Date: April 29, 1994

Subject: Long Term Care Reform Update

From: Sandra R. Rhodes

To: Area Agencies on Aging
    Ad Hoc Coalition Members

Attached for your information and use is a copy of the National Association of State Units on Aging Long Term Care advisory.

Attachment
MEMORANDUM

TO: State Units on Aging
FROM: Diane Justice
DATE: April 19, 1994
SUBJ: LTC Reform

Enclosed is a new newsletter developed by the LTC Campaign for sharing information about federal LTC advocacy activities conducted by state coalitions. The LTC Campaign would welcome any reports you might have for publication in future newsletters. Reports can be made by phone -- (202) 434-3744 or by Mail -- P.O. Box 27394, Washington, DC 20038.
**WELCOME**

...to our first edition of the Grassroots Activity Information newsletter. This newsletter is compiled to share information among those active in the Campaign and other supporters of Long Term Care. We would like to provide an update of grassroots activity on a regular basis.

Please keep a log of your activities with dates, times, participants, and what was said so we can keep each other as up to date as possible.

activities that state coalitions have engaged in are interesting and creative and may serve as ideas that others can use. Together, these field activities are an impressive list.

**Coming from DC..... Capitol Hill Report**

House Ways and Means Committee

*Stark Bill Passes Subcommittee, McDermott Offers LTC Amendment: The Stark proposal, which did not include long term care, passed out of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health by a vote of 6-5. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) was prepared to offer a substantial long term care amendment to the Stark proposal during mark-up, but he withdrew the amendment and will bring it up for consideration by the full committee. McDermott's amendment included home and community-based care, respite care, and adult day-care services.*

*Assurances From Rostenkowski: Prior to the subcommittee vote on the Stark proposal, Chairman Rostenkowski (D-IL) assured someone close to the Campaign that although the bill coming out of subcommittee would not have long term care, whatever health care bill the full Ways and Means Committee passes will include long term care.*

*Hoagland and Moderate Democrats* Rep. Hoagland (D-NE) is floating a compromise proposal for the full committee which does not include long term care. Moderate Democrats who may be receptive to Hoagland's plan include: Rep. Kennedy (D-CT), Rep. Matsui (D-CA), Rep. Andrews (D-TX), Rep. Cardin (D-MD), Rep. Payne (D-VA), and Rep. Brewster (D-OK). If these members are from your state, continue to remind them that health reform is not real unless it includes long term care.

**Energy and Commerce Committee**

* Dingell Bill Retains Clinton LTC Provisions: The committee is scheduled to mark-up die Clinton plan after Easter recess. Presently, Chairman Dingell (D-MI) is circulating a plan which retains the long term care provisions of the Clinton plan.

**Senate Finance Committee**

*Pryor Sets Hi Bottom Line: Senator David Pryor (D-AR), a senior member of the Committee and Chairman of the Special Committee on Aging said recently that his bottom line for any health care plan would be inclusion of substantial long term care provisions and coverage for prescription drugs.*

**INSIDE....**

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Suggested Action

*Generating thank-you letters to Senators Harkin (D-IA), Mikulski (D-MD), Pryor (D-AR), Rockefeller (D-WV), and Riegle (D-MI) for their signing of a "Dear Colleague" letter to encourage other Senators to join them in assuring that health care reform includes, "meaningful long term care coverage."

*Sending thank-you letters to Rep. Jim McDermott for offering a sub-stanical LTC amendment to a Ways and Means Health Subcommittee bill by its Chairman Pete Stark which did not address LTC. The McDermott amendment was not layed down for a vote in subcommittee, but will be brought up in the full committee during mark-up.

*Sending thank-you letters to Senator Bill Bradley (D) for writing a "Dear Colleague" regarding the need for health care reform with substantial long term care.

*Coordinating walk-ins to congressional district offices to deliver the LTC message.

*Attending town hall meetings and health care forums of LTCC targets.

News from the States......

Arkansas

*Pryor Visits Nursing Home and Home Care Sites--February 14: Senator David Pryor (D) spent Valentine's Day visiting a nursing home and two home care sites. The coalition arranged for Pryor to visit a person ineligible to receive Medicaid but with long term care needs.

*Clinton Teleconference Call On Long Term Care--February 2: State Coordinator Scott Holladay worked with the coalition to locate family caregiver Goldia Kendall to participate in a conference call with Resident Clinton and seven others on LTC. Kendall, an 85 year old retired nurse from Jonesboro, cares for her 89 year old husband Elsworth, who is a stroke victim with Alzheimer's disease. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette reported the Resident as saying, "Our plan would give people like you a chance to get some help from nurses and other assistants who could give personal care to your husband, in your home, while you go out and run errands and get a little break from time to time."

