

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 22, 2009

Anne L. Weismann, Esq.
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
1400 Eye Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Weismann:

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request to the United States Department of Homeland Security dated June 22, 2009. The request seeks records relating to any visits to the White House by eighteen health care executives since January 21, 2009. I understand that the Department of Homeland Security responded to your request by letter dated July 7, 2009. The letter stated that the legal status of White House visitor records is the subject of ongoing litigation and that the White House is reviewing its policy governing the discretionary release of such records.

There is no more important issue than health care reform, and the President is fully committed to helping Americans live healthier lives, preventing illness, and increasing the competitiveness of our country. Given the compelling public interest in the health care debate and the President’s goal of increasing transparency in government, we have reviewed the White House visitors records related to the eighteen individuals listed in your request through June 30, 2009. The President has decided to exercise his discretion and release the following information, which is reflected in the relevant visitor records:

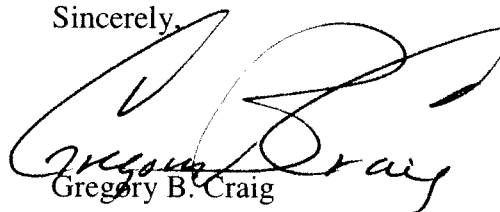
- Bill Tauzin visited the White House on March 5, May 19, June 2, and June 24.
- Karen Ignagni visited the White House on March 5, 6, and 11 and June 30.
- Richard Umbdenstock visited the White House on February 4, February 23; March 5, March 25, March 30; April 6, and May 22.

- J. James Rohack visited the White House on March 25, June 22, and June 24.
- William C. Weldon visited the White House on May 12.
- Jeffrey B. Kindler visited the White House on March 5, May 6, and June 2.
- Stephen J. Hemsley visited the White House on May 15 and 22.
- Angela F. Braly visited the White House on February 13.
- George Halvorson visited the White House on March 27 and June 5.
- Jay Gellert visited the White House on February 10, March 11, and March 20.
- Thomas Priselac visited the White House on April 3.
- Richard Clark visited the White House on March 24.
- Wayne T. Smith visited the White House on June 4.
- Rick Smith visited the White House on May 19 and June 2.

In addition to the above information, the White House visitor records reflect that Mr. Tauzin, Ms. Ignagni, Mr. Umbdenstock, Mr. Rohack, Mr. Kindler, Mr. Halvorson, Mr. Gellert, Mr. Priselac, David Nexon, and Rick Smith were scheduled to attend a May 11 meeting at the White House. We understand that all the individuals attended the meeting except Mr. Kindler, and that Mr. Clark attended as well. Finally, the visitor records do not reflect any visits by the following individuals: Ben J. Lipps; William A. Hawkins, III; or Robert L. Parkinson.

We are continuing to review your specific FOIA request, as well as the White House's general policy governing the discretionary release of visitor records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory B. Craig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being more prominent and larger than the last name "Craig".

Gregory B. Craig
Counsel to the President