

WHITE HOUSE LIST OF TASK FORCE
INCLUDES FEW NURSES

Few of the 511 people on the White House's list of health care task force members are nurses, although nearly 400 are government employees.

Responding to public pressure, the White House released its list of people serving First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's task force about two months after it was formed.

Linda Aiken, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, is the only nurse among the top ranks of the task force. A nurse sociologist and member of the Physician Payment Review Commission, she is helping the task force on the issue of training physicians. *The Washington Post* listed her at the same level as Ira Magaziner, the White House consultant; Judith Feder, deputy assistant secretary for health policies at the Department of Health and Human Services, and Tipper Gore, wife of the vice president.

Also listed are Marla Salmon, director of the nursing division of the Health Resources and Services Administration; Kathleen E. Hastings, chief nurse officer for the U.S. Public Health Service's Agency for Health Care Policy and Research; and Marsha Goodwin, of the Veterans Administration's geriatrics and grant management service.

Includes Capitol Hill Nurses

On Capitol Hill, Mary Ella Payne, a nurse serving the staff of Sen. John D. Rockefeller III (D-WVa.); and Julie Sochalski, a Robert Wood Johnson fellow in the office of Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.); are also on the task force.

Earlier this year, *LNN* reported that Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) had been named to the task force (Feb. 24, page 25). But according to the official list, the job instead went to her legislative aide, Douglas Mink.

Three aides to Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) also made the list. Waxman added an amendment to the House's National Institutes of Health reauthorization bill to authorize a study of nurse staffing levels in hospitals and nursing homes. The aides are E. Ripley Forbes, Michael Hash and Ruth Katz.

As reported March 27, Judy Leavitt, chairwoman of the American Nurses Association's (ANA) political action committee (PAC); and Barbara Fassbinder, a nurse who contracted the AIDS virus in an emergency room, were recently named to the task force.