*Arkansans For Health Care Reform Issue Press Release on Cooper Bill--March 11: Arkansas groups representing the elderly issued a press release criticizing the health bill by Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN) for its failure to address the long term care needs of Arkansans and its slated elimination of Medicaid. Cooper's elimination of Medicaid would double the long term care costs of the state of Arkansas to over $420 million.

*Thank You's To Pryor: Thank-you notes will be going out to Sen. Pryor for his signing of a "Dear Colleague" letter with four Senators, to encourage other Senators to join them in assuring that any health care reform package that passes out of Congress contains substantial long term care.

*Meeting With Thornton--April: A coalition meeting with Rep. Ray Thornton (D) has been scheduled for April.

*Videos and House Party Kits--February: The coalition arranged with the California Association of Senior Service Centers to distribute 100 videos and house party kits.

*California Senior Coalition--February 17: Tom made a presentation to the California Senior Coalition members regarding the inclusion of long term care in health care reform. Videos and house party kits were distributed and the Senior Coalition was encouraged to ask their membership to contact key Members of Congress.

*Lee Pushes Clinton Plan--February 19: Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Phil Lee gave a presentation on the Clinton Health plan's provisions for the elderly at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. Coalition member Marie Jobling helped organize a contingent of LTC advocates to attend die die event.


*California AAA Directors--February 24: Tom spoke to 33 directors from the California AAA Directors Association, distributed videos and house party kits, and asked them to become actively involved in contacting target members of Congress on LTC.

*Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Day Rally -- March 8: The coalition participated in the Alzheimer's Association rally on the steps of the State Capitol building in Sacramento. The focus of the rally was to highlight the need to include long term care in health reform. The LTCC video was shown at a conference held in conjunction with the Advocacy Day.

*Older Women's League-March 16: Tom spoke to the California Older Women's League, distributed videos and house party kits, and asked that they
become actively involved in contacting target members of Congress on LTC.

**Torres-Gil Speaks** On LTC—March 22: The Public Interest Center on Long Term Care and other members of the coalition sponsored a presentation on Long Term Care in Health Care Reform with Fernando Torres-Gil, Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services. Tom asked for people to participate in walk-in visits to Congressman Stark’s office during Easter recess.

*California Nutrition Directors*—March 24: Tom made a presentation to the California Association of Nutrition Directors (CANDE) on the importance of including long term care in health care reform. Attendees were encouraged to use the video and house party kits to generate phone calls and mail to key members of Congress.

**California-South**

*Coalition Meets With Waxman—Early February:* The coalition, with representatives from MS Society, AARP, and Alzheimer’s Association recently met with Chair of House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment Henry Waxman (D). Waxman, who is supportive of long term care, would make no promises regarding long term care during the meeting. He said he would support the leadership on health care reform.

**LTCC Event In LA With Shalala and Gore—February 18:** Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and Tipper Gore were in Los Angeles at a health care event sponsored by the Campaign to discuss the long term care provisions of the President’s plan. The coalition got over 250 people to the event which was covered by five TV stations, two radio stations, and six newspapers.

**Becerra, Torres Town Hall Meetings—March:** The coalition will be getting LTC advocates to the town hall meetings of Rep. Xavier Becerra (D) and Rep. Esteban Torres (D). Torres held a town hall meeting on March 29 and a health care town hall meeting focusing on seniors on March 31.

**Coalition Goal of 50 Endorsing Organizations:** The southern California coalition, which now has a hard-working group of 35 LTC advocates, has established a goal of 50 by the end of Easter recess.

**State Legislature and Congressional Aides Briefed On LTC—March 21:** Seven staff members from the state legislature and congressional offices were briefed on senior and long term care services available in their districts. Staff members representing Rep. Becerra and Rep. Martinez attended the briefing. There were three presentations given, one of which was by Special Project Leader Peter Braun. Braun made a 20-minute presentation on long term care services currently available and those being offered in health reform proposals. Braun delivered to each staffer a full packet of information on long term care and the Campaign.

**Letter Writing On Target:** The coalition has been generating a lot of phone calls and letters to key Los Angeles area Congressional members, Rep. Becerra, Rep. Martinez, and Rep. Waxman.

