

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

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

OA/ID Number: 21090
FolderID:

Folder Title:
PACHA [Presidential HIV/AIDS Advisory Council] - Correspondence - To/From - POTUS

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	66	6	3	2

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-18-98

12-21

JEREMY G. LANDAU119 del Rio Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501 • 505.988.2537 • FAX: 988.2492 • E-MAIL: rapanuijer@aol.com

Dear Mr. Clinton:

First off, let me wish you, Hillary, & Chelsea the best that the new year has to offer! May the remainder of your term be filled with strong & successful legislation and prosperity and peace for all Americans -- and all people!

I earnestly desire to share with you an observation concerning the U.S. embargo of Cuba. Many, even your own AIDS Council, have sought to exempt humanitarian aide from this ban. Recently, a coalition led by Sen. Warner, proposed to you a short-term Commission whose purposed would be to examine our options towards lessening the weight of this ban upon those who would provide humanitarian support to the people of Cuba, and the poor and the ill -- those who deserve assistance most and feel the greatest burden of embargo.

I want to tell you that I support this effort! As do many of my liberal colleagues, including many democrat, both elected and your truest supporters. I would like to offer my assistance to you to further this effort -- especially in any way which provides you information and support -- and which leads you soon towards a positive, humanistic outcome on this issue.

I would also like to recommend to you as another ally in this struggle, Mr. Jairo Pedraza, a Venezuelan-American who represents U.S. people living with AIDS on the UN-affiliated Global Network of PWAs.

As a long-term survivor of AIDS, and someone who has sought to give you the best advice I can find on your Advisory Council on AIDS, I thank you for the time to give you this personal message of policy and support!

With warmest regards --



O Mother of the Universe!
You who provide basic sustenance
and subtle nourishment for all creatures!
Please feed us, Holy Mother!
Satisfy every level of our hunger!

I know the mother always feeds her hungry child,
regardless of its foolishness or carelessness.
Goddess Kali, grant the child who sings this song
your supreme blessing of total illumination.
Today is the most auspicious day!
Please, Mother, do not delay!

Goddess Tara, my pangs of hunger for reality
are becoming unbearable!
Mother! Mother! Mother!
You are the longing and the longed for!
You cannot refuse your child's earnest prayer!

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN
12-18-98

Promoting Health

and Disease Prevention



12/21

December 2, 1998

President William Jefferson Clinton
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Clinton,

I am writing this letter in my capacity as Chairman of the Board of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc., (BLCA), and on behalf the board and leadership of our national affiliates, to express our sincere appreciation for rendering a historic response to the request from the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for a national state of emergency in HIV/AIDS and public health in African American communities.

For the first time in the eighteen year-old history of the AIDS pandemic, the federal budget was passed with \$110 million allocated specifically to target HIV prevention and services in minority communities. An additional \$46 million, committed by Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, will also be used to support the goals outlined by Congress.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Erskine Bowles, Secretary Donna Shalala, and Surgeon General David Satcher, for their outstanding leadership in the negotiation process and their work with the CBC to meet this historic goal.

As a former Mayor of the City of New York, the epicenter of the nation's epidemic, I know the impact AIDS has come to bear on minorities. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that every hour, seven Americans are newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Of those seven, three are African American. This community now accounts for fifty-six percent of all new HIV infections, and maintains the lowest decline in AIDS-related deaths in the nation.

We are very proud of the work BLCA contributed to this process, particularly our president/CEO Debra Fraser-Howze who serves as a sub-committee chairperson on your Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS. We pledge to you our continued support and look forward to working with you, Representatives Louis Stokes (D-OH), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Donna Christian Green (D-VT) and Dr. Marsha Martin of the Department of Health & Human Services, as they continue their outstanding leadership towards addressing the needs of communities hardest hit by HIV and AIDS.

Keep the faith, Joyce and I wish the best for you and Hillary.

Sincerely,

David N. Dinkins
David N. Dinkins
Chairman of the Board

*MR. President - The mayor
has sent his love and
asked that I tell you
"he is and always will
be with you."
- me*

Andrea Jackson, Esq.
Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS
Lawrence S. Brown, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Committee

Rev. Calvin O. Butts, III, D. Min.
National Affiliate Development Committee

Suzanne A. DuBose
Fund Development Committee

Megan McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Personnel Committee

Rev. Timothy P. Mitchell, D. Min.
Ecumenical Committee

Horace W. Morris
CEO Advisory Committee

Wilbert Tatum
Media & Public Affairs Committee

The Honorable Albert Vann
Legislative & Public Policy Committee

John Bess
At-Large

Marcella Maxwell, Ph.D.
At-Large

Mark J. Wade, M.D., F.A.A.P.
At-Large

Basil A. Paterson, Esq.
Counsel

James R. Dumpson, Ph.D.
Chair Emeritus

Darwin N. Davis, Sr.
Chair Emeritus

President/CEO
Debra Fraser-Howze

COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Honorable Laura Blackburne

Judith Butler-McPhie, Esq.

Imhotep Gary Byrd

Alma Carten-Morris, D.S.W.

Ruth Clark

Rev. Herbert Daughtry

R. Harcourt Dodds, Esq.

Hazel Dukes

Leonard G. Dunston

The Honorable C. Virginia Fields

Cora Fields

Cliff Frazier

Mindy Thompson Fullilove, M.D.

Elbert N. Gates, Esq.

Luther R. Gatling

Robert D. Gumbs

Rasheeda Abdul Hakeem

Marjorie J. Hill, Ph.D.

Stanley Hill

Jean Hodge

Ronald Johnson

David R. Jones, Esq.

Barbara Justice, M.D.

