



THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS, INC.
Residential Alcoholism/Drug Treatment Program

January 28, 1993

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Post Office Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Wilma,

On behalf of American Indian women, men and families in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, I am writing to express support of Dr. Gerald Hill, M.D. as Director of the Indian Health Service. The American Indian community desperately needs Dr. Hill's caliber of leadership at senior, policy-making levels. I can think of no candidate who can better represent the complex healthcare needs of American Indians, since he has experienced our struggles firsthand. I have enclosed a list of individuals who will play an instrumental role in the selection of the new director of the Indian Health Service. I urge you to write to them on Dr. Hill's behalf.

Dr. Hill has devoted his life to improving the health of American Indians, not only among his native Klamath people, but among all American Indian tribes. He has distinguished himself in the medical profession through a rare combination of professional expertise, academic ability, administrative skill and keen, cultural sensitivity to the needs of American Indians.

The Indian Health Service needs a leader who is intimately aware of the needs of programs in the field, such as Friendship House. My professional awareness of Dr. Hill's capabilities tells me that he possesses the necessary characteristics. Consistently, the programs with which he has been associated have become well-known for innovation and sound management. Dr. Hill's remarkable capabilities are well-known throughout the American Indian community nationwide.

Dr. Hill "will bring to the table" the sense of team building that seems a hallmark of the coming Clinton/Gore Administration. I know that his strengths in consensus building, and his ability to achieve compromise with impact and integrity will serve him, and the Indian Health Service well.

For almost twenty years, Friendship House has been a mainstay of support for American Indian people in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. We

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