

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Clinton Library

Collection: Domestic Policy Council - Rasco, Carol

Archivist: rfw

OA/Box: OA 8251

File Folder: Exceptional Parent [1]

Date: 3/26/04

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
---------------------	---------------	------	-------------

1. Memo

To Stanley Herr from Marvin Krislov, 1p

4/16/94

P5

P1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
P2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].

P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].

P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].

P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

RESTRICTIONS

B1 National security classified information [(b) (1)-of the FOIA].

B2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].

B3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].

B4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].

B6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].

B7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].

B8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

B9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

Domestic Policy and Mental Retardation

by Stanley S. Herr

The Domestic Policy Council has a full docket of issues that concern the mental retardation community. Staffed by Carol H. Rasco, the mother of a child with various disabilities, the Council is composed of the President, Vice President and 22 other high-ranking federal officials. The American Health Security Act is clearly one issue on the Council's front burner. This massive 1,342-page bill will provide universal coverage, a guaranteed benefits package, protection from discrimination in health care, and new approaches that will substantially improve access to health services for Americans with mental retardation. The inclusion of long-term services within this package will also yield new resources to support home and community-based services.

The Clinton Administration is also strongly committed to the full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which President Clinton recently described as a "national pledge of civil rights for people with disabilities." In proclaiming October as National

Disability Employment Awareness Month, the President called for concrete steps to "ensure that individuals with disabilities will not be excluded from the social, cultural and economic mainstream."

The first fruits of the Administration's legislative agenda have now been harvested. The mental retardation community can benefit from the implementation of such new laws as the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, P.L. 103-3 (February 5, 1993) and the National Community Service Trust Act of 1993, P.L. 107-85 (September 21, 1993). The former will permit families experiencing a birth, adoption or medical emergency to take unpaid leave with job security. The latter will enable people with mental retardation to be both volunteers and to receive new voluntary services. AAMR members should become involved at the state level to shape this program and to request Americorps volunteers for their communities.

As a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow, I arrived on the scene on August 23rd. [See box this page. —Ed.] The White House is

always a busy place, but there truly has never been a dull moment over the past few months. Historic events like the Israeli-PLO accords signed on the White House's South Lawn reminded me of the potential for joint cooperation to build better lives for people with mental retardation and their families in the affected region, linking domestic expertise with channels of international exchange. A procession of outstanding appointments to the Administration — Gary Blumenthal at the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, Dr. Shirley Chater at the Social Security Administration, Bob Williams at the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and Judy Heumann at the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services — offers a leadership that is dynamic, accessible, and committed to President Clinton's credo in the field of disabilities. And so it is a privilege to work together as a nation and a professional field with people with disabilities in moving from dependence to independence, exclusion to inclusion, and paternalism to empowerment. ■



Herr Awarded White House Fellowship

Stanley S. Herr has been awarded a Kennedy Public Policy Fellowship by The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation to work with the White House. As a full-time volunteer with the Domestic Policy Council, Herr reports directly to Carol H. Rasco, President Clinton's chief domestic policy advisor. His primary focus is on issues and policies affecting people with mental retardation and their families. Professor Herr is on leave from the University of Maryland School of Law and is a member of the Board of Directors of AAMR.

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR EVERYONE

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

BY PETER DAVID BLANCK
SENIOR FELLOW

BASED ON A CONFERENCE HELD ON APRIL 11, 1994
SPONSORED BY THE ANNENBERG WASHINGTON PROGRAM

**THE ANNENBERG
WASHINGTON PROGRAM**

*Communications Policy Studies
Northwestern University*

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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