**Rep. Meek Town Meeting—January 22:** Special Project Leader Lil Levien and nine other LTC supporters attended the town hall meeting of Representative Carrie Meek (D) where they handed out LTC fliers and suckers. Lil and several others were able to ask LTC questions. Lois Ables, a campaign member representing the Dade County Alzheimer’s Association was a speaker at the meeting.

**Letters To Graham—January 24:** Lil attended the Concerned Citizens of Northeast Dade County and distributed LTC literature and encouraged attendees to write Senator Graham (D) to ask him to assure that LTC is included in health care reform.

**MS Society of South Dade—January 25:** Lil spoke to a MS support group of South Dade, showed the LTC video, “The Time Is Now”, and distributed fact sheets and sample letters.

**South Florida Long Term Care Campaign Coalition Meeting—January 26:** The coalition meeting was attended by 38 organization representatives.

**LTC Article Placed—January 28 & February 27:** Lil wrote articles on LTC which were published in three newspapers and three more organization newsletters. Copies of these articles were faxed out to 140 LTC activists.

**AARP Local Board Meeting—February 2:** Lil made a 30-minute presentation to update the Board on Campaign issues.

**Dade and Monroe County Alliance Letter Writing—February 9:** Lil spoke to the Advocacy Committee of the Alliance for Aging (Dade/Monroe County) and showed the LTC video. The Alliance is launching a major letter-writing campaign to include long term care in national health care reform.

**Letters to Graham—February 16:** Lil attended a meeting of the local AARP chapter and encouraged attendees to write letters to Senator Graham, emphasizing the importance of including home and community-based care in health care reform legislation.

**Letters and Faxes to Graham—February 17:** Nancy Allen, the advocacy chair of the Dade/Monroe Coalition on Aging, asked her membership to communicate to Senator Graham by mail or fax about long term care.

**Kroll Talks Long Term Care—February 21:** Muriel Kroll of Catholic Charities spoke to the Advocates for the Disabled about LTC. She showed the video, distributed literature, and offered to
assist others in arranging LTCC house parties.

*Rep. Deutsch Homestead Meeting--February 21: The coalition, led by Helen Robbins of the United Teachers of Dade, attended Rep. Peter Deutsch’s (D) town hall meeting in Homestead. The coalition distributed fact sheets and LTC suckers to the meeting attendees.

*More Letters to Graham--March 1: Lederberg, Executive Director of toward Area Agency on Agency has distributed a LTC letter writing campaign to Senator Graham.

*Presidential Visit With Florida Seniors--March 21: Resident and Mrs. Clinton spoke at Deerfield Century Village at an event sponsored by the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC). A crowd of over 5000 seniors attended the event including Florida Special Project Leader Lil Leviter’s husband Sam, and several Loo; Care activists who distributed LTC fact sheets and over 1000 stickers. The Washington Post reprinted that: “They (seniors) were particularly fearful of what would happen to them if-and often when-they needed long term care.” Additionally the article noted, “Many of the senior citizens wore red ‘Long Term Care’ buttons.” Also in attendance were Governor Lawton Chiles (D), Rep. Alcee Hastings (D), Rep. Harry Johnston (D)*, and Rep. Peter Deutsch (D)*. The Clintons heard from two caregivers who spoke to the need for LTC. The Clintons. Governor Chiles (D), Rep. Johnston (D-FL), and the niece of the late Florida Congressman Claude Pepper spoke of the importance of Long Term Care.

*Letter Writing To Key Members--March 24: Lil made a presentation to 50 people at a meeting of the Network Incentives for Outreach Ministries. The lay leaders for the Catholic church, on long term care. She showed the LTC video. brought 2 caregivers to testify to the group, and urged them to write their legislators. The attendees composed letters at the meeting and pledged to urge their parishioners to write letters on long term we to Senator Graham and other key legislators.

*Long Term Care Family Protection Pledge Signors

- Illinois

*Coalition Meetings: The coalition has been meeting regularly in Chicago since the advocates’ training in January in Washington DC.

*Meeting With Reynolds--February: Helen Heyman, State Coordinator for the Long Term Care Campaign and other members of the coalition recently met with Rep. Mel Reynolds (D). Reynolds indicated his support for long term care but said he had little influence over the process as a junior member, and it was important to health care reform that Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D) wins the primary and is re-elected in November.

*Illinois Delegation Receives LTC Valentines--February 14: Valentine’s Day cards were hand delivered to the Illinois Congressional delegation, which read: “Don’t Break Our Hearts... Include Long Term Care in Health Care Reform.” The coalition used this event to request meetings with several key members of Congress.

