be possible for the First Lady to send a brief videotaped message of welcome that could open the conference and help set the tone and focus the discussion throughout the day.

I think this could be similar to something she did recently with another children's advocacy group here in California where she spoke by satellite or videotape and it got some good message play in the media.

I hope that this is something doable. Please let me know what you think, and how you think I should proceed. I am enclosing some information on the conference and the Forum on Children's Issues.

Thanks.

Best,


Stephen M. Rivers

cc: Eileen Norton

yes
Pat
Re: video request

**STEPHEN M. RIVERS
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310-475-0373 PHONE
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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 12, 1994

TO: Liz Boyer

FROM: Stephen Rivers

RE: Information on Children & Health Care Conference for
Videotaped Message from First Lady

PAGES: 7 + cover sheet

STEPHEN M. RIVERS
10725 OHIO AVENUE
LOS ANGELES CA 90024-5075
310-475-0373 PHONE
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April 12, 1994

FAX TO: Liz Boyer

FROM: Stephen Rivers

RE: DRAFT REMARKS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR
VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST LADY TO "ACHIEVING
THE DREAM: HEALTH CARE ... HEALTHY KIDS"

Dear Liz:

Following are some draft remarks for the First Lady's videotaped message to Eileen Norton's conference on children and health care which takes place this Friday in Los Angeles, as well as the conference program. Please let me know what you think and whether you need any additional information or materials.

DRAFT REMARKS

I want to welcome you all to this very important conference, and to thank my good friend Eileen Norton for putting it together.

There has been no end to the political debate, both here in Washington and in the media, about the politics of health care reform. And there has been a significant amount of debate and exploration of how health care reform will affect the consumer, the insurance industry and the medical professional.

Sadly, there has not been nearly enough discussion or examination of how health care reform will affect our children -- xxx million young Americans who desperately need a healthy start in life.

It is a tragedy that, in our great country, 8 million children are without health insurance and care -- one and a half million in California alone -- and that many millions more are under-insured. And the percentage of children covered by health insurance is dropping year-by-year; by the year 2000 barely one-half of our children will be protected by health insurance.

It is a tragedy that, in the most advanced and prosperous nation, we still have one of the highest infant-mortality rates in the world.

It is a tragedy that one-half of our children under the age of 2 are not immunized against the most common, preventable and costly childhood diseases. And even under the present system of health insurance, only about 15% of private insurance companies cover the cost of immunization.

It is a tragedy that one-fourth of our babies are living in families who live below the poverty level.

The tragedy is that none of this has to be this way. But we have a great opportunity to change all of that. For the first time since the days of the New Deal we are having a great national debate, no longer on *whether* to reform our system of health care but *how* to do it. This was the President's pledge to the American people in 1992 and we are going to do everything that we can to make it happen this year.

I hope that what you will debate and examine and learn today will be the catalyst for greater national attention to the needs of children in the debate we are having over how best to reform our health care system, and that it will inspire you and others to redouble your efforts to see that the best possible plan will be enacted to ensure that our children and future generations will get the healthy start in life that they need and deserve.

Thank you.

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"ACHIEVING THE DREAM: HEALTH CARE ... HEALTHY KIDS"

SPONSORED BY THE FORUM ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES
Eileen Norton, Director

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1994
CENTURY PLAZA HOTEL, LOS ANGELES

PROGRAM

- 11:00-11:45 a.m. Keynote Address: Building a Children's Health Agenda
Speaker: Dr. Reed Tuckson, President, Drew University Medical School
- 11:45 1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions: Emphasizing Success in Children's Health Care
- Section I: Violence Prevention Programs
- Gilbert Garcetti, Los Angeles County District Attorney
 Debra Constance, A Place Called Home
 Elizabeth Thoman, Center for Media Literacy
 Crystal Haling, California Wellness Anti-Violence Initiative
- Section II: Model Prenatal/Infants/Early Childhood Health Programs
- Mary Donnelly-Crocker, Young and Healthy
 Dr. Karen Lamp, Venice Family Health Clinic
- Section III: AIDS/HIV As a Children's Health Issue
- Barry Horton, Tuesday's Child
 Pam Mohr, Alliance for Children's Rights
- Section IV: Successfully Advocating for Children
- Angela Glover Blackwell, Urban Strategies Council
 Wendy Lazarus, Children's Partnership
 Jennifer Perry, Children's Action Network
 Valerie Purnell, Children Now
- Section V: Adolescent Health Care Programs That Work
- Blanca Ovalle, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program
 Mary Rainwater and Chris DeCaprio, L.A. Free Clinic
 Gayle Nathanson, Inglewood Youth and Family Services
- 1:00-2:15 p.m. Luncheon Address: Congressional Report on Children's Health Issues
Speaker: **Rep. Patricia Schroeder** (D-Colorado)