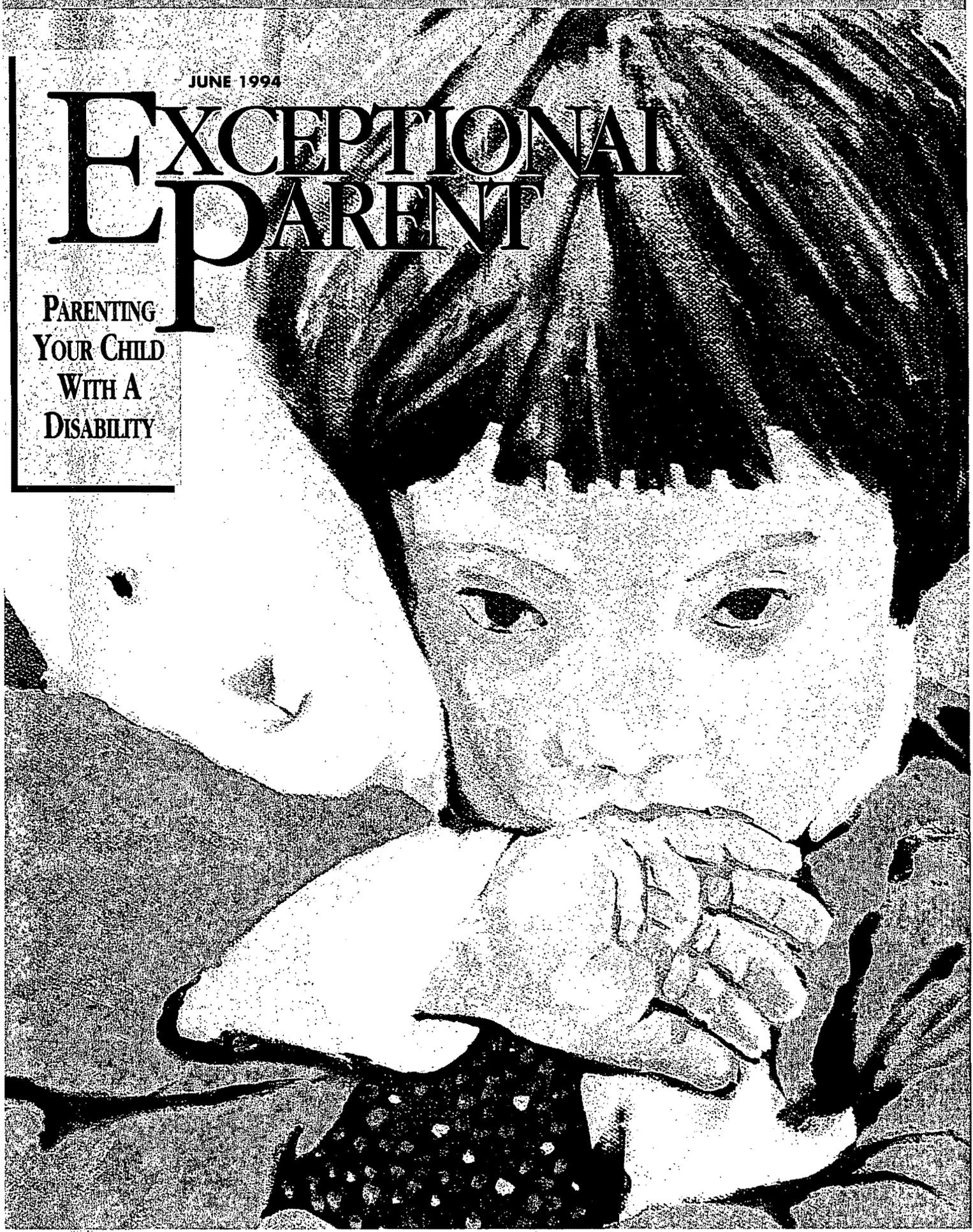
This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

JUNE 1994

EXCEPTIONAL PARENT

PARENTING
YOUR CHILD
WITH A
DISABILITY



Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

SPECIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ISSUE

JUNE 1994

EXCEPTIONAL PARENT

PARENTING
YOUR CHILD
WITH A
DISABILITY



Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

05-May-1994 04:06pm

TO: Carol H. Rasco

FROM: Stanley S. Herr
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: RE: Thank you!

I'm delighted you like the Addison quote.

Speaking of Addison, I should have a draft of your article for Exceptional Parent done by COB today. Chris H. looked it over, offered a few helpful edits, and said she liked it very much. Hope you will, too!

If you approve it, the magazine's editors would run it in their June issue. I think that timing would work very nicely with health care reform, and with the time of school graduations.

Stan Klein, the editor, would like, if possible, to have a photo of you and Hamp to run with story. I'm sure your photo alone would also make them quite happy. But all that can wait till you see the copy. It pulls together excerpts from your Arc speech, the President's Memphis speech, along with a new core of health care points, Hamp's speech, and a very moving set of a parent's goals for her now 2-year-old daughter. That parent (Linda Charlton) has very kindly given us full permission to publish any part of her PCMR remarks if we think it would be of any help to parents. I think it certainly would.

Have a good afternoon!

EXCEPTIONAL PARENT

PARENTING
YOUR
CHILD
WITH A
DISABILITY

*Stanley D. Klein, Ph.D.
Editor in Chief*

FAX TRANSMISSION

Fax No: 202-456-7028

To: Stanley Herr

Date: May 26, 1994

Subject: Thanks

No. of pages: 14 |

Hello Stan,

Thanks very much for all your help. I just got back from a week jet setting around the USA and was very pleased to find that everything had been taken care of.

Let's be sure to stay in touch. Your input is always welcome. I have a copy of your JAMA article and hope to read it soon.

Here is a copy of my signature etc. I will also drop this in the mail.

Please extend my appreciation to Carol. Tell her that I hope to be able to thank her in person some day soon!