*Letter to Collins--February: A letter and several LTC fact sheets were sent to Rep. Cardiss Collins (D) to encourage her to demonstrate support for long term care by making it a focus of her next town meeting. The letter stressed to Collins that long term care is a very important issue to her senior constituents.

*Letter to Collins--February: A letter and several LTC fact sheets were sent to Rep. Collins’ town hall meeting for Seniors on health care. LTC fact sheets and stickers were distributed.

*Clinton In Chicago During Senior Week--February 28: LTC supporters attended the Rep. Dan Rostenkowski event with President Clinton. The coalition passed out pennants and stickers to attendees. The coalition issued a press release timed to Clinton’s visit which announced strong support for the home and community-based care provisions of his health care bill.

*Meeting Requests: The 40-group coalition made repeated requests for meetings with Representatives Rostenkowski, Collins, and Hasten (R).

*Events, Forums, and Letter Writing: The coalition has been busy attending numerous events and forums, and has a very active letter-writing campaign.

*Alzheimer’s Association Presentation--January 12: Special Project Leader Donna Rhone spoke to Iowa Alzheimer’s Association Chapters on the importance of including long term care in health care reform. Donna also spoke to the Advisory Committee of the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging on January 12th.

*Area Agency on Aging--February 3: Donna made a presentation on long term care to the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

*Aging and Disability Committee--February 7: Donna spoke to the Aging and Disability Committee in Waterloo on long term care inclusion in health care reform.

*Long Term Care Focus of Two-Day Bus Tour Across Iowa--February 10 & 11: Volunteers from AARP and the Alzheimer’s Association embarked on a two-day bus tour across Iowa to emphasize the need for health care reform which includes long term care. The tour kicked off at 9:30 am on February 10th at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Rallies were held in five cities during the tour, including: Carroll, Fort Dodge, Cedar Falls/ Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, and Davenport. The tour was tremendously successful and garnered a lot of press. Cmig Downing, chairman of AARP's
Iowa health and long term care action committee, said of the purpose of the tour to the Cedar Rapids Gazette: "We are asking Iowans to help provide all families with real security against the crippling costs of chronic illness and disability."

- Grandy Asked to Have A Heart-February 14: The Alzheimer's Association hand delivered over 100 Valentine's Day cards and petitions to the district office of Rep. Fred Grandy (R). The cards, from Grandy's constituents, were printed with the message: "Don't Break Our Hearts...Include Long Term Care in Health Care Reform." Grandy is currently a co-sponsor of the Cooper bill.

- Hawkeye Valley AAA-February 16: Donna spoke before the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging Board on the long term care in health reform.

- Long Term Care Public Service Announcement-February: The Area Agency on Aging put together a public service announcement (PSA) which asked the public to support the Clinton Bill with its important long term care component. The PSA ran on TV station, covering the Waterloo/Cedar Rapids market.

- Iowa Commission on Aging-March 2: spoke before the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging Board on long term care in health care reform.


- Thank You's to Harkin: Thank-you notes will be going out to Senator Tom Harkin for his signing of a "Dear Colleague" letter with four other Senators, to encourage other Senators to join them in assuring that any health care reform package that passes out of Congress contains substantial long term care.

- LTC Advocates Fill Slattery Open House-Late February: Rep. Jim Slattery (D) recently held an Open House in his home district to discuss issues of importance to seniors. The coalition sent out fliers to LTC activists informing them of the event. The result was that Slattery's office was flooded with phone calls by LTC activists and more than 40 LTC supporters attended the Open House, many of which were turned away at the door by Slattery staffers as the event had surpassed capacity. The LA Times carried a story on the event, headed: "Senior Citizens Stormed Slattery Event" During the week of the Open House, the coalition generated numerous calls to the Congressman's district office urging him to support inclusion of long term care in health care reform.

- Slattery Town Meeting on Health Care-April 6: The National Council on Disability will be hosting a town meeting with Rep. Slattery. The coalition has been invited to attend the event which will be held in Topeka.

- Bus Tour Through Slattery District Planned--April 18: The coalition plans on building on the success of the Long Term Care Bus Tour through Iowa which generated significant attention to the need for long term care, and recreating the effort in Kansas. During the week of April 18, two buses will embark on the trip, one through the northern part of Rep. Jim Slattery's District hitting Topeka, Manhattan, Leavenworth, and Atchison, and the other bus through Chanute, Pittsburgh, and Ottawa in the southern part of his district. Press conferences will be held along the way.

