



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RICK PERRY
Commissioner

April 6, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Task Force on National Health Care Reform
Office of the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I think your efforts in trying to reform the nation's health care system are most commendable. The Task Force on National Health Care Reform consists of many entities representing all types of health care providers and citizens.

I would like to request that the task force give particular consideration to the needs of the nation's farmers, ranchers, agriculture workers, and other members of rural communities. Rural populations have a high proportion of uninsured people, rising health care costs, and often experience lack of services.

As the Agriculture Commissioner for the State of Texas, I have a strong interest in the problem of health care delivery to rural areas. Over 50 hospitals have closed in rural Texas since the mid-eighties. Most rural communities have problems with access to adequate health care due to shortage of physicians, clinics, and hospitals within a safe driving distance.

I have made economic development for rural Texans a high priority in my Administration. Leadership, education, infrastructure systems, and health care facilities can do much towards aiding a rural community to prosper.

Again, your efforts are worthy, and I hope you will remember this constituency as the task force progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick
Rick Perry
Commissioner

RP/MMS/vs