Best regards,

Stan

INFORMATION THAT MATTERS, FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE

209 Harvard Street, Suite 303 • Brookline, MA 02146-5005 • (617) 730-5800 • Fax: (617) 730-8742

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1994

Stanley D. Klein
Editor in Chief
Exceptional Parent
209 Harvard Street, Suite 303
Brookline, MA 02146

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your visit last week.

Here's the final version that I faxed you today. Let's hope events don't require any further changes in the text.

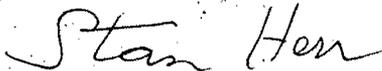
Although Carol will not copyright this article because of her official duties, all the other understandings on its free use confirmed in our earlier letter of May 6th still stand. For convenience, I quote from the second paragraph of that letter:

"So that she may reach the widest possible audience, it is our understanding that Ms. Rasco will retain the full rights to reproduce, republish, or otherwise disseminate this manuscript or any of its parts in any form, with the need to obtain any permission from you or your magazine."

To acknowledge this understanding, kindly sign and date a copy of this letter and return to me at your earliest convenience to 224 OEOB, Washington, DC 20500.

I look forward to reviewing the galleys and am pleased that this article will be appearing in the next issue of Exceptional Parent.

Sincerely,



Stanley S. Herr
Kennedy Public Policy Fellow

Countersigned by:


Stanley D. Klein

May 26, 1994

FAX

DATE: Wednesday, May 25, 1994

FROM:

TO:

Mr. Stan Herr, White House Domestic Policy Council

FAX: 1,202 456 7028,05

TO:

FROM:

Philip Denlinger
Stan Klein

FAX (617) 730-8742

PAGES: 3

MEMO

Enclosed please find two pages with corrections:

On page 3/6, replace comma with ~~es~~ colon in two places before multiple sentence quote per Chicago Style Manual, and to make consistent with punctuation before Addison quote on same page

On page 5/6, please check for broken type (or whatever) at the circled places. It should be "H" and not "II"

Kindly confirm receipt of this FAX and send me the corrected pages.

Otherwise the article looks fine, and I'm glad you got the photos you needed.

Stan

They will
honor
me

A — A

EXCEPTIONAL PARENT

PARENTING
YOUR
CHILD
WITH A
DISABILITY

FAXTRANSMISSION

Fax No: 202-456-7028

To: Stanley Herr

Date: May 26, 1994

Subject: Thanks

No. of pages: 1-4 |

Hello Stan,

Thanks very much for all your help. I just got back from a week jet setting around the USA and was very pleased to find that everything had been taken care of.

Let's be sure to stay in touch. Your input is always welcome. I have a copy of your JAMA article and hope to read it soon.

Here is a copy of my signature etc. I will also drop this in the mail.

Please extend my appreciation to Carol. Tell her that I hope to be able to thank her in person some day soon!

Best regards,

Stan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1994

Stanley D. Klein
Editor in Chief
Exceptional Parent
209 Harvard Street, Suite 303
Brookline, MA 02146

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your visit last week.

Here's the final version that I faxed you today. Let's hope events don't require any further changes in the text.

Although Carol will not copyright this article because of her official duties, all the other understandings on its free use confirmed in our earlier letter of May 6th still stand. For convenience, I quote from the second paragraph of that letter:

"So that she may reach the widest possible audience, it is our understanding that Ms. Rasco will retain the full rights to reproduce, republish, or otherwise disseminate this manuscript or any of its parts in any form, with the need to obtain any permission from you or your magazine."

To acknowledge this understanding, kindly sign and date a copy of this letter and return to me at your earliest convenience to 224 OEOB, Washington, DC 20500.

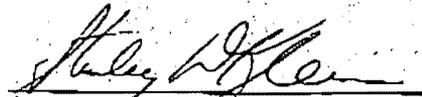
I look forward to reviewing the galleys and am pleased that this article will be appearing in the next issue of Exceptional Parent.

Sincerely,



Stanley S. Herr
Kennedy Public Policy Fellow

Countersigned by:


Stanley D. Klein

May 26, 1994

succeed and we won't always be able to do everything that we want. But with your energy and resolve, we can have health security now. And I can promise you this: we will never relent in our effort to give every person a chance to develop -- fully. Because, at the end of Bill Clinton's second term at the start of the third millennium, I want to be able to say to Hamp Rasco and Mary-Margaret Rasco and to all of America, with a clear conscience and a full heart -- we did our best. And for all our children's sakes, I want each of us to be able to look at one another and say -- we did our best.

Carol H. Rasco is the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy. In this capacity, she is President Clinton's chief domestic policy adviser, coordinating the staff of the White House Domestic Policy Council. She is the mother of Mary-Margaret Rasco and Hamp Rasco.