Sharon B. King

Cliff Love

Harriet R. Michel

Janet Mitchell, M.D., M.P.H.

The Honorable H. Carl McCall

The Honorable David Paterson

The Honorable Adam Clayton Powell, IV

Beny J. Primm, M.D.

Rev. Calvin Rice

Robert Vogel, Ph.D.

Dennis Walkott

Rev. Preston Washington, D. Min.

Rev. Lee H. Wesley, D. D.

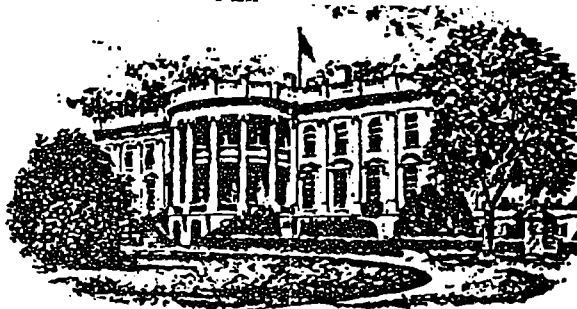
Marjorie Whigham-Desir

Rev. Canon Frederick Williams

Rev. Alfonso Wyatt

105 East 22nd Street
Suite 711
New York, NY 10010
Tel: 212 614-0023
Fax: 212 614-0057
e-mail: NBLCA@aol.com

National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FACSIMILE FROM: MATT PITCHER
OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 97

VOICE: (202)456-5517

FAX: (202) 456-5426

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 5

DATE: 1/12/99

TO: Todd Summers

VOICE: _____

FAX: 46-2438

☒ INCOMING LETTER(S) FROM: DeLo Runicans + Judith Billings

RE: Advisory Council Mtg. + support of POTUS

☒ FOR YOUR REVIEW

☐ PER MY E-MAIL OR VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE TO YOU

☐ PER YOUR REQUEST

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

I will e-mail you my draft responses to these 2 letters this morning ~~for~~ for your clearance. Thanks!

The Hay Adams Hotel

IN RESIDENCE

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
12-18-98

12-21

1403 McKennie Ave.
Nashville, TN 37206
Dec. 18, 1998

Dear Mr. President,

I want to thank you again for choosing me to be on your HIV/AIDS Advisory Council. These years of service have been the best part of my life's work. It has been an honor to serve my country with the extraordinary people that make up this historic group. And thank you for choosing me to be the voice representing people with HIV/AIDS at the '96 Democratic National Convention. It has been an honor to serve you in both these capacities.

Please know that you and your family are - and have been - in my prayers daily. I pray that God will hold you all in the palm of His heart; that He will keep you aware of His presence.

I don't know if you remember something that you said at our first meeting in July of '95, but I was so impressed that I wrote it down word for word. I've told the story many times in the speeches I've given since.

ACROSS FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE AT
ONE LAFAYETTE SQUARE
16TH & H STREETS, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
202-638-6800
FAX 202-638-2718

The Hay Adams Hotel

IN RESIDENCE

The day before our meeting Jesse Helms had been on the Senate floor saying awful, terrible things about people with AIDS, trying to get the Ryan White monies cut. He lost, 97-3.

The day we met one of the first things you said was, "Don't you just love Jesse Helms?" We all sat there quietly, stunned, waiting for the punchline. It only took a moment to realize that you were serious.

Then you explained, "He's the best friend of your movement, because when the darkest heart of the nation rises up through him into the light, we are so appalled at who we are, we rise to what we can become."

Today the darkest part of the nation's heart will once again rise up through the Congress. It is my prayer that Americans will become so appalled at who we are, that we will rise to what we can become.

Remember who you are and whose you are and stand tall. We who love you are holding you in the light.

Sincerely,

Debb Runions

ACROSS FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE AT
ONE LAFAYETTE SQUARE
16TH & H STREETS, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
202-638-6800
FAX 202-638-2716

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-18-98

The Hay Adams Hotel

12/21

IN RESIDENCE

December 18, 1998

President Clinton:

Not all of us had a chance to speak personally with you this evening, so I want to be sure you know how solidly I support you and your leadership as our President, my President.

I have had the honor of meeting you and speaking with you several times when I served as Superintendent of Public Instruction for Washington State. You have been such a good champion for educational equity and fair treatment for all our children regardless of their color, economic or social status.

As a person with AIDS I am also grateful for your continued support of numerous programs and initiatives on behalf of all of us who fight this disease in our own lives and for others. Please maintain your recognition of our responsibility in this battle both domestically and internationally.

ACROSS FROM

THE WHITE HOUSE AT

ONE LAFAYETTE SQUARE

16TH & H STREETS, N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20006

202-638-6600

FAX 202-638-2718

The Hay Adams Hotel

p. 2

IN RESIDENCE

Finally, let me say that I am horrified at the damage done to elemental justice and fairness in the proceedings against you. You have been denied protections by the law that would routinely be afforded any U. S. citizen.

Please remain strong in the knowledge that most of us believe in you and want you to stay in office and continue your good work.

May God grant you peace.

Judith Billings
HIV/AIDS Advisory Council
9821 74th Ave. E.
Puyallup, WA 98373-1249
253-845-5183

ACROSS FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE AT
ONE LAFAYETTE SQUARE
16TH & H STREETS, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20008
202-638-6600
FAX 202-638-2716

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR DANIEL BURKHARDT

From: Todd A. Summers 
Deputy Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
(202) 456-2437

Date: April 9, 1999

Subject: **Correspondence from PACHA**

I am attaching two letters to the President from the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS. As always, we will be happy to work with your staff on developing appropriate responses.

PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

April 8, 1999

**MEMORANDUM FOR SANDRA THURMAN,
DIRECTOR AND TODD SUMMERS, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR**

FROM: Daniel C. Montoya, Executive Director



RE: Letter to the President Addressing the Omnibus Appropriations
Bill of 1998

Attached is a letter to the President from the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS dated April 7, 1999. The letter addresses provisions of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 1998 and its potentially negative impact on government sponsored research. Please transmit this letter to the President.

Thank You.

PRESIDENTIAL

April 7, 1999

ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON
HIV/AIDS

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As your Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, we bring to your attention our concern with two sentences in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 1998 which have a potentially tremendous negative impact on publicly funded HIV/AIDS research. These two sentences would allow individuals (and corporations) to use the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to gain access to researchers' raw data whenever the research is funded by a federal grant.

The language provides: "That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget amend... Section -36 of OMB Circular A-1 10 to require Federal awarding agencies to ensure that all data produced under an award will be made available to the public through the procedures established under the Freedom of Information Act." A second sentence allows a "reasonable user fee" to be charged for the release of data. While the intent of this legislation in making information about this research available is laudable, the outcome could have detrimental effects.

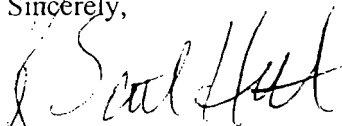
On January 6, Representative George Brown (D-CA), ranking Democrat on the House Science Committee, introduced H.R. 88 to repeal this provision, pointing out that the language as stands would require "the premature release of research results." Congressman Brown says his legislation would "protect researchers from harassment."

The Omnibus Appropriations language could have potentially serious and detrimental effects on all government sponsored research - including HIV/AIDS, by allowing:

- Early release of research data, which does not reflect the real and final truth;
- Mis-use of in accurate, partially completed research data;
- Potential for loss of subject confidentiality; and
- Potential loss of valuable time and effort on the part of researchers, who must devote energy to complying with this law, as opposed to performing the research for which funds were granted.

We urge you to support H.R. 88, and to support a similar repeal bill in the Senate.

Sincerely,



R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
Chair

cc: The Honorable George Brown
Sandra L. Thurman, Office of National AIDS Policy
Daniel Mendelson, Office of Management and Budget

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS

Stephen N. Abel, DDS
Mr. Terje Anderson
Ms. Regina Aragon
Barbara Aranda-Naranjo, PhD, RN
Ms. Judith Billings
Mr. Charles Blackwell
Mr. Nicholas Bollman
Jerry Cade, MD
Lynne M. Cooper, D. Min.
Rabbi Joseph Edelheit
Mr. Robert Fogel
Ms. Debra Fraser-Howze
Ms. Kathleen Gerus
Ms. Phyllis Greenberger
Nilsa Gutierrez, MD
Mr. Bob Hattoy
Mr. B. Thomas Henderson
R. Scott Hitt, MD, Chair
Michael Isbell, JD
Mr. Ronald Johnson
Mr. Jeremy Landau
Alexandra Mary Levine, MD
Mr. Steve Lew
Mr. Miguel Milanes
Ms. Helen Miramontes
Rev. Altagracia Perez
Michael Rankin, MD
Mr. H. Alexander Robinson
Ms. Debbie Runions
Mr. Sean Sasser
Mr. Benjamin Schatz
Ms. Denise Stokes
Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe
Bruce Weniger, MD

PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

April 8, 1999

**MEMORANDUM FOR SANDRA THURMAN,
DIRECTOR AND TODD SUMMERS, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR**

FROM: Daniel C. Montoya, Executive Director 
RE: Letter to the President Addressing the "Early Treatment for
HIV Act of 1999"

Attached is a letter to the President from the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS dated April 7, 1999. The letter addresses the "Early Treatment for HIV Act of 1999." Please transmit this letter to the President.

Thank You.

PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

April 7, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As your Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, we continue to be concerned by the large number of low-income Americans in the earlier stages of HIV disease who are unable to receive antiviral therapy and medical care because of current Medicaid eligibility restrictions.

We appreciate the hard work of the Health Care Financing Administration, the Office of National AIDS Policy, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget and others in the Administration to try to find ways to extend Medicaid coverage to such individuals within the constraints of a balanced budget agreement.

To assist in that effort, later this month Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Richard Gephardt, Senator Robert Torricelli, and other Members of Congress are preparing to introduce the "Early Treatment for HIV Act of 1999" in both the House and the Senate. This legislation would give states the option of providing Medicaid benefits to this population with full federal participation.

Mr. President, your active support of the "Early Treatment for HIV Act of 1999" could be tremendously helpful in achieving your laudable goal of expanding early access to treatment for low-income, uninsured individuals living with HIV disease.

Medicaid is the largest provider of health coverage to people with AIDS in this country. However, Medicaid eligibility policy has not caught up to current HIV treatment guidelines issued by government health experts more than eighteen months ago. These Public Health Service Guidelines recommend early medical care, and in many cases, the use of antiviral therapy in the earlier stages of HIV infection, before development of symptoms. Yet because Medicaid does not define such individuals as "disabled", many low-income, HIV-infected individuals are currently unable to receive HIV-related drugs and health care through the program.

Research released at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva provides additional evidence that early therapy for individuals infected with HIV

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
April 7, 1999
Page Two

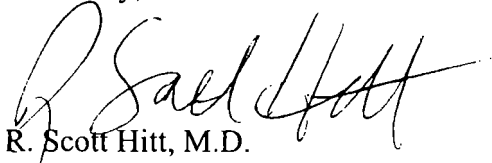
saves lives and is cost effective. A University of California San Francisco study found that, "expansion of the U.S. Medicaid system to provide wider access to combination antiretroviral therapy would prevent thousands of deaths and AIDS diagnoses, leading to 8,000 more years of life for persons with HIV" during just the next five-years.