- Coalition Releases Report Card on Health Dill-March 17: The Louisiana Health Care Campaign held a press conference on March 17th to rate several major health reform bills. The

- Fax-In Campaign: The coalition has organized a Fax-in campaign to Sen. George Mitchell (D), Sen. William Cohen (R), Rep. Olympia Snowe (R), and Rep. Thomas Andrews (D) on long term care. There are 15 participating organizations and the deadline was March 31.

- League of Women Voter Educational Forum--April 19: The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a health care forum and has invited both Congressional Members and Senators Mitchell and Cohen. The coalition will attend.

- Thank You's to Mikulski: Thank-you letters are king sent to Senator Barbara Mikulski (D) for her signing a "Dear Colleague" letter with four other Senators, which asked their colleagues to join them in assuring the health care reform includes long

- State Legislative Breakfast--February 2: The Coalition for Quality Long Care for Persons with Functional Disabilities sponsored a legislative breakfast with 20 state legislators. The breakfast featured a panel of two caregivers and a young person with disabilities, who all testified to their need for long term care.

- Disability Summit-May 20: There will be a Disability Summit, sponsored by the MS Society and other coalition groups
at the Maryland Rehabilitation Center in Baltimore.

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*Special Project Leader Meets With Congressional Delegation--March 16 and 17: Special Project Leader Ron Muschong was in Washington DC recently for a Paralyzed Veterans of America conference. Muschong was able to meet with almost every member of the Michigan congressional delegation and speak with the Members or the staff about several issues, including the importance of health care reform with long term care. Many of the veterans were wearing Long Term Care stickers and Long Term Care pennants were attached to their wheelchairs.

**Letters** and Calls: The coalition has been working to get letters and calls to Sen. Riegle, Rep. Dingell (D), Rep. Levin (D), Rep. Ford (D), Rep. Bonior (D) and other key members.

*Thank You's To Riegle: Thank-you notes will be going out to Senator Riegle for his signing of a "Dear Colleague" letter with four other Senators, to encourage other Senators to join them in assuring that any health care reform package that passes out of Congress contains substantial long arm care.

**Hobert** Updates Coalition--February 1: Karen Hobert, Field Director for the Long Term Care Campaign in Washington DC, joined the Minnesota Coalition meeting via teleconference to update them on the LTC section of the Clinton plan. Hobert shared information on upcoming events and encouraged the members to work on getting LTC commitments from Senator Wellstone (D) and Senator Bill Bradley (D). The coalition had strong participation from folks with the Alzheimer's Association, Area Agencies on Aging, MS Society, and activists from EPVA who chartered a bus to the event. LTC stickers and pennants were spread throughout the crowd.

**Peterson** Accountability Session--February 16: LTC advocates attended a Health Care Accountability Session with Rep. Collin Peterson (D), where Peterson made no commitment on LTC.

**Minnesota LTCC Raises An Additional $16,000--February:** The Minnesota Long Term Care Campaign received a $16,000 grant from the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington D.C. toward their goal of hiring a full-time Campaign Organizer. Thanks to the good work of former LTCC state Coordinator Mitch Lazarus, the coalition has raised a total of $28,000.

**Missouri**

Information was not available as publication went to press.

**Nebraska**

**AARP** Schedules TV Event On Health Care--April 14: AARP has plans to televise a health care event in Omaha with consumers and insurance representatives. The coalition will attend the event which is in the Congressional District of Rep. Peter Hoagland (D).

**New Jersey**

**AARP Health Event With Clinton--Mid-February:** The coalition produced a large contingent of LTC supporters at an AARP health care event attended by President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey. Over 1000 people attended the event including Congressman Frank Pallone (D) and Senator Bill Bradley (D). The coalition had strong participation from folks with the Alzheimer's Association, Area Agencies on Aging, MS Society, and activists from EPVA who chartered a bus to the event. LTC stickers and pennants were spread throughout the crowd.

**Caregiver Located For White House Event--March 1:** The coalition helped locate a caregiver in Longbranch for a March 2nd teleconference call with President Clinton on long term care. The White House had originally planned on calling ten cities, but narrowed the list to only eight cities, and was unable to use the family from Longbranch.

**Letter Writing:** The coalition of 35 organizations has a very strong letter writing campaign in progress. The organizations have encouraged letter writing through their newsletters and regular membership alerts.

*Health Forums: Leaders of the coalition have been attending many forums on health care and making certain that the discussion included LTC.