* This article is a revised and expanded version of remarks delivered by Ms. Rasco to the Arc Governmental Affairs Seminar, held in Washington, D.C., on March 21, 1994. All rights reserved.

*deleted
called in
to Kline 5/18
at 11:32*

~~by the author,~~ Nonprofit and disability organizations may freely
make copies of this article for their members' information.

Article for Exceptional Parent, 5-18-94

For further information and liaison,
contact Stan Herr at (202) 456-5570.

items in bold revised from prior version -- remove bold from printed version.; [called in two sentence deletion to Andrew B at 5:16th 10:30 following conversation with Jennifer Klein.

Jennifer : please see page 4 for my latest and hopefully final attempt to get something out that reflects the public record. I spoke briefly with Silverstein on other matters last night, and he said he felt confident about his outpatient rehabilitation language.

Stan

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

By Carol H. Rasco

I come to you to express my deep commitment, and that of the Administration, to the empowerment of people with disabilities.*

Those of you who work in this field -- whether as volunteers professionals, or family members -- boost our determination and our capacity to resolve the tremendous challenges that remain before us. Your dedication and compassion inspires us to embrace the responsibility of meeting them.

As a parent who worked exclusively in this field as volunteer until my son was seven and who now works as a policymaker, I want to tell you about some of the ideas and

individuals that inspire me in my daily work. Although I will focus here on health care reform, our reform agenda also extends from education reform to welfare reform, and from safer streets to safer transitions to adulthood for all our youth.

The White House Domestic Policy Council coordinates the efforts of the Administration, the Cabinet secretaries, and the other federal agencies involved with the development of every aspect of our nation's domestic policy. As a director of the Council's day-to-day work, I bring a strong determination that all children shall be empowered to develop to their fullest potential. To meet this crucial goal, our children need each of us to believe in them and we as parents need the opportunities to nurture their growth.

As President Clinton has recently stated, "Having a disability does not diminish one's right to participate in all aspects of mainstream society." On the Domestic Policy Council we take that right very seriously. Working together in public-private partnerships, we are responding to the President's call

to "craft policies of inclusion, independence, and empowerment that will inspire positive changes in this country and in nations around the world."

Health care reform is an indispensable part of that mission. The President's health care plan is a dramatic advance for people with disabilities and their families. Here's why:

- It guarantees universal coverage for all Americans, and the peace of mind of having health care that is always there.
- It outlaws the current insurance practices of excluding people with pre-existing health or disability conditions, or of jacking up your rates if you get sick or become disabled.
- It forbids insurance companies from picking only the lowest-risk individuals and families, and rejecting others.
- It builds on today's private insurance system, which is primarily employer-based, while making insurance more affordable for the self-employed and subsidized for the unemployed. As a result, no one will be uninsured, even if they or members of their family experience a disability, injury, or sickness.

• It offers a nationally uniform and comprehensive benefit package -- in contrast to some of the other legislative proposals -- that includes a range of preventive services, doctor and hospital visits, outpatient rehabilitation, home health care, adapted durable medical equipment (including orthotic and prosthetic devices and training in the use of those items), mental health services, and many other essential services.

[[Jennifer --- here's the revised two sentences based on what's in the public record (which I now have before me) that, as we discussed yesterday, seems fair and helpful to include. Stan]]

Furthermore, under Senator Kennedy's proposal -- now in Congressional committee markup -- outpatient rehabilitation services would be available to those who need them to restore capacity or minimize limitations as a result of illness, injury, "disorder or other health condition." To maintain functioning or to prevent or minimize deterioration, such services would be provided through a four-step process: initial evaluation and periodic oversight by a qualified rehabilitation health

professional; design of a maintenance or prevention program; instructions for the patient, family members, or support personnel to carry out the program; and patient reevaluations.

END OF REVISION.

- It provides a major expansion of long-term care coverage by adding home and community-based services for people with severe disabilities, regardless of age or income. With a projected three million people with disabilities and their families benefitting from this new program, this coverage allows people with disabilities to live in their own homes -- with their families where appropriate -- and to enjoy fuller and more satisfying lives.

- It adds significant civil rights protections for the enjoyment of health care benefits, consumer involvement in the design of the new home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities, and health care "report cards" so that families can assess which health plan best fits their needs and reward that plan with their membership.

The disability rights movement can play a critical role in this drive for universal coverage. On May 2nd, I was delighted to be with the President as he hosted 125 leaders of the disability community in a tremendously enthusiastic rally for health care reform. As the President emphasized: "This is a battle that you may be able to lead for the rest of America.... And so I ask you: Be an agent of change, an agent of empowerment. Never forget that you are carrying on your shoulders not only your cause, but ours as well. You can break through to those members of Congress. You can do it." From the White House, these leaders were joined by about a thousand others who marched across the Memorial Bridge to rally at the Lincoln Memorial, then to lobby on Capital Hill.

