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HHS [Health and Human Services] Responsibilities Under the Crime Bill

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HHS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CRIME BILL

The Crime Bill signed by President Clinton today strengthens HHS' ongoing efforts to help prevent violence and crime. HHS programs in the Crime Bill will offer positive alternatives to youth, protect women from violence, and provide increased business and employment opportunities for low-income people and communities. HHS' involvement is reflected in four key provisions of the bill:

- Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women
- Family and Community Schools
- National Community Economic Partnership
- The Ounce of Prevention Council.

The Crime Bill authorizes a total of \$1.4 billion to support these HHS programs over the next six years.

New services to be provided by HHS will complement a large number of existing social and public health programs in the department. These include social programs that offer opportunities to youth for positive development, programs to help alleviate conditions that may lead to crime and violence, as well as public health programs aimed at better understanding and preventing violence.

With passage of the Crime Bill, HHS can expand its preventive activities to protect women and children and to increase economic development for disadvantaged communities to create greater employment opportunities. Areas of responsibility include:

- Domestic violence and rape prevention programs will help provide critical services to women who are, or are at risk of becoming, victims of violence in their homes. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the U.S. Women who are victims of domestic violence will have safe places to go. A national hotline for victims will be established to help women protect themselves and their children. Funds will also support the establishment of community- and school-based programs. These activities will reflect HHS' ongoing focus on the connections among child abuse, child welfare, and domestic violence. Total authorized funding: \$574 million.

- Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Grants offer youth constructive opportunities for positive, healthy development by establishing supervised sports, extra-curricular and academic activities including tutoring, mentoring, work force preparation, cultural activities, and access to improved health care, including counseling and substance abuse treatment. This program supplements other HHS initiatives which improve the lives of vulnerable youth and their families. Total authorized funding: \$567 million.
- The National Community Economic Partnership will offer lines of credit to community development corporations which ultimately will be used to finance projects that generate business and employment opportunities for low-income, unemployed, or underemployed people in urban and rural areas. Community Development Corporation Improvement Grants will allow community development corporations to enhance their management and operating abilities and expand their community development activities. These two new programs augment existing community economic development programs which have been providing employment and ownership opportunities to the poor through business, physical, or commercial development. Total authorized funding: \$270 million.
- The Ounce of Prevention Council will enable federal programs to concentrate resources on high quality, community-based efforts for at-risk youth. Prevention programs will provide our youth with critical services to keep them off the streets and assist in the creation of safe havens where they can play and learn. Outreach to at-risk families and other activities will also help to reduce substance and child abuse and adolescent pregnancy. The Ounce of Prevention Council will coordinate federal activities that are aimed at preventing crime and violence.

FUNDING: To support anti-crime and violence activities in the Crime Bill, savings realized from the implementation of the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 will be placed in the new Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund in the Treasury.

Additional Background on the HHS Programs:

The Domestic Violence/Violence Against Women Act Provisions

- **Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Assaults Against Women** -- State grant funds will be available for rape prevention and education programs conducted by rape crisis centers or similar nongovernmental nonprofit entities for educational seminars, the operation of hotlines, training programs, preparation of informational materials, and other activities to increase awareness of and to help prevent sexual assault. States must ensure that at least 25 percent of the funds are devoted to education programs targeted for middle school, junior high school, or high school students. Authorized appropriations are \$35 million for each of FY 1996 and FY 1997; \$45 million for each of FY 1998, FY 1999 and FY 2000. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$205 million.
- **Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth** -- Grants for Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation will be awarded to eligible private, nonprofit agencies for street-based outreach and education and referral for runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse. Authorized appropriations are \$7 million for FY 1996; \$8 million for FY 1997; and \$15 million for FY 1998. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$30 million.
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline Grants** -- A grant for up to five years will be awarded to a private, nonprofit entity to establish and operate a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to victims of domestic violence. Counseling and referral services will be provided 24 hours a day. A data base will be developed and maintained that provides information on services, including the availability of shelters throughout the U.S., to which callers may be referred. Hotline counselors will be available for non-English speakers and for people who are hearing impaired. Authorized appropriations are \$1 million for FY 1995 and \$400,000 for each fiscal year from FY 1996 through FY 2000. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$3 million.

