



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BOSTON ART COMMISSION

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BRUCE P. ROSSLEY
COMMISSIONER

December 30, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1100 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

The arts community in Boston wishes to congratulate you for all of the work that you and the President have done on the issue of health care reform. At the same time we are very concerned about the fact that the millions of Americans who work in the performing, visual, and literary arts are not seen as a unique constituency with unique needs.

National studies have shown that 30% of all literary, performing, and visual artists are unemployed and uninsured. In addition another 15% are employed, but are without health insurance.

It is our understanding that under the Clinton Administration's Health Care Reform Act, in many cases employers will pay 80% of insurance while employees will pay 20%. Even in the best of economic times, most of America's small and mid-size organizations operate on a "shoe string." This begs the question of whether or not an 80% insurance payment by these non-profit organizations is a realistic expectation.

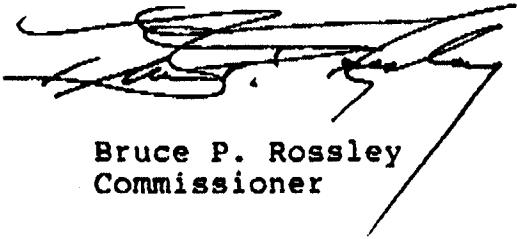
In addition to the above, insurance companies have refused coverage to cultural organizations because of a perception of a high incidence of HIV and AIDS, fluctuation in income, and work with toxic materials. In many cases, even the lowest price insurance plans are out of reach.

Here in Boston, the Mayor's Office of the Arts and Humanities, the Boston Artists' Foundation, and the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program have joined forces in an attempt to quantify this problem. We are also hopeful that beyond quantifying the magnitude of the issue, we will be able to offer you and the President recommendations that speak to the very real needs of this segment of the community which contributes so greatly to the quality of life in our country.

During the next two months, we will be conducting hearings throughout Boston with members of all the arts disciplines. We are looking forward to working with your regional representative. We would also very much appreciate the opportunity to present to you the printed results of our efforts.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please keep up your extremely important work on this issue and do not become discouraged by those who are incapable of ever recognizing creative solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce P. Rossley", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bruce P. Rossley
Commissioner