Now is the time to guarantee health security for ourselves, for our children, and for the generations to come. Without secure health coverage, too many of us are not free to change jobs or to move to a different location or to venture from disability rolls to payrolls. Without that security, employers

may be reluctant to hire a person with a disability or a person with a family member who is disabled.

These basic principles unite us. But it is our common love for our families that propels us to act.

Early in my son's life, a physical therapist who had dedicated her long career to helping young children with disabilities shared with me the words of essayist and poet Joseph Addison, "Everyone must have something to do, someone to love, something to hope for."

I am constantly reminded of those words not only for Hamp, but for all the people with whom I've worked. In our quest to empower people, we must strive to fulfill these ends at each stage in life. In this process, we have myriad questions to ask and actions to take.

What do persons with disabilities have to do? For a young child, is a preschool program or other early intervention available? For a school-age child, is school relevant, safe, and effective? Are our schools and transitional programs

teaching both how to make a living and how to live? And, for adults, is there a job or day activity or voluntary service that satisfies and excites? As President Clinton said in Memphis last November, "I do not believe we can repair the basic fabric of society until people who are willing to work have work. Work organizes life. It gives structure and discipline to life. It gives meaning and self-esteem to people who are parents. It gives a role model to children.... We cannot, I submit to you, repair the American community and restore the American family until we provide the structure, the value, the discipline, and the reward that work gives." Those powerful thoughts are particularly apt, for our citizens with disabilities who, too often, experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment.

What do they have to hope for? And what do we who love them have to hope for? Linda Charlton, mother of a two-year-old daughter with Down syndrome, recently described her goals for her

Katie before a superb and productive meeting of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

"First, we want her to feel loved...to give her a sense of high self-esteem so that she can experience life with confidence. She is a very social child, and while I think she has the capacity to make many friends, I wonder how other children will accept her. We envision her attending public schools, at least for the most part, and one day we hope to see her graduate from high school. There's even a part of us that hopes she'll continue her education after that...but we'll have to wait and see, and we'll also have to see what it is that Katie wants to do. I wonder if she'll ever get married...if she doesn't, I hope at least she has a companion to enjoy life with. And if we could, we'd like to see her remain as happy as she is today...Our Katie -- who loves people, music, dogs, rain, sunshine, swings, cookies, apricots, baths, and the color red.

These are dreams and feelings to which any parent can relate. Many of them were fulfilled for me when my son Hamp was asked last year by the members of his graduating class to give one of the commencement addresses at his high school. I will never forget that moment, nor will Hamp. Here was the young man whom we were once told would not survive, or if he passed the hurdle of his first days would have to be institutionalized. But Hamp defied those predictions, living at home and attending school with his non-disabled peers. This is the speech that he

wrote, on his own, politely declining his mother's offer of help.

Hamp said that this was his speech to give.

"Hello, my name is Hamp Rasco. I am pleased to share with you what attending Hall High has meant to me.

I enjoyed the pep assemblies and the band. I enjoyed talking with friends in the cafeteria, and going out into the community with my CBI class.

After graduation I plan to find a job in the community where my social skills can be put to use. This is important to me because I want to make new friends with all kinds of people.

I would like to encourage other students with special needs to never give up, work hard to do a good job and be proud and happy about what you do at school.

I want to thank Dr. Anderson and the Vice Principals for their support of my program. I want to tell Ms. Chapman and Mr. Smith how much I appreciate all the work they have done on my behalf and all students with special needs. And I also thank Ms. Yates. And, finally, I especially want to thank my parents for believing in me and always encouraging me to be all that I can be. I really hate to leave all my friends at Hall, but I must move on.

Thank you. Good evening."

Like Hamp, we must all move on. Great challenges lie ahead, indeed. And as you well know, they are not limited to health care reform. From the White House to your house, we must work together. We need to reassure the countless young people like Hamp across this country that they will always have health insurance, that they can have jobs, and that they are an essential part of life in our communities. For, surely, people

deserve something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for to be whole and part of whole communities.

The leaders of the disability community are campaigning to achieve these goals and objectives. I want sincerely to thank all those leaders, including Paul Marchand and the rest of Arc's Government Relations staff, for their hard work in fighting to bring health security to every American. In addition, I commend the 100 sister organizations united in the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities for their steadfast support. Now, we must intensify those efforts. We must each tell our personal stories so that members of Congress have before them the human faces of health care reform. We need each of you to help seize this moment of opportunity to guarantee private insurance for all our citizens, coverage that offers you choice, comprehensive benefits, and freedom from unfair and exclusionary insurance practices.