In addition to preventing costly inpatient costs associated with treating HIV-related opportunistic infections, Medicaid expansion would also likely lead to substantial savings in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Individuals receiving earlier therapy would more likely maintain their health; in many cases, continue working or return to work; and be less likely to require government disability benefits.

For both public health and fiscal reasons, passage of the "Early Treatment for HIV Act of 1999" makes good sense. Powerful new drugs have given many people with HIV infection renewed hope in fighting this disease. It is imperative that federal health care programs catch up with the newest standards set by our nation's health experts.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this important issue. We will appreciate your assistance with the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Hitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
Chair

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Richard Gephardt
The Honorable Robert Torricelli
Nancy-Ann Min De Parle, Health Care Financing Administration
Sandra L. Thurman, Office of National AIDS Policy
David Beier, Office of the Vice President
Daniel Mendelson, Office of Management and Budget

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS

Stephen N. Abel, DDS
Mr. Terje Anderson
Ms. Regina Aragon
Barbara Aranda-Naranjo, PhD, RN
Ms. Judith Billings
Mr. Charles Blackwell
Mr. Nicholas Bollman
Jerry Cade, MD
Lynne M. Cooper, D. Min.
Rabbi Joseph Edelheit
Mr. Robert Fogel
Ms. Debra Fraser-Howze
Ms. Kathleen Gerus
Ms. Phyllis Greenberger
Nilsa Gutierrez, MD
Mr. Bob Hattoy
Mr. B. Thomas Henderson
R. Scott Hitt, MD, Chair
Michael Isbell, JD
Mr. Ronald Johnson
Mr. Jeremy Landau
Alexandra Mary Levine, MD
Mr. Steve Lew
Mr. Miguel Milanes
Ms. Helen Miramontes
Rev. Altagracia Perez
Michael Rankin, MD
Mr. H. Alexander Robinson
Ms. Debbie Runions
Mr. Sean Sasser
Mr. Benjamin Schatz
Ms. Denise Stokes
Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe
Bruce Weniger, MD

COPY
from ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

990407

April 2, 1999

Mr. Rick Stafford
Claire House
2182 St. Claire Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Rick:

Hillary and I were so sorry to learn that you've been going through such a difficult time. We are keeping you in our thoughts and praying for your strength and comfort.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

*Thank you for your years
of fine work on the Council
and for your strong support
for me and our Administration's
efforts. — You can be proud
of all you've done to make
America better.*

4/7

Todd —

For your files.

Don Blankenship

990406

April 2, 1999

Mr. Rick Stafford
Claire House
2182 St. Claire Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Rick:

Hillary and I were so sorry to learn that you've been going through such a difficult time. We are keeping you in our thoughts and praying for your strength and comfort.

Sincerely,

BC/MAH/DWB/ws (Corres. #4287727)
(4.stafford.r)

✓Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to
NH through Phil Caplan

CLEAR THRU PHIL CAPLAN

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
THE WHITE HOUSE 4-5-99
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1999

MR. PRESIDENT:

We've also attached a letter if
you don't want to make the call.

Phil Caplan

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-5-99
Recommended
Phone Call
to Rick
Stafford
- Send letter - (signed)
- Keep trying to call
PR

U

April 2, 1999

Mr. Rick Stafford
Claire House
2182 St. Claire Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Rick:

Hillary and I were so sorry to learn that you've been going through such a difficult time. We are keeping you in our thoughts and praying for your strength and comfort.

Sincerely,

BC/MAH/ws (Corres. #4287727)
(4.stafford.r)

Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to
NH through Phil Caplan

CLEAR THRU PHIL CAPLAN

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

4/3
Per Todd
Summers,
This is the
address to
use

Ray

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / mah /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/grtgs/stafford.mah

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Apr 02 1999 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 4287727

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC:

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Mr. Rick Stafford
Claire House
2182 St. Claire Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIALINSTR:

P-102c var.

Dear Rick:

Hillary and I were so sorry to learn that you've been going through such a difficult time. We are keeping you in our thoughts and praying for your strength and comfort.

Sincerely,

BC

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-5-99

99 APR 2 AM 10:04

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 2, 1999

RECOMMENDED PHONE CALL

See
letter

TO: Rick Stafford (Signal will connect you)

DATE: Friday, April 2, 1999

RECOMMENDED BY: Sandra Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
Todd Summers, Deputy Director, Office of National AIDS Policy

PURPOSE: To thank Rick for more than 3 years of service on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and to let him know your thoughts and prayers are with him.

BACKGROUND: Rick has been a long and ardent supporter of this Administration. As a person living with AIDS, he has been an active and valuable member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

In 1992, Rick became the country's first openly gay person elected as a chair of a major political party, the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. He also helped to organize the Minnesota AIDS Project.

His health has declined markedly and there is little expectation that he will live much longer. Rick has been a popular and important voice on the Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, and has been particularly supportive of Sandy Thurman and her office.

TALKING POINTS: You should tell Rick that Sandy [Thurman] has informed you that declining health has forced Rick to resign from the Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. You should also assure him that his work has evidenced the importance of having people living with HIV and AIDS on the Council, which you will continue to support.

You should thank Rick for his many years of service on the Council and his support of you, Sandy, and the Administration.

You should tell Rick that you and the First Lady will keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

18 December 1998

Dear Mr. President:

Your AIDS vaccine goal declaration was an inspiration around the world. But your courage and vision are now frustrated by halfhearted implementation, while essential needs remain untasked. Just sending additional funds designated for AIDS vaccines to the NIH will not solve these problems.