**Scllansky On Cable TV:** Special Project Leader Ben Schlansky was recently on a half-hour cable show in Elizabeth, NJ to discuss long term care.

**New York**

*Fax-In Campaign Directed At Key NY Members--February 28 and March 1:** Special Project Leader Michael Zich worked with 20 organizations in a fax-in campaign to key members of the New York State Congressional delegation.

**Paxon Responds on Long Term Care--March 7:** After three years of persistent letter writing to Rep. Bill Paxon (R), Michael received a letter from Paxon addressing long term care. Paxon writes, "Like you I believe that Congress must work to consider long term care as part of health care reform. It is vitally important to millions of Americans that changes are
made to assist those in need of long term care."

Ohio

- Phone-In During President's Day Recess: The coalition organized a long term care phone-in day to Congressional key members in the state during the President's Day recess. An action alert was sent out to more than 100 groups.

- Sawyer Meeting--March 31: Special Project Leader Michael Daly along with several others will be meeting with Rep. Tom Sawyer (D) to discuss long term care issues.


- Strickland Scheduled To Attend AFSCME Retiree Event--April 8: Rep. Ted Strickland (D) attended an AFSCME Retirees' event. Coalition members were present.

Oklahoma

- Brewster Key membered for Letter Writing Campaign And Responds--February 16: The coalition has undertaken a letter writing campaign to Rep. Bill Brewster (D). Rep. Brewster responded in a letter to Special Project Leader Linda Lawson: "As Congress continues working on health care reform in the coming months, I assure you I will be a strong supportive voice for long term and home care."

- Coalition Meeting Held--February 16: A coalition meeting was held where "The Time Is Now" video was shown and organizations were encouraged to write action alerts to their membership.

- Coalition Officially Announced--March 10: A press conference was held at the American Public Health Association conference (1000 people in attendance), where the formation of the Long Term Care Coalition was officially announced. Each organization in the new coalition gave a statement at the conference including Dr. Arthur Fleming.

- Congressional Delegations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas Receive Visit--March 16-March 17: Cliff Dupree, Government Affairs Director of the Mid-America Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), met with Members or staffers from the Congressional delegations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas. Dupree stressed in each of the meetings the importance of including long term care in health care reform.

- Synar Key members of Letter Campaign: The coalition is generating letters to Rep. Mike Synar (D) to stress the importance of including LTC in health care reform.

- Foley Gets LTC Message at Airport: The Government Affairs Director of the Mid-America Chapter of PVA, located in Oklahoma ran into Speaker Tom Foley (D-WA) in the airport and delivered the message of the importance of LTC.

- Caregiver Located For White House Event--March 1: Special Project Leaders Bill and Linda Lawson helped locate a caregiver in Ada for a March 2nd teleconference call with President Clinton on long term care. The White House had originally planned on calling 10 cities, but pared the list to only 8 cities, and decided not to call the family in Ada.

- Veterans Meeting With Synar and Secretary Brown--March 26: Secretary of Veteran's Affairs Jesse Brown and Rep. Mike Synar attended a community meeting for veterans on health care in Claremore. Questions on long term care were asked. Special Project Leader Bill Lawson, who attended the event, requested from Synar staffers a letter defining the Congressman's position on long term care.

- Long Term Care Rally--April 6: A long term care rally sponsored by Families USA was held April 6th in Ada and was attended by over 30 LTC advocates. There was significant press coverage including several of the networks. The Daily Oklahoman ran an article on the rally which featured a photograph of a woman holding up a sign referring to Senator Don Nickles (R) which read: "Nickles Health Plan...Don't Get Sick."

Pennsylvania

- Coyne Meeting--January 24: Special Project Leader Constance Ergen and representatives from five other groups met with Rep. William Coyne (D) to discuss the importance of including long term care in health care reform. Coyne expressed he is supportive of LTC.

- Wofford Office Receives Valentine Visit--February 14: The coalition delivered a posier-sized letter signed by 20 groups to Senator Harris Wofford's (D) district office outlining the four major principles of health care reform, including Long Term Care. 50 people were in attendance for the presentation including; Board members, staff, and consumers. The coalition also handed over to a Wofford aide a "valentine" basket of individual letters. The event was covered by TV, radio, and newspapers.

- Wofford Caregiver Visit--February 16: Senator Wofford visited the home of a caregiver whose finances are being seriously eroded as the result of payment for long term care at a facility. Special Project Leader Ellen Berliner and others working for health reform were invited to attend the event by Wofford's office. Berliner addressed the gathering of over 30 people about long term care. The event received coverage from TV, radio, and print media.