I believe that a new day has dawned for America's citizens with disabilities and for all our people. We won't always

page 2 of letter to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation

I therefore appeal to you to avoid cuts in HPRP's budget that would hinder its momentum or damage its ability to reach out to serve the poorest of the poor.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Stanley S. Herr

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER
LISTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1994

Stanley D. Klein
Editor in Chief
Exceptional Parent
209 Harvard Street, Suite 303
Brookline, MA 02146

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your visit last week.

Here's the final version that I faxed you today. Let's hope events don't require any further changes in the text. -

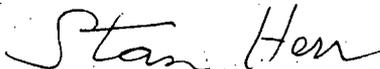
Although Carol will not copyright this article because of her official duties, all the other understandings on its free use confirmed in our earlier letter of May 6th still stand. For convenience, I quote from the second paragraph of that letter:

"So that she may reach the widest possible audience, it is our understanding that Ms. Rasco will retain the full rights to reproduce, republish, or otherwise disseminate this manuscript or any of its parts in any form, with the need to obtain any permission from you or your magazine."

To acknowledge this understanding, kindly sign and date a copy of this letter and return to me at your earliest convenience to 224 OEOB, Washington, DC 20500.

I look forward to reviewing the galleys and am pleased that this article will be appearing in the next issue of Exceptional Parent.

Sincerely,



Stanley S. Herr
Kennedy Public Policy Fellow

Countersigned by: _____
Stanley D. Klein

May __, 1994

Article for Exceptional Parent, revised 5-20-94

For further information and liaison,
contact Stan Herr at (202) 456-5570.

items in bold revised from prior version -- remove bold from
printed version.; ~~[called in two sentence deletion to Andrew B at
5:16th 10:30 following conversation with Jennifer Klein.~~

Only
changes
are in
p 4-5
and p 12

price change
called in on p. 12

Stan Klein: please see page 4-5 for the two sentences we've been
able to add. Kindly call to confirm receipt and to advise when
galleys for our review will be here. Thanks.
Stan

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

By Carol H. Rasco

I come to you to express my deep commitment, and that of the
Administration, to the empowerment of people with disabilities.*

Those of you who work in this field -- whether as volunteers
professionals, or family members -- boost our determination and
our capacity to resolve the tremendous challenges that remain
before us. Your dedication and compassion inspires us to embrace
the responsibility of meeting them.

As a parent who worked exclusively in this field as
volunteer until my son was seven and who now works as a
policymaker, I want to tell you about some of the ideas and

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1994

Stanley D. Klein
Editor in Chief
Exceptional Parent
209 Harvard Street, Suite 303
Brookline, MA 02146

Dear Stan:

As a follow-up to our recent conversations, I am pleased to attach the manuscript that you solicited from Carol Rasco. For convenience, I have triple-spaced this article to be titled "Empowering People with Disabilities and Their Families." Since the article runs less than 2000 words, plus author identification and miscellaneous matter, it is within the word limits we discussed.

So that she may reach the widest possible audience, it is our understanding that Ms. Rasco will retain full rights to reproduce, republish, or otherwise disseminate this manuscript or any of its parts in any form, without the need to obtain any permission from you or your magazine.

With regard to your interest in publishing a photograph with Carol's article, Carol does not have a current photo of Hamp and herself. You may wish to contact Mike Stewart, a photographer with the Democrat/Gazette in Arkansas, who did the photo accompanying a N.Y. Times profile on Carol. For purposes of simply identifying that photo, I enclose a photocopy. We have, of course, no idea on what basis, if any, he might make the photo available to you. Alternatively, Roz Miller in Carol's office could help you to get a photo of Carol alone.

I know that Carol feels this article is excellent, and we hope that you share that view. We are glad that we were able to accomodate your request and that you will be able to publish it in your June issue. I look forward to hearing from you on receipt of this letter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Stan Herr

Stanley S. Herr
Kennedy Public Policy Fellow

Eleven pages attached

May 6, 1994

Stanley D. Klein
Editor in Chief
Exceptional Parent
209 Harvard Street, Suite 303
Brookline, MA 02146

Dear Stan:

As a follow-up to our recent conversations, I am pleased to attach the manuscript that you solicited from Carol Rasco. For convenience, I have triple-spaced this article to be titled "Empowering People with Disabilities and Their Families." Since the article runs less than 2000 words, plus author identification and miscellaneous matter, it is within the word limits we discussed.

So that she may reach the widest possible audience, it is our understanding that Ms. Rasco will retain full rights to reproduce, republish, or otherwise disseminate this manuscript or any of its parts in any form, without the need to obtain any permission from you or your magazine.

