



Batten, Michael: Files, 1981-1987

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of White House Correspondence: Agency Liaison

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Record Type

Textual

Scope and Content Note

Scope and Content

Michael D. Batten was an expert and consultant in health industry related matters when he was hired by the White House in 1981 to serve in the Correspondence Unit. His duties included responding to appeals to President Reagan from people facing hardship due to medical problems, unemployment, termination of benefits/services and other reasons. On behalf of these individuals Batten would reach out to states, insurance companies, federal agencies and other organizations providing services to the elderly and needy.

In this role Batten became known for intervening in cases involving organ transplants. The high cost of transplant surgeries - not always covered by private insurance or state programs - often forced the patients and their families to seek media exposure for the purpose of fundraising. Batten was charged with trying to help these patients work through whatever issue was preventing treatment, be it an insurance company, a state or federal agency, or the organ donation process.

This material consists of (mostly) incoming letters from the public, memos, reports, publications and clippings. Topics concern such matters as pensions, loss of Social Security benefits (including disability), financial hardship brought on by medical conditions not covered by insurance or other government programs and organ transplants. Batten's handwritten notes on the incoming letters are in most cases the only record of his work.

The collection is arranged by year and alphabetically thereunder.

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1981 A-Z
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 A-C (1)-(3)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 D-F (1)-(3)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 G-I (1)

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 G-I (2)-(5)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 J-L (1)-(4)

Status	Title
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 L-Q (1)(2)

Box 3

Status	Title
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 L-Q (3)-(4)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 P-S (1)-(6)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 T-Z (1)

Box 4

Status	Title
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1982 T-Z (2)-(3)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1983 A-L (1)-(6)

Box 5

Status	Title
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1983 M-Z (1)-(4)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1985 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Hardship Letters, 1986
OPEN	Hardship Letters and Materials, 1981-1985 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Michael Batten Office and Personal]