- 1000 Letters--The coalition has generated over 1000 letters to Congressional key members since January on the importance of long term care being included in health care reform.
Rhode Island

Information was not available as publication went to press.

Tennessee

- League of Women Voters Health Care Forums—Early February: The League of Women Voters organized a Health Care Forum which was televised on public television stations in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis. Attending the forum were representatives for the single payer bill, the Clinton plan, and Rep. Jim Cooper (D) for his health bill. The first question taken from the audience addressed long term care.

- Congressional Delegation Concedes LTC Must Be Addressed In Health Reform—March 21 and 22: Special Project Leader Roger Blue was in Washington DC recently for an Association of Retarded Citizens' (ARC) conference. Blue and several other ARC representatives met with most of the Congressional delegation to stress the importance of including long term care in health care reform. In a meeting with Rep. Cooper, author of a health bill that does not include long term care, Cooper admitted the chances of an independent long term care package surviving are next to nothing. This admission is significant. After the coalition highlighted the failure of the Cooper bill to address LTC needs, Cooper began to float the idea of an independent long term care bill. Every member of the Congressional delegation, with which Blue met, allowed that LTC had to be dealt with in health care reform.

- LTC Task Force: The coalition has been working to encourage the Governor to appoint a Long Term Care Task Force.

- Letter Writing: The coalition has been generating letters to key Tennessee Congressional members, especially Rep. Cooper.

Texas

- Green Meeting—February 14: Rep. Gene Green (D) met with members of the coalition and representatives of the Health Care Reform Project to discuss inclusion of long term care in health care reform. Green stated that he was in agreement with the principle of "long term care". The meeting was attended by representatives of the Alzheimer's Association, Gray Panthers, Families USA, National Hispanic Council on Aging, and Sociedad Mutualista Obrera Mexicana.

- Taylor Letter to Houston Business Journal—February 21: Special Project Leader Patricia Taylor had a letter to the editor on long term care published in the Houston Business Journal. Taylor wrote, "Americans will not have security and peace of mind about health care without action on long term care...It is appalling that the need to provide long-term care for family members is the number one reason for financial ruin in our country today for people over the age of 55."

- Green Holds Health Hearing—February 21: Rep. Gene Green (D) held a health care hearing at Houston Community College with physicians, business representatives, and Mary Walker of AARP/Vote.

- Caregiver Located For White House Event—March 1: Special Project Leader Michelle Elijah helped locate potential participants for a March 2nd teleconference call with President Clinton on long term care.

Washington

- Citizen's Lobby—January 24: Special Project Leaders Dennis Mahar and Judith Ross addressed the Washington State Senior Citizen's Lobby, a 25-group organization, and made a pitch for letter writing on LTC to key members of the Washington Congressional delegation.

- Special Project Leaders Speak To 11 AAAS—January 25: Dennis and Judith attended the statewide meeting of the 11 Area Agencies on Aging and their Advisory Council, encouraging the groups to continue their letter-writing campaign on long term care.

- Bageant Gives LTC Talk—January 26: Special Project Leader Charlotte Bageant made a presentation to the Senior Legislative Council emphasizing long term care.

- TV Talk Show Appearance—January 28: Judith appeared on a six minute segment of a morning program of ABC affiliate KXLY-TV to discuss long term care issues.

- LTC Coalition Meets—January 31: The first meeting of the Long Term Care Coalition was attended by representatives from over 30 organizations. Subsequently, 16 organizations signed on to the legislative principles of the Campaign.

- LTC Supporters Attend Unsoeld and Kriedler Meetings: During the President's Day recess, Representatives Jolene Unsoeld (D) and Mike Kriedler (D) held several town hall meetings which LTC supporters attended. Stickers and fact sheets were distributed at all the meetings and LTC questions were posed to the members.

- LTC Article Placed: The coalition has been regularly placing articles in senior newsletters, advocating long term care in health care reform. The February edition of The Thurston-Mason Senior News, included an article written by Dennis titled, "Clinton Proposes Home and Community-Care Benefits."

- Gorton At Rotary Club: Dennis attended a Rotary Club meeting where Senator Slade Gorton (R) was the featured speaker. Dennis posed several questions on LTC to Gorton, who said we cannot afford it. Dennis followed up with a letter to the Senator.
Valentine Day Presentation--February 14: Judith and Dennis made a presentation to the Washington State Senior Citizen’s Lobby on the Clinton bill’s long term care provisions. Letter writing was strongly encouraged.