- Grants for Battered Women's Shelters -- The Crime Bill amends the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to authorize appropriations of \$50 million for FY 1996; \$60 million for FY 1997; \$70 million for FY 1998; and \$72.5 million for each of FY 1999 and FY 2000. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$325 million.
- Youth Education and Domestic Violence -- HHS and the U.S. Department of Education will select, implement, and evaluate four model programs for the education of young people about domestic violence and violence among intimate partners. The programs will address four different audiences (primary schools, middle schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education). The authorized HHS appropriation is \$400,000 for FY 1996.
- Demonstration Grants for Community Partnerships -- Projects in local communities that involve such sectors as health care providers, the education and religious community, the justice system, domestic violence program advocates, human service entities, and business and civic leaders will develop a coordinated community plan for intervention in and prevention of domestic violence. Grants will be awarded for up to three years to these private nonprofit organizations. Authorized appropriations are \$4 million for FY 1996 and \$6 million for FY 1997. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$10 million.
- Technical Amendments to Family Violence Prevention and Services Act -- The amendments strengthen the current family violence prevention and services program by emphasizing service to traditionally underserved populations, strengthening reporting requirements, and by authorizing a new special issue resource center to provide technical assistance and training to state domestic violence coalitions.
- Study of the Number and Cost of Injuries Resulting from Domestic Violence -- The CDC is required to conduct a study to obtain a national projection of the incidence of injuries resulting from domestic violence and the cost of injuries. The study will recommend health care strategies for reducing the incidence of such injuries. The total authorized HHS appropriation is \$100,000 for FY 1996.
- Report on Battered Women's Syndrome -- The Departments of Justice and HHS are to transmit to Congress within one year a report on the medical and psychological basis of "battered women's syndrome" and on the extent to which evidence of the syndrome has been considered in criminal trials. No authorized appropriations have been made.

The Family and Community Schools Provisions

- Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Grant Program Act of 1994 -- Through this new program, HHS, in consultation with the Department of Justice, will make matching grants to private, community-based, nonprofit organizations in communities with significant poverty and juvenile delinquency for after-school, weekend, holiday, and summer recreation and education programs. The programs are for children ages 5 to 18 at public schools or other local facilities, such as colleges or universities, local or state parks or recreation centers, or military bases. They will provide for supervised sports and other extramural activities, educational enrichment programs, tutoring, mentoring, work force preparation, and access to health care, including counseling and substance abuse treatment. Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest effort in generating local support for the programs.

Authorized appropriations are \$25.9 million in FY 1995; \$72.45 million in FY 1996; \$85.05 million in FY 1997; \$107.1 million in FY 1998; \$135.45 million in FY 1999; and \$141.05 million in FY 2000. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$567 million.

The National Community Economic Partnership Act Provisions

- Community Economic Partnership Investment Funds -- This new program provides nonrefundable lines of credit (of up to \$2 million per applicant) to community development corporations to establish, maintain, or expand revolving loan funds that are used to finance projects offering business and employment opportunities for low-income, unemployed, or underemployed people and to improve the quality of life in low-income urban and rural areas. The applicants, who will compete competitively, must be community development corporations with detailed knowledge of the target area and previous successful experience. Local sources must provide 50 percent of the matching requirement. See below for authorized appropriations.
- Community Development Corporation Improvement Grants -- In this new program grants will be awarded to community development corporations to upgrade their management and operating capacity and to enhance the resources available to enable such corporations to increase their community

development activities. Skill enhancement grants will improve the business management and development skills of people managing such corporations. Operating grants will support an administrative capacity for low-income, community economic development projects. Grants may also be awarded to establish, maintain, or expand revolving loan funds; to make or guarantee loans; or to make capital investments in new or expanding local businesses. Applicants must be community development corporations with a detailed knowledge of the target area.

Authorized appropriations for these programs are \$45 million in FY 1996; \$72 million in FY 1997; and \$76.5 million for each of FY 1998 and FY 1999, with 60 percent of the funds appropriated in each fiscal year for Community Economic Partnership Investment Funds and 40 percent for Community Development Corporation Improvement grants. Total authorized HHS appropriation: \$270 million.

The Ounce of Prevention Fund Provisions

- Ounce of Prevention Council -- Members of this new Council will include the Departments of Justice, HHS, Education, Labor, Agriculture, HUD, Treasury, and Interior, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy with the President designating a Chair. The Council will award grants for (1) summer and after-school (including weekend and holiday) education and recreation programs; (2) mentoring, tutoring, and other programs involving participation by adult role models; (3) programs assisting and promoting employability and job placement; and (4) prevention and treatment programs to reduce substance abuse, child abuse, and adolescent pregnancy, including outreach for at-risk families.

The Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund Provisions

- Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund -- This new fund in the Treasury would be established for savings realized from the implementation of the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994. Amounts to be transferred are \$2.423 billion in FY 1995; \$4.287 billion in FY 1996; \$5 billion in FY 1997; \$5.5 billion in FY 1998; \$6.5 billion in FY 1999; and \$6.5 billion in FY 2000. Total authorized transfer: \$30.21 billion.

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