

WILLIAM PRICE
112 White Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21804
Home Phone 410-546-6473

January 30, 2000

US Department of Health and Human Services
Assistant **Secretary** for Planning and Evaluation
Attention: **Privacy-P**
Room G-322-A Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary,

I am writing to you in response to the proposed regulations on patient privacy published in the November 3, 1999 Federal Register.

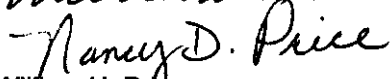
As a patient, I feel that I could be harmed by the disclosure of my medical records. I believe that, as an American citizen, it is my right to be in control of what happens to my medical records. I do not want to have them released to persons or organizations that I do not know, for purposes I cannot **predict**, simply because the Secretary thinks that the public may somehow benefit.

Already the cost of medical care is very high. I do not want to have to pay more to see the doctor as a result of him having to hire a "privacy official" to supervise his charts and records, or a lawyer to figure out the rules. In fact, I cannot afford to pay more for medical care, and I realize that if the doctor is not able to cover his costs, then services will not be available.

I do not want to receive more pieces of paper that no one can understand. I want my medical records to be kept private and I do not want a paper telling me how it is being used by the government, insurance companies, researchers, or others that I do not want to have it. I do not want my doctor to **be** at risk of going to jail for protecting my privacy.

If anybody and everybody approved by the federal government can rummage through my medical records, then I will simply have to keep a lot of health-related information to myself. I ordinarily would trust my doctor to keep confidences but if everything he writes in my record has to be released whenever the government asks for it how can I be sure that it cannot be used against me?

Sincerely,



William H. Price
Nancy D. Prim

cc: The Honorable Wayne Gilchrest, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, US Senate
The Honorable Paul Sat-banes, US Senate

RECEIVED FEB 07 2000