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February 3, 1983

IN REPLY REFER TO

C. Everett Koop, M.D. United States Surgeon General 200 Independence Avenue S.W. Washinton, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Koop:

I am writing you in reference to an article, which I have enclosed, that was a brief summary of a speech that you delivered sometime last year.

Of particular interest to me as a private attorney specializing in Family Law and more specifically neglect, mental health and children's law, was your reference to predisposition for violence.

Your speech, or rather the enclosed article, has done much for me in attempting to explain what it is that is involved in a children's law/family law practice. In fact, it becomes a very real problem in trying to tell people, for example a businessman or even a physician who does not deal with families and/or children in a legal, social and psychological setting; and, therefore, has very little empathy for my explanation of the breadth of the problem that exists in dealing in this area, what one does in such a practice.

In reading the summary of your speech, I decided to write you to express my total agreement for your suggestion that pediatricians counsel or make referrals in the situations that you described in just the same way that a family practice or internal medicine specialist might counsel a patient in regards to diet, etc. In fact, beyond that intervention, I feel that a combined legal/medical approach would be appropriate.

I am anticipating an appointment to the New Mexico Council on Children and Youth and, further, hope to be placed on the American Bar Association Family Law Section Board, which would help me, personally, to make suggestions along the lines that your speech identified.

I am interested in further investigation of this problem and would like to work on getting a grant from an entity that might be equally interested in this area. The National Institute of Mental Health, American Bar Association, for example.

William Opin

In summary, in addition to letting you know that I am in total agreement with the thoughts that were reported in the enclosed article, I was hopeful that you could direct me to a source that I might pursue with my interest in this problem. I would appreciate any additional information or direction you might have.

In closing, I apologize for writing you without an introduction and hope that this letter will not seem inappropriate; and I appreciate your time in reading my letter.

Very truly yours,

BY:

THOMAS J. HORNE, P.C.

TJH:smk enclosure

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