For example, your promise to create a dedicated AIDS vaccine research center towards achieving the goal has become a public relations embarrassment. The center's mission has blurred to cover all vaccines, and no one knows which scientists and labs will be folded into it. Its director will oversee but a small fraction of NIH's AIDS vaccine budget and have little external contracting authority. No wonder no accomplished vaccine scientist is willing to take the job, which remains unfilled 19 months after your Morgan State University speech.

What is needed are multiple, competing applied research teams with long-term institutional commitments behind them. These must be driven by performance goals and timelines, with strong, accountable leaders willing to risk failure to achieve success. Contracts must be let to engage the expertise of industry in producing various vaccine designs for which risk/return ratios discourage private investment. These are not the traditional strengths, mechanisms, nor philosophy of the NIH. When President Kennedy declared the goal of reaching the moon, he did not give the job to the grant-making National Science Foundation.

It is unwise to put all the AIDS vaccine eggs into one basket. New AIDS monies ought to go to streamlined entities which can act flexibly and quickly through international collaborations, such as the non-profit, private-sector International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. Underfunded vaccine programs at other capable agencies such as DoD and CDC should be ramped up to foster a healthy interagency competition in the race to the prize.

I would urge you to seek advice outside your science mandarins from experienced vaccine developers like General Philip K. Russell (US Army, ret.), Dr. Jerald Sadoff (Merck), and Dr. Myron Levine (University of Maryland), and to obtain independent counsel from public health statesmen like Dr. William Foege, Dr. D.A. Henderson, and Dr. Donald Kennedy.

What your AIDS vaccine goal lacks is a Basil O'Connor or a Vannevar Bush -- strong executives of great drive and visionary leadership appointed by President Roosevelt. With White House access and/or authority, they achieved such national priorities as developing the polio vaccine, mass-producing penicillin, perfecting radar, and building the bomb. They created the critical mechanisms for allocating tasks and resources among academia, industry, and government, so as to supersede parochialism and turf protection.

The pandemic is out of control and a growing threat to international security. A vaccine is the world's only hope. If your goal is pursued with substantial and comprehensive efforts, its first successful product will be called the Clinton vaccine, just as we honor Dr. Salk with his.

Respectfully yours,

Bruce G. Weniger

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1998

R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
Chair
Presidential Advisory Council
on HIV/AIDS
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Scott:

Thank you so much for your letters regarding the concerns of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. I have shared your letters with my staff at the Office of National AIDS Policy, and I regret that I was unable to respond sooner.

As you know, I declared recently that the increase in HIV/AIDS infections in minority communities is a severe and ongoing health care crisis. As a result, my Administration is in the process of unveiling a series of initiatives that will invest \$156 million to address this urgent problem. Working with the Congressional Black Caucus and many community members, we fought successfully in the recent budget negotiations to secure funding for these investments in prevention, care, and research. This special initiative builds on the great successes achieved in the Fiscal 1999 budget process. Again, working in partnership with members of Congress and community leaders, we were able to achieve historic increases in programs that fight this epidemic and care for those affected.

The rising incidence of HIV infection among those who use injected drugs, and among their partners and children, is a major factor in the continued growth of this epidemic. We fought diligently for removal of more restrictive measures in the District of Columbia appropriations bill and will continue to support retention of the HHS Secretary's authority on this issue.

Thank you again for sharing the concerns of the Council and for your personal commitment to bringing an end to this terrible epidemic. You have my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

May 27, 1998

Presidential Advisory Council
on HIV/AIDS
Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter regarding needle exchange programs and prevention of new HIV infections in the fight to end the AIDS epidemic.

I take the concerns you have raised very seriously. We all know that the rising incidence of HIV infection among those who use injected drugs, and among their partners and children, is a major factor in the continued growth of this epidemic. Therefore, I will continue to support retention of the HHS Secretary's authority to decide whether to allow local communities to use federal funds for needle exchange programs.

The report released recently by HHS indicates that needle exchange programs can help reduce HIV transmission without encouraging the use of illegal drugs. This scientific analysis should be of great use to local and state officials who are considering the implementation of needle exchange as part of their comprehensive HIV prevention strategies.

At the same time, we have tried to prevent the politicization of needle exchange efforts by keeping decisionmaking at the local level, and we are not at this time allowing federal funds to be used for such programs. More must be done to help the general public and those in Congress understand the role of needle exchange programs in our efforts to fight both HIV and illegal drug use. In the interim, the Office of National AIDS Policy, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Department of Health and Human Services will work together to improve our efforts to stop the spread of HIV among injection-drug users, their partners, and their children.

I appreciate the passion that you bring to the debate. Be assured that my commitment to ending this epidemic -- and to responding to the needs of those already living with HIV and AIDS -- remains firm. We must all work together to stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

BC/SSK/RSM/RLM/DWB/DWB/DC/emu-bws-ddj-ddj-emu

(Corres. #3933567)

(5.hitt.rs)

cc: Todd Summers, AIDS Policy

cc: W. Wondwossen, 93

cc: Sarah Knight, 93

SEND TO:

R. Scott Hitt, M.D.

Chair

Presidential Advisory Council
on HIV/AIDS

Suite 820

808 17th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

BILL CLINTON

March 17, 1998

PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President
The White House

Dear Mr. President,

When you told us at the White House Conference on HIV/AIDS in 1995 that you wanted to see our country “reduce the number of new infections each and every year until there are no more new infections,” we believed you. Thus, it is with great frustration and disappointment that we, the members of your Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, find it necessary to write this letter to you. We must express, in the strongest terms possible, our profound dismay regarding the lack of progress on the critical issue of removing the prohibition on the use of federal funds for comprehensive needle exchange programs.

