

NLWJC - Kagan

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Health - Prenatal Care

RESIDENT HAS SEEN
12/30/96

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: TODD STERN
HELEN HOWELL

SUBJECT: Recent Information Items

LYN -
pls. draft a thoughtful
reply. Thanks.
BR

cc: Elena
cm - Tickle file, Post file

We are forwarding the following recent information items:

(A) **Don Ernst memo on D.C. schools initiative.** Ernst urges a presidential effort to coordinate the improvement and renewal of the D.C. public schools and he offers his help, for example, in bringing together representatives of major educational organizations to explore the human and other resources they might contribute to help address D.C.'s problems.

(B) **"More Benefits, Fewer Burdens" -- OMB's report to the President on reforming our regulatory system.** From Sally Katzen and Frank Raines. This sixty-page, glossy report documents efforts made by the Administration to carry out the Executive Order (no. 12866) that you signed in September 1993 entitled "Regulatory Planning and Review." The Report has chapters on "Developing Better Regulations," "Reinventing Existing Regulations," and "Changing the Culture of the Regulatory System." We've included the introductory letter from Frank and Sally to you. Let us know if you want to see the whole report.

(C) **Letter from Dr. Henry Foster.** Raises three issues. First, he urges that universal access to perinatal services be our next incremental health care goal. He says U.S. is only industrialized country that fails to provide universal care to pregnant women and unborn, and roughly estimates that we could do this for about \$2.8 billion/year. Second, he urges that "superlative day-care services" are an integral part of welfare reform, especially important for purposes of stimulating infants and enhancing their speech development. Third, he advocates revisiting the idea of special schools exclusively structured for teenagers for whom parenthood is imminent -- though he sees this not as an Administration initiative, but as something that should be a local option. Finally, he reminds you that you have an unfinished golf date.

(D) **"Latinos in California: the Next Italians," The Economist, December 14.** Via Sec. Cisneros. The article concerns the movement of Latinos into the middle-class in California and, as Henry says, "the burgeoning political force Latinos represent." He believes this development "has great significance for your work."

Send to
UP/Elena
Return to @ Lynn

To CR/BR
PLS advise on
membership
9/1 @ Lynn

cc UP/Strand



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-30-96

'96 DEC 24 AM 6:50

*CRJ/Rowe
As advisor health care
9/1 -
Need my copy*

Personal and confidential

December 14, 1996

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

Dear Mr. President:

First and foremost, congratulations on your decisive election victory. The hard work and commitment of so many has been rewarded and the American people will be the beneficiaries.

*value in letter
sent 1/20*

Hopefully, you have received a copy of the annual report I prepared for you regarding my function as your Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Youth Issues. It provides an overview of the activities conducted during the past year.

By writing you this personal correspondence, I have three policy issues that I wish to present briefly for your consideration. In preparing this note, I've kept in mind what Mark Twain once told a friend which was, "If I had had more time I would have written a shorter letter." Hence, I've taken the extra time in an effort to be succinct.

The first issue is one upon which I urge your most deliberate consideration. It is my assessment that legislative changes toward health care reform for now are very likely to be incremental. Given this I would strongly urge that universal access to perinatal services be this administration's next goal with respect to health care implementation policy. Being an obstetrician/gynecologist, perhaps I can't be totally objective, but I am certain that this is the correct move--both altruistically and pragmatically. Among industrialized nations only the U. S. fails to provide universal health care for its pregnant women and their unborn children--the most vulnerable among us. The real irony is, providing this care is so doable--in fact, so easily doable. This doesn't begin to equate with trying to provide health care for the

37 million uninsured; in fact, there are only 4 million annual births in the U. S. and of this number only about 22% are without comprehensive perinatal care which is well less than a million births. Based on \$3200 per pregnancy, I would estimate a total annual cost of \$2.8 billion which is just about what we spend each day on our overall health care. Of course HCFA can provide harder numbers. This seems like an issue that would attract bipartisan support. What a wonderful accomplishment this would be for the future of our nation.

