

[MORNING NEWS](#)
[South Carolina Public Radio](#)
[LIVE NOW](#)
[PLAYLIST](#)



DONATE

The Two-Way

THE TWO-WAY

Doctor: Trump Dictated Letter Attesting To His 'Extraordinary' Health

MAY 2, 2018 · 2:41 AM ET

By Scott Neuman



Dr. Harold Bornstein arrives at his office in New York in December 2015. He released a letter in 2015 describing Donald Trump's health in glowing terms, but now tells CNN that the then-candidate dictated the whole thing.
 Joe Marino/NY Daily News via Getty Images

In December 2015, Donald Trump's personal physician released a letter describing his patient's health in language that sounded more like it was written by the patient himself than the doctor – and it turns out that might be exactly what happened.

"If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," Dr. Harold Bornstein, a gastroenterologist from Lenox Hospital in New York, wrote at the time.

The letter said that a recent medical exam showed "only positive results" for the then-candidate and that "his physical strength and stamina are extraordinary."

**JACOB BORNSTEIN, M.D.
HAROLD N. BORNSTEIN, M.D., P.C.
101 EAST 78TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10075-0301
TELE: (212) 988-6600 FAX: (212) 988-6602
E-mail: hbornst1@gmail.com
www.haroldbornsteinmd.com**

December 4, 2015

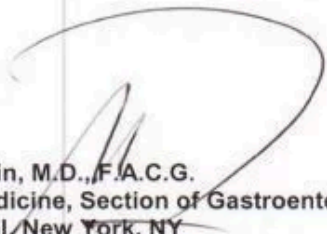
To Whom My Concern:

I have been the personal physician of Mr. Donald J. Trump since 1980. His previous physician was my father, Dr. Jacob Bornstein. Over the past 39 years, I am pleased to report that Mr. Trump has had no significant medical problems. Mr. Trump has had a recent complete medical examination that showed only positive results. Actually, his blood pressure, 110/65, and laboratory test results were astonishingly excellent.

Over the past twelve months, he has lost at least fifteen pounds. Mr. Trump takes 81 mg of aspirin daily and a low dose of a statin. His PSA test score is 0.15 (very low). His physical strength and stamina are extraordinary.

Mr. Trump has suffered no form of cancer, has never had a hip, knee or shoulder replacement or any other orthopedic surgery. His only surgery was an appendectomy at age ten. His cardiovascular status is excellent. He has no history of ever using alcohol or tobacco products.

If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency.



Harold N. Bornstein, M.D., F.A.C.G.
Department of Medicine, Section of Gastroenterology
Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY

Trump's campaign released a summary of his medical history on Monday.

Donald J. Trump for President

As NPR's Jessica Taylor reported at the time: "The full letter is written in true Trumpian fashion, full of hyperbole and boasting of greatness. Bornstein calls Trump's blood pressure 'astonishingly excellent.' "

However, Bornstein now tells CNN that Trump was the one who wrote it after all.

"He dictated that whole letter. I didn't write that letter," Bornstein told CNN on Tuesday. "I just made it up as I went along."

Trump, who was 70 when he assumed office, is the oldest person ever to be elected president.

Bornstein's admission comes as he also tells NBC that a longtime personal bodyguard for Trump, along with a top lawyer at the Trump Organization and a third man, conducted a "raid" on his office on Feb. 3, 2017, in which they seized the president's medical records.

Bornstein told the network: "They must have been here for 25 minutes or 30 minutes. It created a lot of chaos." He said he felt "raped, frightened and sad."

That incident in 2017 occurred just days after The New York Times published a story based on interviews with Bornstein, who told the newspaper that the president takes a prostate-related drug to treat baldness, known as Propecia, as well as other "antibiotics to control rosacea, a common skin problem, and a statin for elevated blood cholesterol and lipids."

The administration on Tuesday denied that the visit to Bornstein's office last year was anything out of the ordinary.

Sarah Sanders, the White House press secretary, called it "standard operating procedure" to obtain a newly elected president's medical records.

"That was what was taking place, is those records were being transferred over to the White House medical unit, as requested," she said.

2016 campaign - president trump



Sign up for NPR's Up First newsletter.

The news you need to start your day. Nothing more, never less.

SUBSCRIBE

[See more subscription options](#)