Despite years of study and an overwhelming preponderance of scientific evidence, no action has been forthcoming. All six federally funded reports, an NIH Consensus Conference report, and many other reputable studies have concluded that needle exchange programs reduce HIV transmission and do not encourage drug use. In light of this overwhelming evidence—as well as support for needle exchange programs by the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and numerous other public health organizations across the country—the continuing delay by Secretary Shalala is appalling.

Tragically, we must conclude that it is a lack of political will, not scientific evidence, that is creating this failure to act. This political treatment of a public health issue is killing people; and it must cease.

According to studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half of the 40,000 annual new HIV infections in this country are transmitted through needle sharing. Thousands more are infected through sexual contact with needle users. Injection drug use also accounts for the overwhelming majority of the pediatric AIDS cases in this country.

That the populations hurt most by your Administration’s continued silence are largely poor African-Americans and Latinos is particularly shameful in light of your Race Initiative’s stated goal of ending health disparities among racial and ethnic groups. We as a nation will never succeed in this goal without your bold leadership and political courage.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
March 17, 1998
Page Two

It will be impossible to bring the epidemic to an end until you take decisive and effective action on this issue. Access to uncontaminated injection equipment, in conjunction with outreach, education, and referral and access to effective substance abuse treatment, is essential.

Additionally, we have yet to see any other coherent strategies or initiatives by the Administration to deal with the rampaging HIV epidemic among injection drug users, their partners, and their children. We are left with the unfortunate conclusion that their lives are considered to be expendable by those with decision-making power within this Administration.

Without action on this important matter, it is increasingly difficult to believe that your Administration is truly committed to ending new infections. As your advisors, we must tell you that this goal cannot be reached without action on this important item.

Mr. President, where do you stand on this issue?

We must further tell you that failure to act on this matter is destroying this Administration's credibility with people concerned about AIDS and is overshadowing the many other positive steps that have been made in combating this epidemic.

When the history of the AIDS epidemic is finally written, we do not want your legacy to be one of having failed to take a necessary step at a critical time to save thousands of lives.

We know that this issue is viewed by many as controversial. It is your leadership obligation to hear the varying viewpoints, weigh the scientific evidence, and make a Presidential decision on the matter. We fully believe that careful and honest consideration of the case on the merits can lead to only one conclusion: needle exchange programs decrease the transmission of HIV without encouraging drug use and, as such, are one important part of a continuum of activities to combat HIV.

Secretary Shalala must issue an immediate determination that needle exchange programs meet the two-pronged test laid out in the law and must remove the restriction on the use of federal funds where desired by state and local officials.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
March 17, 1998
Page Three

In the nearly three years of the Council's existence, we have issued numerous recommendations and letters on this issue, and there is tremendous impatience and anger in the community and among Council members that nothing has happened. Every day that passes without action can be measured in needless new infections, infections we know how to prevent. The time for study and unwarranted delay is over. We urgently implore you and Secretary Shalala to act immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Hitt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
Chair

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS Members:

R. Scott Hitt, M.D., Chair
Stephen N. Abel, D.D.S.
Terje Anderson
Regina Aragon, M.P.P.
Judith A. Billings, Esq.
Charles Blackwell
Nicholas Bollman
Jerry Cade, M.D.
Lynne M. Cooper, D.Min.
Rabbi Joseph Edelheit
Robert Fogel, Esq.
Debra Fraser-Howze, M.P.A.
Kathleen Gerus
Phyllis Greenberger, M.S.W.
Nilsa Gutierrez, M.D., M.P.H.
Bob Hattoy
B. Thomas Henderson, Esq.
Michael Isbell, Esq.
Ronald Johnson
Jeremy Landau
Alexandra Mary Levine, M.D.
Steve Lew
Miguel Milanes
Helen M. Miramontes, M.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Rev. Altagracia Perez
Robert M. Rankin, M.D., M.P.H.
H. Alexander Robinson, Esq.
Debbie Runions
Sean Sasser
Benjamin Schatz, Esq.
Richard W. Stafford
Denise Stokes
Charles Quincy Troupe
Bruce G. Weniger, M.D., M.P.H.

March 17, 1998

PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President

The White House

Dear Mr. President,

When you told us at the White House Conference on HIV/AIDS in 1995 that you wanted to see our country "reduce the number of new infections each and every year until there are no more new infections," we believed you. Thus, it is with great frustration and disappointment that we, the members of your Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, find it necessary to write this letter to you. We must express, in the strongest terms possible, our profound dismay regarding the lack of progress on the critical issue of removing the prohibition on the use of federal funds for comprehensive needle exchange programs.

Despite years of study and an overwhelming preponderance of scientific evidence, no action has been forthcoming. All six federally funded reports, an NIH Consensus Conference report, and many other reputable studies have concluded that needle exchange programs reduce HIV transmission and do not encourage drug use. In light of this overwhelming evidence—as well as support for needle exchange programs by the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and numerous other public health organizations across the country—the continuing delay by Secretary Shalala is appalling.

Tragically, we must conclude that it is a lack of political will, not scientific evidence, that is creating this failure to act. This political treatment of a public health issue is killing people; and it must cease.

According to studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half of the 40,000 annual new HIV infections in this country are transmitted through needle sharing. Thousands more are infected through sexual contact with needle users. Injection drug use also accounts for the overwhelming majority of the pediatric AIDS cases in this country.

