

[3/9/78-Not Submitted] [CF, O/A 548]

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

9 March 1978

TO: MIDGE COSTANZA

FROM: RICK HUTCHESON 

SUBJECT: Your proposed letter from the President to Gold Star Wives

Please see the attached memo from Jim Frey of OMB with regard to the Administration position on H.R. 9861. I'd suggest that you rework your proposed Presidential response in light of OMB comments.

Also, Congressional Liaison suggests that we move cautiously here. "Similar legislation has been introduced for the last eight years with no action by Congress. There has got to be a problem somewhere." Thanks.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MAR 9 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Hutcheson

FROM: James M. Frey *JM Frey*
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

SUBJECT: Costanza Memorandum on the Gold Star
Wives of America

H.R. 9861 (Brinkley and 24 others) and S. 1561 (Bayh and 3 others) would grant a Federal corporate charter to the Gold Star Wives of America, which is chartered as a non-profit organization in New York and is composed of widows of deceased U.S. servicemen and veterans. Both bills are pending in subcommittees of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

Although 348 Federal charters have been granted by an Act of Congress to private organizations, Congress has granted only eight charters since 1969 when the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, respectively, established minimum standards (which operate as committee rules) to achieve some uniformity in considering such legislation. (The last new Federal charter was granted in 1971 to the Paralyzed Veterans of America.)

We understand that these standards were designed to provide consistent and stringent criteria for the granting of Federal charters so that they would be granted only on a very selective basis and only to organizations clearly warranting Federal recognition. Key elements of the House Judiciary Committee criteria are that the organization (1) have been incorporated at least ten consecutive years, (2) not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, (3) be operated solely for charitable, literacy, educational, scientific, patriotic, or civic improvement purposes, (4) maintain a tax exempt status, and (5) conduct activities national in scope and responsive to a national need.

Because organizations petitioning Congress for Federal charters are scrutinized under these criteria and others Congress considers appropriate, the Executive branch has generally deferred to the Congress on determinations of whether a petitioning organization meets these standards. Therefore, in view of the background on this type of legislation, an alternative course of action for the President would be to indicate agreement with the purposes of the Gold Star Wives and urge that the House Judiciary Committee give due consideration to this legislation in accordance with committee standards.

DATE: 07 MAR 78

FOR ACTION: JIM MCINTYRE

JIM FALLOWS

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT STU EIZENSTAT
FRANK MOORE (LES FRANCIS)

SUBJECT: COSTANZA MEMO RE FOLLOW-UP TO YOUR MEETING WITH THE
GOLD STAR WIVES OF AMERICA

+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +
+ BY: 1200 PM THURSDAY 09 MAR 78 +

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

*Five with me JF.
3/8/78*

WASHINGTON

DATE: 07 MAR 78

FOR ACTION: JIM MCINTYRE

JIM FALLOWS

*XC: CABLE ✓
TATE (RF) ✓
FM ✓*

INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT

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PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

Should move cautiously. Similar legislation has been introduced for the last 8 yrs with no action by Congress. There has got to be a problem somewhere (D)

DATE: 07 MAR 78

FOR ACTION: JIM MCINTYRE *attached*

JIM FALLOWS

attached



INFO ONLY: THE VICE PRESIDENT
FRANK MOORE (LES FRANCIS)

attached

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STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 6, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARGARET COSTANZA *MC*

SUBJECT: Follow-Up to your Meeting
with the Gold Star Wives of
America, February 12, 1978

You were asked by the Gold Star Wives for your support of H.R. 9861, sponsored by Jack Brinkley. This bill would grant a federal charter to the Gold Star Wives. You told the Gold Star Wives that you would talk to Congressman Brinkley.

I have attached a draft letter to Congressman Brinkley indicating your support. Domestic Policy and Congressional Liaison signed off on the letter. The Veterans Administration has no position. In 1976, the VA also took a neutral position regarding the incorporation and chartering of the Gold Star Wives of America,

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date

To Congressman Jack Brinkley

In my recent meeting with the leadership of the Gold Star Wives, I told them of my support for your bill, H.R. 9861, to incorporate the Gold Star Wives of America.

My Administration is committed to insuring that veterans and their families receive the benefits provided by a grateful nation. Under the leadership of Max Cleland, the Veterans Administration will be taking a primary role in this endeavor.

We look forward to working with the Gold Star Wives to strengthen and improve our current efforts.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
Jack Brinkley
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515