-more -

"ACHIEVING THE DREAM: HEALTH CARE ... HEALTHY KIDS"

Sponsored by the Forum on Children's Issues

Friday, April 15, 1994, Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles

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2:15-3:30 p.m. Breakout Session repeated (see 11:45-1:00)

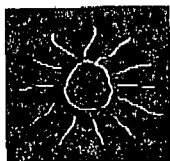
3:45-5:00 p.m. Panel: Major Approaches to National Health Care Reform
 As it Applies to Children
 Moderator: Warren Olney

Dr. Sue Bailey, Georgetown University, Senior spokesperson
for Clinton Administration Health Care Reform Plan
Dr. Neal Halfon, UCLA Dept. of Pediatrics & Public Health
Katherine Hayes, office of U.S. Senator John Chaffee (R-R.I.)
Robert Fellmeth, Children's Advocacy Institute

5:00-5:45 p.m. Presentation: "Under Pressure", STOP-GAP Theatre Co.

6:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner Address: Ensuring Children's Health
 Speaker: **Marian Wright Edelman**, Children's Defense Fund

For further information, contact: Mary Valentine (conference program) 310 576 7700
 Stephen Rivers (media relations) 310 475 0373



Forum on Children's Issues

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Stephen Rivers
310-475-0373

CONFERENCE ON HEALTH CARE AND CHILDREN
WILL HEAR SCHROEDER, EDELMAN

Eileen Norton
Director

DAY-LONG MEETING TO DEBATE CLINTON AND ALTERNATIVE
HEALTH CARE REFORM PLANS

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 AT CENTURY PLAZA HOTEL

Los Angeles Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D Colorado) and Children's Defense Fund leader Marian Wright Edelman will be among the speakers at "Achieving the Dream: Health Care ... Healthy Kids", a day-long conference taking place on Friday, April 15 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

"Our conference is designed to help put the needs of children at the forefront of the national debate about health care reform," said Eileen Norton, the director of the Forum on Children's Issues which is sponsoring the event. "Children who don't get an early start with preventative health care end up costing families and society many millions of unnecessary dollars and end up becoming unhealthy adults who create a heavy burden on our health care system", Norton said. "There has been plenty of debate and attention in the media about the politics of health care reform, and some attention to how reform would affect certain segments of society [seniors, people with HIV and AIDS, etc.], but next-to no debate about how reform will affect children and what we ought to do to give kids a healthy start in life. We hope that this conference will help to get that debate started."

- more -

CONFERENCE ON HEALTH CARE AND CHILDREN

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Rep. Schroeder will give a luncheon address reporting on what Congress is doing on children's health care issues, and Edelman will close the conference with a dinner speech entitled "Ensuring Children's Health".

Other speakers at the conference include Dr. Reed Tuckson, president of Drew University Medical School, Los Angeles County District Attorney Gilbert Garcetti and Dr. Susan Bailey, a senior spokeswoman for the Clinton Administration's health care reform plan. Bailey will participate in an afternoon panel debate on the competing health care reform proposals currently before Congress.

Attending the conference will be an invited audience of 125 professionals in the fields of health care and children's issues.

"Achieving the Dream: Health Care ... Healthy Kids" is the second annual conference sponsored by the Forum on Children's Issues. Last year's conference focused on education reform.

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Enclosures: Conference Program

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NORTON

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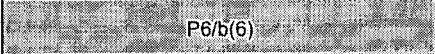
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EILEEN NORTON BIOGRAPHY

Eileen Norton is vice-president of the Norton Family Foundation, a grant-giving institution which funds diverse cultural and humanitarian projects. Mrs. Norton's philanthropic interests range from issues of illiteracy, child welfare and women's concerns to her involvement in the arts.

Mrs. Norton currently serves on the boards of the Children's Defense Fund, the New Museum, and the Hollywood Policy Center.

Mrs. Norton is actively involved in supporting the National Resources Defense Council, the National Abortion Rights Action League, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Los Angeles Women's Foundation. The Nortons also contribute regularly to educational organizations including the United Negro College Fund, Crossroads School, Reed College and the California Institute for the Arts.

 P6/b(6) Mrs. Norton holds a Master of Science in Bilingual Education from the University of Southern California and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of California, Los Angeles. Following her graduation from USC, she spent several years as an elementary teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District where she taught English as a second language and worked as a bilingual coordinator.

She and her husband, Peter, have two young children and live in Santa Monica, California.

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