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February 5, 1990

Dear C-SPAN,

After listening to the State of the Union address, I would like to follow up my concerns about healthcare with this letter.

When the news release appeared about the FDA commissioner's position being vacated, I contacted the Kansas City regional office and also called Washington D.C. to request a listing of the people serving on advisory commissions and the staff appointees. As far as I can determine, after reading these names, no one seems to have background in natural healthcare fields.

Please help to correct this situation. Many people are trying to diagnose and treat themselves because their accessible practitioners, in most states, have training in allopathic methods --and are not able to answer questions that patients may have about other therapies.*

Citizens run into a "Catch 22" when they contact state officials to begin procedures to provide for licensing of other health professions: Homeopaths, herbalists, naturopathic medicine, massage therapy. So-called "natural" treatments do not always conform to methods of testing that drugs do when going through FDA procedures. If people with expertise in various healthcare approaches were included in task forces and advisory commissions, the public would be greatly benefited because an important step would be taken to alleviate the misunderstanding and mis-information that has blurred the situation.

There are many qualified people; however I would like to suggest one person who articulates, very well, the dilemma. He has understanding and respect for traditional medicine and the need for including alternative practices. He has a Ph.D in Gerontology and many years of study and investigation about this issue. Please consider him as a consulting or advisory resource:

Dr. Dean Black
c/o Tapestry Press
P.O Box 653
Springville, UT 84663
(801) 489-3265

He has written a book, HEALTH AT THE CROSSROADS, which I recommend for your research staff. It expresses and documents insightful information that will help anyone studying ways to provide a solution to our nation's problem with providing safe, cost-effective healthcare.

Respectfully

Bellevue, NE 68005

*Chiropractic is the second largest healthcare profession; however, I am not referring to it since the focus of this letter is on those healthcare professions that seem to be "left out" of the healthcare arena. I am thankful that members of the chiropractic discipline are beginning to become more respected.