• Kiwanis Club Talk--February 16: Dennis spoke on LTC and the need for action at the Mason County Kiwanis Club.

• Foley Town Hall Meetings Covered by LTC Supporters--February 18-21: Foley held town hall meetings in Spokane, Walla Walla, and Clarkston. Judith was able to get LTC advocates to each of these meetings and several questions on LTC were posed to Foley. The February 19 town hall meeting in Spokane was attended by 300 people, at least half of which were LTC supporters. Nine attendees testified to the need to include LTC in any health care reform proposal that is signed by the President. At the February 20th town hall meeting, the Campaign lined up dozens of people to testify on long term care and ask Foley to commit to supporting the long term care piece in the Clinton plan. Many stickers and fact sheets were handed out and 75 pennant holders were spread throughout the crowd. Five of the ten people who spoke told of their personal long term care crises. Foley was noncommittal about supporting LTC. When he addressed the LTC questions he spoke of high cost of nursing home care, but when pressed about the Clinton plan, began to speak about the community-based services in the Clinton plan, describing them as “little.” There were two television stations and other press at this event.

• Faxes to Foley--February 22: The Coalition of Responsible Disabled opened their fax machines to their members so that they could fax a letter to Speaker Foley on long term care.

• Mahar Is Keynote Speaker--March 2: Dennis was the keynote speaker at the Elder Abuse Workshop in Olympia, where he stressed the importance of LTC.

• Bageant Briefs AFSCME Retiree Chapters--March 16: Charlotte made presentations to four chapters of the AFSCME retirees on LTC and made a presentation to the state board on March 16.

• Organizational Endorsements--March: Mac Hatcher, Coordinator of the Respite Care Program in Spokane and coalition member, obtained the endorsement of the LTCC legislative principles by the Spokane Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. Mac briefed the legislative committee of the Community Mental Health Center Board. He is working to get an endorsement from the full board of the Center. Ralph Allen, President of the Greater Spokane Council on Aging was able to get Board and Member support for the LTC principles.

• Meeting With Foley District Staff--Early March: Nick Beamer, Director of the Eastern Washington Area Agency on Aging, met with Speaker Tom Foley staffer Jane Gilpatrick to explain the cost savings that the state of Washington has achieved by the relocation of nursing home residents to the community.

• Health Care Forum In Spokane--March 25: A health care forum titled, “Cures and Costs: Health Care Reform” sponsored by the public library and played live by public radio was attended by over 250 people. The forum had a panel of 14 people, including hospital administrators, representatives from HMOs, physicians, a Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative, a state legislator, the Washington State Insurance Commissioner, AARP Region 10 Health Representative Hikke Faber, and others. Judith was the fourth question from the crowd. There were 4 strong testimonies from caregivers on long term care.

• Cellular Phone-A-Thon Planned For Recess--April 6,7,8: A cellular phone-a-thon is planned on April 6th, 7th, and 8th of the Easter Recess from two sites in each of the nine congressional districts at the same time. The sites will be located in areas where there are a large number of people with long term care needs. Postcards are being provided for people who are hearing impaired or would rather not call. The phone-a-thon is being used to educate the Congressional Delegation on long term care and the importance of including it in health care reform.

• LTCC Grassroots Activities Produce Coalition Meeting With Foley--April 7: Through the persistence of the coalition, Speaker Tom Foley agreed to meet with coalition representatives for one hour on April 7 to discuss long term care. Foley went on record as saying he would support long term care as a part of health care reform. The meeting with Foley was attended by Nick Beamer, Executive Director of Eastern Washington Area Agency on Aging, Special Project Leader Charlotte Bageant, and a man with multiple sclerosis. Charlie Reed, Washington State Secretary of the Department of Social Services for Aging and Adult Services also attended the meeting and told Foley how home and community-based care has been effective in the state.

• McDermott Amendment--Thank you letters will be sent to Rep. Jim McDermott (D) for his introduction of a substantial long term care amendment to Health Subcommittee Chairman Stark’s bill. The amendment was set aside and will be considered by the full Ways and Means Committee after recess.

Thanks to those who contributed to GAIN

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The Long Term Care Campaign is a coalition of 137 national organizations dedicated to enacting comprehensive long term care legislation.
A full list of principles is available upon request. For more information about current activities and materials, call (202)434-3744 or write P.O. Box 27394, Washington, D.C. 20038.