

January 25, 1994

By telecopy to 456-6218 and mail

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Dear Mike:

We are *pro bono* counsel to two 501(c)(3) organizations concerned about destructive and abusive cults, the American Family Foundation (AFF) and the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), described below. As set forth in the attached Cult Abuse Policy & Research newsletter, CAN and AFF are interested in health care and health reform because many (probably most) of the victims who leave abusive groups have serious, unmet health needs. Many of these victims are children. Hillary Rodham Clinton has expressed her concern for the needs of this population. See newsletter.

Congressman Henry Waxman has uncovered the fact that during the 15 years between the hundreds of murders and suicides of Peoples Temple followers in Guyana and the tragic deaths at Waco last April, the federal government invested absolutely nothing on trying to understand this form of psychological abuse and how to heal its victims. It appears that allegations that research would tamper with freedom of religion inhibited the government. However, federally-supported research can avoid First Amendment, freedom of religion issues altogether by concentrating on the healing of those who have left psychologically-abusive groups (rather than the recruitment tactics of such groups).

The Clinton Administration can break meaningful new ground by initiating research and community liaison programs at NIMH and CMHS. These programs can stress the particularly serious needs of children coming out of psychologically abusive groups. That would earn hosannas in the cult-concern community.

**Cult Awareness Network (CAN)** is the largest national non-profit organization which provides education and support services to the public on the cult issue. It was incorporated in 1978, the year the Jonestown tragedy occurred, and has 19 affiliates nationwide. It receives and responds to more than 16,000 inquiries annually concerning destructive cults and the problems they pose to society. CAN has established a support network, FOCUS, for former cult members. CAN's many supporters include mental health professionals, educators, clergy, law enforcement officials, ex-cult members and their families.

**The American Family Foundation (AFF)** is a tax-exempt research and education organization founded in 1979 to assist cult victims and their families through the study of cultic groups and their manipulative techniques