

June 4, 1992

TO: SENATOR DOLE
FROM: SHEILA BURKE
SUBJECT: KANSAS ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Likely Attendance: 160 Physicians
 100 or so spouses
 10 - 20 nurse practitioners
 physician's assistants

- Annual Meeting -- physicians from across the state.
 President (outgoing) Ed Lind, M.D. of Derby
 President (incoming) Rick Kellerman, M.D. of Salina
- Other Notable Guests -- John Tudor, M.D., President, American Academy of Family Physicians, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- You are being asked to give brief (10 - 15 minutes) remarks.
- This group committed to primary/preventive care.

Will likely be interested in your impressions from your health hearing in Hays along with general comments on chances for health care reform.

TALKING POINTS
KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

- **SOME OF US HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR A LONG TIME THAT HEALTH CARE SHOULD BE ONE OF THE TOP ISSUES FOR 1992. AND WITH AN ELECTION YEAR WELL UNDER**

**WAY, CANDIDATES AT EVERY
LEVEL ARE RUNNING ALL OVER
THE PLACE, MAKING
SPEECHES ABOUT HEALTH
CARE REFORM, LIKE THEY'VE
JUST DISCOVERED THE ISSUE -
- AND MOST OF THEM HAVE.
BUT, BETTER LATE THAN
NEVER.**

- **I HELD A HEALTH HEARING ON ACCESS TO CARE IN RURAL AREAS, JUST LAST WEEK IN HAYS . . . I HEARD FROM PROVIDERS, JUST LIKE YOU, WHO ARE TIRED OF SPENDING HALF THEIR TIME FILLING OUT FORMS AND PAPERS. THAT'S GOT TO CHANGE. THEY ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO FIND WAYS**

**TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN
PHYSICIANS AND NURSE
PRACTITIONERS IN THOSE
RURAL AREAS.**

- **THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE
EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION
OVER HOW WE, IN CONGRESS,
ARE HANDLING THE HEALTH
CARE ISSUE. BUT, RECENT**

**RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY
THE GALLOP ORGANIZATION
AND THE PUBLIC AGENDA
FOUNDATION HAS SHED NEW
LIGHT ON WHAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE THINK OF
YOU, THE PROVIDERS OF
HEALTH CARE.**

- **EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHY HEALTH CARE COSTS KEEP GOING UP. FOR THE LEADERS AND EXPERTS, THE ANSWER IS THE COST ISSUE IS A COMPLEX ONE. THEY REFER TO FACTORS SUCH AS DUPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES, DEFENSIVE MEDICINE, HEALTH CARE**

**COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
CRIME AND DRUG ABUSE, AND
AN AGING POPULATION.**

- **FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,
THE COST ISSUE CAN BE
SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD:
GREED. THE SURVEY SHOWS
THAT AMERICANS BLAME THE
HIGH COST OF HEALTH CARE**

**ON UNNECESSARY TESTS,
OVERPAID DOCTORS,
WASTEFUL HOSPITALS,
OVERPRICED DRUGS, AND
AMBULANCE-CHASING
LAWYERS. FROM THE
PUBLIC'S PERSPECTIVE, WE
DON'T HAVE A COST PROBLEM,
WE HAVE A PROFITS PROBLEM.**

- **THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS RIDDLED WITH WASTE AND GREED. THEREFORE, NO ONE IS EAGER TO TALK ABOUT MAKING HARD CHOICES.**

- **NO DOUBT, WE HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US. NO**

**ONE EVER SAID THAT
SOLUTIONS WOULD BE EASY.
BUT, WHAT'S ESSENTIAL WITH
ANY PLAN WE ADOPT IS THAT
IT NOT ONLY ADDRESS THE
CURRENT DEFICIENCIES IN
OUR SYSTEM, BUT ALSO
PRESERVE THE MANY
STRENGTHS.**

• **AFTER ALL, AMERICA IS THE
MEDICAL MIRACLE WORKER.
WE'RE LIVING LONGER THAN
EVER BEFORE. WE'VE
DEFEATED PLAGUES. WE'VE
MADE MEDICAL ADVANCES TO
SAVE THE LIFE OF THE
SMALLEST, FRAILEST
NEWBORN. AND, WE'VE
LEARNED HOW TO MAKE**

**SPARE BODY PARTS FOR
NEARLY EVERY ORGAN.**

- **THE HEALTH CARE THAT YOU,
THE PROVIDERS, DELIVER IS
ADMIRERD AND ENVIED WORLD
WIDE. SOMETHING YOU CAN
ALL BE VERY PROUD OF. AND
IN THIS COUNTRY, IT IS YOU,
THE FAMILY PHYSICIANS,**

**NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS THAT
WE ARE FINALLY RECOGNIZING
FOR YOUR VALUABLE AND
INDISPENSABLE SERVICES.
WE'RE FINALLY RECOGNIZING
THE IMPORTANCE OF
PREVENTION AND THE ROLE
THAT YOU PLAY IN DELIVERING
CARE THAT CONSIDERS THE**

**HEALTH OF THE WHOLE
PERSON, AND THE WHOLE
FAMILY. AND YOU DO IT IN A
WAY THAT WE'RE FINALLY
RECOGNIZING FOR ITS COST
EFFECTIVENESS AS WELL.**

- **THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS. THE
BAD NEWS IS WE'RE SPENDING
OVER \$800 BILLION ON HEALTH**

**CARE -- FAR TOO MUCH
CONSIDERING SO MANY STILL
LACK ACCESS TO CARE. AND
WE STILL HAVE OVER 30
MILLION WITHOUT
INSURANCE -- FAR TOO MANY.**

- **THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE
DEMANDING ACTION -- AND
RIGHTLY SO. LAST SUMMER I**

**HELD TOWN MEETINGS IN ALL
105 COUNTIES IN KANSAS. AT
EVERY MEETING, THE FIRST OR
SECOND QUESTION WAS
ABOUT HEALTH CARE.**

- **ALL IN ALL, IT'S A HIGH
STAKES DEBATE, NOT ONLY
FOR FOLKS WITHOUT ACCESS
TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE,**

**BUT FOR EMPLOYERS ACROSS
THE NATION WHO ARE BARELY
SURVIVING BECAUSE OF THE
BITE THAT HEALTH CARE
COSTS ARE TAKING OUT OF
THEIR BUSINESSES.**

- **IT'S TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS
WORK. MY HOPE IS THAT WE
DON'T HAVE THE DEBATE**

**DISINTEGRATE INTO SOME
POLITICAL CONTEST TO SEE
WHO CAN SPEND THE MOST,
TALK THE MOST, AND CLAIM
THEY CARE THE MOST.**

- **IMPROVING THE NATION'S
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM MEANS
EVERYONE HAS TO WORK
TOGETHER -- EMPLOYERS,**

**DOCTORS, NURSES,
INSURANCE COMPANIES, THE
GOVERNMENT, AND
CONSUMERS.**

- **IT'S GOING TO BE UP TO
MEMBERS OF THIS AUDIENCE
AND PROVIDERS ALL ACROSS
THE COUNTRY TO BE PART OF
THE PUBLIC DEBATE IF WE'RE**

**GOING TO BUILD A SYSTEM
THAT'S AFFORDABLE AND
THAT MEETS THE REASONABLE
EXPECTATIONS OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE.**

- **AND FOR ALL THOSE HERE
WHO ARE OUT DAILY SAVING
LIVES AND DAILY PROVIDING
HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE, I**

**CERTAINLY CONGRATULATE
YOU AND THANK YOU FOR
YOUR EFFORTS, AND LOOK
FORWARD TO WORKING YOU
IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS
AHEAD.**