With regard to your interest in publishing a photograph with Carol's article, Carol does not have a current photo of Hamp and herself. You may wish to contact Mike Stewart, a photographer with the Democrat/Gazette in Arkansas, who did the photo accompanying a N.Y. Times profile on Carol. For purposes of simply identifying that photo, I enclose a photocopy. We have, of course, no idea on what basis, if any, he might make the photo available to you. Alternatively, Roz Miller in Carol's office could help you to get a photo of Carol alone.

I know that Carol feels this article is excellent, and we hope that you share that view. We are glad that we were able to accommodate your request and that you will be able to publish it in your June issue. I look forward to hearing from you on receipt of this letter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Stanley S. Herr
Kennedy Public Policy Fellow

Eleven pages attached

474

Draft Article for Exceptional Parent, 3rd draft 5-5-94
For further information, contact Stan Herr at (202) 456-5570

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

By Carol H. Rasco

I come to you to express my deep commitment, and that of the Administration, to the empowerment of people with disabilities.*

Those of you who work in this field -- whether as volunteers professionals, or family members -- boost our determination and our capacity to resolve the tremendous challenges that remain before us. Your dedication and compassion inspires us to embrace the responsibility of meeting them.

As a parent who worked exclusively in this field as
✓ volunteer until my son was seven-years-old and who now works as a policymaker, I want to tell you about some of the ideas and individuals that inspire me in my daily work. Although I will focus here on health care reform, our reform agenda also extends from education reform to welfare reform, and from safer streets to safer transitions to adulthood for all our youth.

The White House Domestic Policy Council coordinates the efforts of the Administration, the Cabinet secretaries, and the other federal agencies involved with the development of every aspect of our nation's domestic policy. As a director of the Council's day-to-day work, I bring a strong determination that all children shall be empowered to develop to their fullest potential. To meet this crucial goal, our children need each of us to believe in them and we as parents need the opportunities to nurture their growth.

As President Clinton has recently stated, "Having a disability does not diminish one's right to participate in all aspects of mainstream society." On the Domestic Policy Council we take that right very seriously. Working together in public-private partnerships, we are responding to the President's call to "craft policies of inclusion, independence, and empowerment that will inspire positive changes in this country and in nations around the world."

Health care reform is an indispensable part of that mission. The President's health care plan is a dramatic advance for people with disabilities and their families. Here's why:

- It guarantees universal coverage for Americans, and the peace of mind of having health care that is always there.

- It outlaws the current insurance practices of excluding people with pre-existing health or disability conditions, or of jacking up your rates if you get sick or become disabled.

- It forbids insurance companies from picking only the lowest-risk individuals and families, and rejecting others.

- It builds on today's private insurance system, which is primarily employer-based, while making insurance more affordable for the self-employed and subsidized for the unemployed. As a result, no one will be uninsured, even if they or members of their family experience a disability, injury, or sickness.

- It offers a nationally uniform and comprehensive benefit package -- in contrast to some of the other legislative proposals -- that include^s_^ a range of preventive services, doctor and

hospital visits, outpatient rehabilitation, home health care, durable medical equipment (including orthotic and prosthetic devices and training in the use of those items), mental health services, and many other essential services.

• It provides a major expansion of long-term care coverage by adding home and community-based services for people with severe disabilities, regardless of age or income. With a projected three million people with disabilities and their families benefitting from this new program, this coverage allows people with disabilities to live in their own homes -- with their families ^{where} ~~as~~ appropriate -- and to enjoy fuller and more satisfying lives.

• It adds significant civil rights protections in the enjoyment of health care benefits, consumer involvement in the design of the new home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities, and health care "report cards" so that families can assess which health plans ^d best fit their needs and reward ^{that} ~~those~~ plans with their membership.

Many leaders of the disability community are campaigning to achieve these objectives. I want sincerely to thank Paul

✓ Marchand and all of Arc's Government Relations ~~office~~ staff for
✓ their hard work in fighting to bring health security. I also
to all Americans.

commend the Arc and its 100 sister organizations in the

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities for your steadfast

support. Now, we must intensify those efforts. We must each tell

our personal stories so that Members of Congress have before them

the human faces of health care reform. We need each of you to

help seize this moment of opportunity to guarantee private

insurance for all our citizens, coverage that offers you choice,

comprehensive benefits, and freedom from unfair and exclusionary

insurance practices.

[On May 2nd, I was delighted to be with the President as he hosted 125 leaders of the disability community in a tremendously enthusiastic rally for health care reform. As the President emphasized: "This is the battle that you may be able to lead for the rest of America. You can break through to those members. You

can do it." From the White House, these leaders were joined by about a thousand others who marched across the Memorial Bridge to rally at the Lincoln Memorial, then to lobby on Capital Hill].

Now is the time to guarantee health security for ourselves, for our children, and for the generations to come. Without secure health coverage, too many of us are not free to change jobs or to move to a different location or to venture from disability rolls to payrolls. Without that security, employers may be reluctant to hire a person with a disability or a person with a family member who is disabled.