That the populations hurt most by your Administration's continued silence are largely poor African-Americans and Latinos is particularly shameful in light of your Race Initiative's stated goal of ending health disparities among racial and ethnic groups. We as a nation will never succeed in this goal without your bold leadership and political courage.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

March 17, 1998

Page Two

It will be impossible to bring the epidemic to an end until you take decisive and effective action on this issue. Access to uncontaminated injection equipment, in conjunction with outreach, education, and referral and access to effective substance abuse treatment, is essential.

Additionally, we have yet to see any other coherent strategies or initiatives by the Administration to deal with the rampaging HIV epidemic among injection drug users, their partners, and their children. We are left with the unfortunate conclusion that their lives are considered to be expendable by those with decision-making power within this Administration.

Without action on this important matter, it is increasingly difficult to believe that your Administration is truly committed to ending new infections. As your advisors, we must tell you that this goal cannot be reached without action on this important item.

Mr. President, where do you stand on this issue?

We must further tell you that failure to act on this matter is destroying this Administration's credibility with people concerned about AIDS and is overshadowing the many other positive steps that have been made in combating this epidemic.

When the history of the AIDS epidemic is finally written, we do not want your legacy to be one of having failed to take a necessary step at a critical time to save thousands of lives.

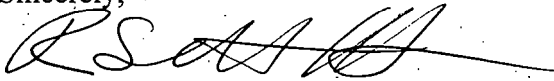
We know that this issue is viewed by many as controversial. It is your leadership obligation to hear the varying viewpoints, weigh the scientific evidence, and make a Presidential decision on the matter. We fully believe that careful and honest consideration of the case on the merits can lead to only one conclusion: needle exchange programs decrease the transmission of HIV without encouraging drug use and, as such, are one important part of a continuum of activities to combat HIV.

Secretary Shalala must issue an immediate determination that needle exchange programs meet the two-pronged test laid out in the law and must remove the restriction on the use of federal funds where desired by state and local officials.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
March 17, 1998
Page Three

In the nearly three years of the Council's existence, we have issued numerous recommendations and letters on this issue, and there is tremendous impatience and anger in the community and among Council members that nothing has happened. Every day that passes without action can be measured in needless new infections, infections we know how to prevent. The time for study and unwarranted delay is over. We urgently implore you and Secretary Shalala to act immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Hitt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Scott Hitt, M.D.
Chair

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS Members:

R. Scott Hitt, M.D., Chair
Stephen N. Abel, D.D.S.
Terje Anderson
Regina Aragon, M.P.P.
Judith A. Billings, Esq.
Charles Blackwell
Nicholas Bollman
Jerry Cade, M.D.
Lynne M. Cooper, D.Min.
Rabbi Joseph Edelheit
Robert Fogel, Esq.
Debra Fraser-Howze, M.P.A.
Kathleen Gerus
Phyllis Greenberger, M.S.W.
Nilsa Gutierrez, M.D., M.P.H.
Bob Hattoy
B. Thomas Henderson, Esq.
Michael Isbell, Esq.
Ronald Johnson
Jeremy Landau
Alexandra Mary Levine, M.D.
Steve Lew
Miguel Milanes
Helen M. Miramontes, M.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Rev. Altagracia Perez
Robert M. Rankin, M.D., M.P.H.
H. Alexander Robinson, Esq.
Debbie Runions
Sean Sasser
Benjamin Schatz, Esq.
Richard W. Stafford
Denise Stokes
Charles Quincy Troupe
Bruce G. Weniger, M.D., M.P.H.

**B. Thomas Henderson
4106 Bradwood Road
Austin, Texas 78722**

February 24, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge your rejection of any recommendation to report HIV infection by using the names of infected individuals. The potential for abuse of such information at the federal, state and local levels is enormous.

The need for improved surveillance of HIV infection is clear. The goals of collecting meaningful, accurate and current data on the prevalence and incidence of HIV infection and connecting as many HIV+ people as possible into care systems are consensus objectives on which almost all of us affected by the AIDS epidemic can agree. However, after a great deal of research and careful thought, I have yet to be convinced that the reporting of cases of HIV infection using the names of those infected accomplishes those goals in a more effective manner than a less intrusive system such as the use of unique identifiers.

Fear of discrimination against those with HIV disease is very real. Although passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was hailed as a hallmark in the protection of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, recent court decisions have cast considerable doubt on its application to those with asymptomatic HIV. Given this country's history of racial discrimination in the guise of public health initiatives, minority communities often distrust public health programs perceived as coercive.

And present assurances of confidentiality cannot prevent later evisceration of privacy guarantees. Once public health officials have compiled a list of individuals who are HIV+, whether at the national, state or even local level, there is no way to safeguard such a list from future overzealous "public health" efforts or misguided political mischief. Just as a legislature may enact confidentiality provisions, so too may it later create exceptions or revoke protections *en toto*.

The Honorable William J. Clinton

February 24, 1998

Page 2

I would urge in the strongest possible terms that the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control work to develop an effective HIV surveillance system using tools such as unique identifiers, blinded seroprevalance studies, mathematical modeling techniques, sentinel and random serosurveys, enhanced behavioral research and surveillance activities and other, similar, innovative methods, to ensure the privacy of and to reduce the potential discriminatory impacts on individuals and communities at risk for HIV infection. The rush to HIV names reporting is unwarranted and, I believe, ultimately counterproductive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Thomas Henderson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

B. Thomas Henderson

Member, President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

cc: ~~S~~andra Thurman
Paul Begala
Virginia M. Apuzzo
Richard Socarides

BTH/slm

PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISORY

COUNCIL ON

HIV/AIDS

July 26, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Reauthorization of your Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and recognition that only 40 months remain in your Presidency offer a valuable opportunity for taking stock of our shared commitment to defeat HIV disease. Securing unprecedented funding for AIDS, establishing the Offices of AIDS Research and National AIDS Policy, convening the White House Conference on HIV/AIDS, developing the first-ever National AIDS Strategy and setting a goal of development within a decade of a vaccine to prevent AIDS have been major milestones in this fight, milestones of which you can be justly proud.