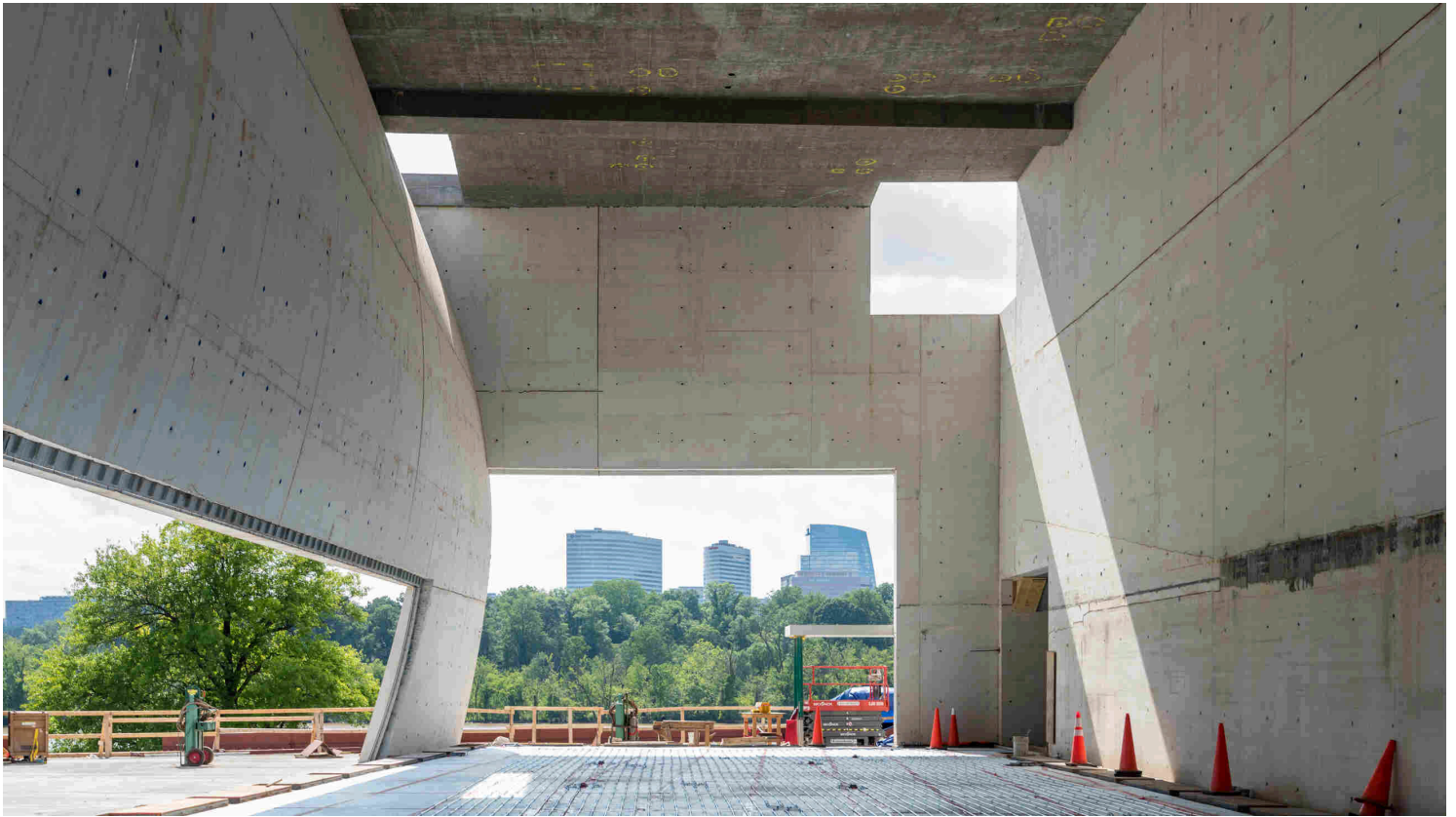
By subscribing, you acknowledge and agree to NPR's [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).
NPR may share your name and email address with your NPR station. [See Details](#).

More Stories From NPR



THE TWO-WAY

Last 'Two-Way' Post Isn't Our Last Story: A Look Back, And How To Find Us Now



THE TWO-WAY

Kennedy Center Unveils Progress On New Extension For Artistic Projects



THE TWO-WAY

S.C. Mom Says Baby Monitor Was Hacked; Experts Say Many Devices Are Vulnerable



THE TWO-WAY

Former USA Gymnastics CEO Told Staff To Keep Alleged Abuse Quiet, Waited To Tell FBI



THE TWO-WAY

U.S.-Led Coalition Accused Of 'Potential War Crimes' In Push To Reclaim Raqqa



THE TWO-WAY

Voters Recall Aaron Persky, Judge Who Sentenced Brock Turner

Popular on NPR.org



2024 ELECTION

The DNC roll call featured a musical salute to each state. Here's what your state chose



2024 ELECTION

WATCH: The full Democratic National Convention celebratory roll call



BUSINESS

Federal judge throws out U.S. ban on noncompetes



2024 ELECTION

With humor and hope, Obamas warn against Trump, urge Democrats to 'do something'



2024 ELECTION

Who spoke at the DNC: Watch speeches from the Obamas, Bernie Sanders and Doug Emhoff



POLITICS

Nicole Shanahan says she and RFK Jr. may drop out and endorse Trump

NPR Editors' Picks



GOATS AND SODA

Yes there is famine in Sudan. So why isn't 'famine' being declared?



ECONOMY

U.S. added fewer jobs in the past year than initially reported



BOOK REVIEWS

Frazier's 'Paradise Bronx' makes you want to linger in NYC's 'drive-through borough'



2024 ELECTION

Here's who's speaking on Day 3 of the DNC



EUROPE

Divers find 5 bodies during search of yacht wreckage off Sicily



2024 ELECTION

5 things to know about Tim Walz, Democratic vice presidential nominee

The Two-Way

READ & LISTEN

Home

News

Culture

Music

Podcasts & Shows

CONNECT

Newsletters

Facebook

Instagram

Press

Public Editor

Corrections

Contact & Help

ABOUT NPR

Overview

Diversity

NPR Network

Accessibility

Ethics

Finances

GET INVOLVED

Support Public Radio

Sponsor NPR

NPR Careers

NPR Shop

NPR Events

NPR Extra

[terms of use](#)

[privacy](#)

[your privacy choices](#)

[text only](#)

© 2024 npr