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RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90274  
APRIL 28, 1993

002594 MAY 1993

C-SPAN NETWORK  
400 NORTH CAPITAL STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 650  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

DEAR SIR:

I believe the upcoming health care reform debate will be one of the most important decisions we make. A good program can have a significant beneficial impact on our future economic performance. However, a bad reform, can not only hurt us economically, but also severely affect access to health care for future generations.

Near as I can tell, the two major reasons why the American public is asking for health care reform at this time is access and cost inflation. Though there has been much discussion, there is one aspect of this debate that does not seem to get very much attention. That is the long term implications of these reforms on health care cost.

I am not an economist, but it seems to me health care costs have been rising because there is virtually an unlimited demand for services. That is due to the fact the consumer does not care how much is spent on their own health care since "someone else" pays for that cost. Every health care reform proposal I have read or heard about does not seem to address this issue. As a result, I find it very difficult to understand how any of these health care reform proposals will reduce the medical cost inflation rate to one that is at or below the overall rate of inflation. Nothing would please me more than to find out I am wrong.

Everyone seems to be attracted to these reform proposals because of what I would refer to as the significant short term savings that can be achieved. But I hear very little about the long term implications of these reform proposals.

I would like to request that you consider (1) having some well known economist to tell us how these reforms will hold down medical cost inflation over a long period of time, and (2) when discussing health care reform with your guests, ask them how their proposal, or how any reform proposal will hold down long term medical cost inflation.

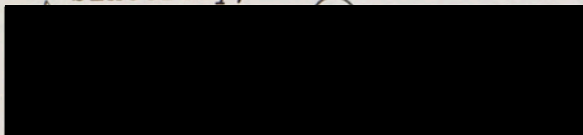
For some background, the medical component of the Consumer Price Index has outpaced the CPI since 1950, so medical cost inflation is not a new phenomena. The GAO report that analyzed the health care system of other industrialized countries showed that every country,



even with global budgeting, price controls, and rationing in some form, all have experienced medical cost inflation that outpaced their overall inflation rate. So what make us believe we can do a better job with our reform proposals?

I wish to join others who are C-SPAN "junkies" to thank you for providing a very important public service.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area of the letter.