These basic principles unite us. But it is our common love for our families that propels us to act.

Early in my son's life, a physical therapist who had dedicated her long career to helping young children with disabilities shared with me the words of essayist and poet Joseph Addison, "Everyone must have something to do, someone to love, something to hope for."

I am constantly reminded of those words not only for Hamp, but for all the people with whom I've worked. In our quest to empower people, we must strive to fulfill these ends at each stage in life.

What do they have to do? For a young child, is a preschool program or other early intervention available? For a school-age child, is school relevant, safe, and effective? Are our schools and transitional programs teaching both how to make a living and how to live? And, for adults, is there a job or day activity or voluntary service that satisfies and excites? As President Clinton said in Memphis last November, "I do not believe we can repair the basic fabric of society until people who are willing to work have work. Work organizes life. It gives structure and discipline to life. It gives meaning and self-esteem to people who are parents. It gives a role model to children.... We cannot, I submit to you, repair the American community and restore the American family until we provide the structure, the value, the discipline and the reward that work gives." Those

check
Q (3)

powerful thoughts are particularly apt, for our citizens with disabilities who, too often, experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment.

What do they have to hope for? And what do we who love them have to hope for? Linda Charlton, mother of a two-year-old daughter with Down's syndrome, recently described her goals for her Katie before a superb and productive meeting of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

"First, we want her to feel loved...to give her a sense of high self-esteem so that she can experience life with confidence. She is a very social child, and while I think she has the capacity to make many friends, I wonder how other children will accept her. We envision her attending public schools, at least for the most part, and one day we hope to see her graduate from high school. There's even a part of us that hopes she'll continue her education after that...but we'll have to wait and see, and we'll also have to see what it is that Katie wants to do. I wonder if she'll ever get married...if she doesn't, I hope at least she has a companion to enjoy life with. And if we could, we'd like to see her remain as happy as she is today...Our Katie -- who loves people, music, dogs, rain, sunshine, swings, cookies, apricots, baths, and the color red.

These are dreams and feelings to which any parent can relate. Many of them were fulfilled for me when my son Hamp was asked last year by the members of his graduating class to give one of the commencement addresses at his high school. I will

Query:
Down's
or
Down

never forget that moment, nor will Hamp. Here was the young man whom we were once told would not survive, or if he passed the hurdle of his first days would have to be institutionalized. But Hamp defied those predictions, living at home and attending school with his non-disabled peers. This is the speech that he wrote, on his own, politely declining his mother's offer of help. Hamp said that this was his speech to give.

"Hello, my name is Hamp Rasco. I am pleased to share with you what attending Hall High has meant to me.

I enjoyed the pep assemblies and the band. I enjoyed talking with friends in the cafeteria, and going out into the community with my CBI ~~CLASS~~.

After graduation I plan to find a job in the community where my social skills can be put to use. This is important to me because I want to make new friends with all kinds of people.

I would like to encourage other students with special needs to never give up, work hard to do a good job and be proud and happy about what you do at school.

I want to thank Dr. Anderson and the Vice Principals for their support of my program. I want to tell Ms. Chapman and Mr. Smith how much I appreciate all the work they have done on my behalf and all students with special needs. And I also thank Ms. Yates. And, finally, I especially want to thank my parents for believing in me and always encouraging me to be all that I can be. I really hate to leave all my friends at Hall, but I must move on.

Thank you. Good evening."

Like Hamp, we must all move on. Great challenges lie ahead, indeed. And as you well know, they are not limited to health

check
in dot

care reform. From the White House to your house, we must work together. We need to reassure the countless young people like Hamp across this country that they will always have health insurance, that they can have jobs, and that they are an essential part of life in our communities. For, surely, people deserve something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for to be whole and part of whole communities.

I believe that a new day has dawned for America's citizens with disabilities and for all our people. We won't always succeed and we won't always be able to do everything that we want. But I can promise you this: we will never relent in our effort to give every person a chance to develop -- fully.

Because, at the end of Bill Clinton's second term at the start of the third millennium, I want to be able to say to Hamp Rasco and Mary-Margaret Rasco and to all of America, with a clear conscience and a full heart -- we did our best. And for all our children's sakes, I want each of us to be able to look at one another and say -- we did our best.

Carol H. Rasco is the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy. In this capacity, she is President Clinton's chief

domestic policy adviser, coordinating the staff of the White
House Domestic Policy Council. She is the mother of Mary-
Margaret Rasco and Hamp Rasco.

* This article is a revised and expanded version of remarks
delivered by Ms. Rasco to the Arc Governmental Affairs Seminar,
held in Washington^D.C., on March 21, 1994.