The second issue relates to welfare reform. An excellent opportunity exists for us to break a vicious cycle for children at high risk if we can only muster the national will to do so. An integral component of welfare reform needs to be superlative day-care services. By providing such service, an early opportunity is presented to enhance infant stimulation and to contribute to their speech development at a point when the developing brain is a veritable sponge for languages. Speech functions as perhaps you know better than most are functions so vital to perform effectively in today's highly complex technological society. Give this concept your thought.

Lastly, let me put forth an idea that I have not openly espoused on my speaking circuit primarily because of its potential to have political implications if not handled adroitly. However, notwithstanding this and because I feel the idea has such significant intrinsic value, I will put it forth to you first.

With respect to pregnant adolescents, I feel it's time to revisit what I like to characterize as dedicated (alternative) schools; schools specifically and exclusively structured for adolescents for whom parenthood is imminent. I have attempted to use logic in reaching this position. The new and timely National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy which you established in February of this year has appropriately set as one of its goals the assurance that our youth grow up with a pregnancy-free adolescence and that being sexually active as unmarried adolescents is not the norm. Hence, based on this premise it is logical that dedicated or alternative schools for expecting teen parents, boys and girls, are clearly in the best interest of both groups of students i.e., those in the midst of becoming parents and those who are not. The new responsibilities of parenting are enormous and can best be addressed in a specialized setting such as that a dedicated school can provide. And for those youth who are free of teen parenting, they should not have the distractions of those needing to learn parenting skills. It's a win-win situation but I'm not naive-I know those opposed to this position will assert that the measure is being done for punitive reasons. However it's not. Further, I am not suggesting this as an administrative position for I recognize that this is not a decision that ought to be made in Washington; rather it should be a local option made at the local level.

Perhaps we'll get a chance to discuss these and other issues at some point. And remember we still have an unfinished golf date.

Every best wish to you and your family for a most enjoyable holiday season and a highly productive new year.

With warm regards,

Hank

Henry W. Foster, Jr., M. D.

5186/840/F961214

January 27, 1997

Henry W. Foster, Jr., M.D.
Senior Advisor to the President
Teen Pregnancy Reduction and Youth Issues
Room 717H
Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Hank:

Thank you so much for your recent letter and your kind congratulations on my election victory. I could never have done it without the support and commitment of close friends like you.

Also, thank you for the copy of the annual report you prepared for me outlining your accomplishments as my Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention. From the looks of it, you certainly had a busy year. I applaud your unflagging work in leading this important effort, and I know our nation's young people thank you.

I also appreciate your comments regarding health care, welfare reform, and schools for pregnant adolescents. Here are my thoughts on some of your proposals.

Universal access to perinatal services is an important policy goal and one for which I know you have passion. As I begin my second term, I plan to build on the health care successes of my first four years by expanding health care coverage for working families and children. This expansion, of course, should include perinatal care. I believe we can ensure high quality in our rapidly changing health care system while also balancing the budget.

Regarding welfare reform and the need for quality child care, I can't agree with you more. Without making quality child care available to the poor who need it, the welfare reform effort will suffer, and, more important, so will children. I am working hard to ensure that families who need child care have access to quality care for children of all ages, including

infants. This is the only way we can ensure that all of our nation's children receive the same opportunities for positive growth and success.

Your idea for dedicated schools for teen parents is interesting. The logic for separating adolescents who are not pregnant from those who are expectant parents is good. I believe, as you do, that expecting teens would thrive in a specialized school setting that addresses the responsibilities of parenthood. This is the very logic I used when I decided to support Second Chance Homes for teen mothers who receive welfare. I will give your idea additional thought and hope to discuss it with you.

As always, I wish you and your family happiness and good health. And I look forward to playing that golf game with you soon.

Sincerely,

BC/JAD/DWB/emu-ws (Corres. #3347983)
(1.foster.hw)

Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to NH through Todd Stern

CLEAR THRU TODD STERN

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

The White House
Office of Presidential Letters and Messages



Facsimile from Sarah Freeman
Voice : (202) 456-5514; FAX: (202) 456-5426

Number of pages including cover: 3

Date: 11/27/97

To: Lyn Hogan

Voice: () 65567

FAX: () 65581

Comments: Please call me ASAP +
let me know if the final
version of yr letter to Henry
Foster is OK or if you want
to make any changes

thanks

Sarah