We are concerned, however, about the growing perception that in your second term HIV/AIDS issues are not the high priority that they were during the first term and that certain Administration personnel may not share your personal commitment to these issues.

You clearly articulated in the National AIDS Strategy preamble the six simple, but vital goals necessary to end this epidemic. You have told us publicly and privately that you expect us to give you the truth, unvarnished, as we perceive it. In that spirit, we constantly strive to recognize both the accomplishments and inadequacies resulting from Administration actions and to ensure that perceptions of those actions mirror as closely as possible their realities.

As you stated in the opening words of your national strategy, "the epidemic of HIV and AIDS constitutes a public health crisis of unprecedented proportions." The challenges facing us require maintaining the urgency of the "crisis," while pursuing the permanent systemic changes necessary to deal with HIV/AIDS long after you leave office.

If we are to convert the promise of your words to reality for those affected by HIV disease, much remains to be done during the next 40 months.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
July 26, 1997
Page Two

The Council is currently reviewing the progress made toward addressing our earlier recommendations, and expects to complete a report in December that will assess both movement on issues and the performance of key Administration officials. During that evaluation process, several critical issues of concern have been raised:

- The Council had previously urged that HIV prevention and housing programs be added to the Administration's list of "investment priorities" that already covered HIV research and care programs. However, the FY 1998 balanced budget agreement with the Congress, is perceived by many as a step backwards in that it fails to maintain the protected status for any AIDS programs. If, in the future, that decision results in AIDS programs being forced to compete with countless other discretionary programs for sharply diminished funding, accomplishment of your stated goals will be seriously jeopardized.
- Acknowledging the dramatic changes in medical management of HIV disease, HRSA recently issued HIV treatment guidelines that recommend antiviral therapy at much earlier stages of HIV disease. Unfortunately, no strategy has been articulated for funding the requisite dramatic expansion in access to HIV therapies and the primary medical care to facilitate that access. The Administration's FY98 budget, for example, failed to propose any additional spending for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP) despite urging from 12 Governors of your strong support for adequate funding and also proposed inadequate funding increases for primary medical care through the Ryan White CARE Act. Presidential leadership will be essential to providing adequate resources for this vital safety-net program.
- In April, Vice President Gore announced a major Administration initiative, ordering a study within 30 days of a Medicaid demonstration project to allow States to cover low-income, non-disabled individuals with HIV. The proposed Medicaid expansion, long sought by the AIDS community, would address a serious deficiency in the Medicaid program that has generally required that adults with HIV infection become fully disabled before becoming eligible for coverage. That approach clearly impedes effective early intervention. Although the Vice President proposed only to study, rather than to implement immediately the proposed Medicaid expansion, his comments, which received widespread media attention, clearly indicated an intention to bring this proposal to fruition. Since that announcement, however, there has been little visible progress in making this proposal a reality. Clear direction to take all necessary action to quickly implement this initiative is essential.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

July 26, 1997

Page Three

- As an essential component of a strategy to achieve your goal of "reducing the number of new infections each and every year until there are no more new infections," your Council has strongly recommended a number of steps to deal with the role of injection drug use in the spread of HIV, including lifting the ban on federal funding for needle exchange programs. Five months ago, senior officials of the Department of Health and Human Services gave public assurance that the Administration intended to study the ban, with a view toward lifting current funding restrictions. However, a strategy for lifting the ban has not yet been developed. Little, if any, clear progress has been made on this crucial issue, notwithstanding the fact that tens of thousands of Americans become infected each year due to contaminated needles and that the science supporting the efficacy of needle-exchange programs is clear. Other potentially promising prevention strategies also remain mired by inaction on the part of Secretary Shalala and HHS.
- In the past, the Council was able to benefit from staff support at the Office of National AIDS Policy to shepherd Council recommendations through the federal bureaucracy. When announcing the appointment of your new Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy you pledged to provide that office with the resources necessary to accomplish your stated goals. The long-term, complex reality of HIV/AIDS will require the institutionalization of your Administration's policies. Systemic change is crucial. In order to ensure such change, adequate attention must be given to translating White House policy decisions into departmental rules, regulations, and policy directives. Staff within the Executive Office of the President must be charged with initiating and monitoring on a constant basis that effort. Based on our recent experiences, current staffing of the ONAP office is insufficient to accomplish your goal. Additional resource commitments and authority must be provided.
- The Council commends your declaration on May 18, 1997 of the goal to develop an effective AIDS vaccine within a decade. This bold step inspired many around the world. To achieve this goal, additional issues must be addressed: all relevant agencies within the federal government must be substantively involved in the AIDS vaccine effort; mechanisms of collaboration and cooperation should be implemented among these federal agencies; the U.S. Government must establish means to communicate, aid, and collaborate with international efforts for vaccine research, development and utilization; the government should facilitate public-private discussions to encourage cooperation and partnerships among government and industry; and specific sources of new funding for AIDS vaccine development must be identified.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
July 26, 1997
Page Four

Action on these items is needed immediately not only to continue our long national fight against the disease but to reassure the AIDS community that your Administration still sees HIV/AIDS as the important priority you so clearly made it during your first term. We would like the opportunity to meet soon with you and any appropriate Administration officials to best determine how to advance our common agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Hitt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Scott Hitt, M.D.

Chair, on behalf of the members of
the Presidential Advisory Council
on HIV/AIDS