

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

"Affirmative action has been good for America. But that does not mean it has always been perfect. That does not mean that it should go on forever.

Affirmative action should be retired when its job is done -- and I am resolved that that day will come. But the job is not done."

President Clinton, July 19, 1995

July 19, 1995

President Clinton believes there is still a need for affirmative action that is done right -- we need to mend it, not end it. As we approach the 21st century, President Clinton believes we must restore the American Dream to all Americans; find common ground amid our great diversity; and strengthen the American commitment to equal opportunity for all, special treatment for none.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Done Right, Affirmative Action Works.** In 1995, President Clinton ordered a review of the federal government's affirmative action programs. That review concluded that affirmative action is still an effective tool to expand economic and educational opportunity:
 - The military's approach, ensuring it has a wide pool of qualified candidates for every promotion, has given us the world's most diverse and best qualified military leadership.
 - Education Department programs targeted at minorities do a lot of good with a small investment -- about 40 cents of every \$1,000 in student aid.
 - The goals and timetables first instituted by President Nixon for large federal contractors have prevented discrimination and fostered fairness-- without quotas or mandated outcomes.
 - "Set-asides" have helped build up firms owned by minorities and women who were historically excluded from the "old boy" network. They have helped a new generation of entrepreneurs to flourish, fostering self-reliance and economic growth.
- **Presidential Directive to Ensure Affirmative Action:** On July 19, 1995, President Clinton directed all federal agencies to comply with the Supreme Court's decision in Adarand and to apply four standards to make sure that all affirmative action programs are fair:
 - No quotas.
 - No reverse discrimination.
 - No preferences for unqualified individuals.
 - No continuation of programs that have met their goals.
 - Any program that does not meet any of these four principles must be eliminated or changed.

- **Reform "Set-Asides":** To address cases where "set-asides" have been misapplied, misused or even intentionally abused, President Clinton ordered his Administration to:
 - Crack Down on "Set-Aside" Fraud and Abuse. Make sure "set-asides" go to businesses that need them most. No permanent "set-asides" for any company.
 - Comply with the Supreme Court's Adarand decision. Limit set-asides to areas where serious discrimination remains.
- **Helping Distressed Communities:** President Clinton has directed the Vice President Gore to develop new ways to use government contracting to help businesses locate in distressed areas and hire workers from those areas.

Background

We must not become the first generation of Americans since the end of Reconstruction to narrow the reach of equal opportunity. We must continue the struggle toward equal opportunity for all and special treatment for none. America cannot afford to waste a single person as we confront new challenges. Affirmative action has closed many gaps in economic opportunity, but we still have a long way to go:

- Unemployment rate for African-Americans remains about twice that of whites.
- Women still make only 72 percent as much as men.
- Average income for a Hispanic woman with a college degree is less than that of a white man with a high school degree.
- The recent Glass Ceiling Report found that women in the nation's largest companies hold less than 5 percent of senior management posts. The number is lower for African-Americans, Hispanic and Asians, who hold less than 1 percent each of those positions.
- In 1994, federal government received more than 90,000 complaints of employment discrimination based on race, ethnicity and gender.
- Hate crimes and violence are still ugly realities in the lives of many Americans.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Complete agency compliance with President's directive to ensure that Administration's programs conform to Adarand.
- Prevent this issue from dividing us. There are those who would use this issue to divide us. They must not succeed. America will survive and prosper as a society if we are confident and united. Today in America, 150 racial and ethnic groups co-exist in harmony -- an achievement unmatched in human history. President Clinton believes we have a responsibility to renew and strengthen the ideals that fostered that unity.

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Last Update: March 12, 1996

THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

"Our common goal must ultimately be a cure, a cure for all those who are living with HIV, and a vaccine to protect all the rest of us from the virus. A cure and a vaccine, that must be our first and top priority."

President Clinton
White House Conference on HIV and AIDS
December 6, 1996

In the 15 years since the discovery of HIV/AIDS in the U.S., more than 500,000 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women and children have died from this disease. AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans 25-44. Today, as many as one million Americans are living with HIV and at least 100 Americans are becoming infected every day. Early governmental response to this epidemic was sharply criticized as insufficient. But President Clinton has committed the nation to a "loud, clear, and consistent war on AIDS."

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Increased funding for AIDS research, prevention, and care by 30 percent in two years and sought increases in FY 1996 that would raise funding by 40 percent over three years.
- Increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides services to people living with AIDS, by 108 percent.
- Revised eligibility rules for Social Security disability benefits to make it easier for people with HIV/AIDS to qualify for support.
- Signed legislation strengthening the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, providing a stronger focus for research planning and coordination.
- Accelerated AIDS drug approval. Approval of two new protease inhibitor drugs was accomplished in 72 and 41 days, respectively.
- Called the first-ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, inviting more than 300 experts, activists, and caregivers to a full-day of top-level discussions with Administration officials.

- Established the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to advise the government on issues related to the national response to the epidemic.
- Increased funding for direct housing assistance to people with AIDS by 46 percent.
- Created the Office of National AIDS Policy at the White House to coordinate and direct Federal AIDS policy.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton continues to seek additional resources to increase the national response to HIV and AIDS. His Administration is working closely with business leaders, religious leaders, community organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and members of the affected community to increase such efforts throughout the U.S. by:

- Eliminating barriers to AIDS research and AIDS drug approval. Vice President Gore is leading an effort to increase cooperation between government and the pharmaceutical industry on AIDS research and drug development.
- Challenging Congress to retain the federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for people living with HIV and AIDS.
- Seeking additional funding for AIDS research, prevention, and care.
- Strongly supporting the Office of AIDS Research at NIH to provide greater focus and direction for our national AIDS research effort.
- Establishing a national goal to reduce the number of new HIV infections each year "until there are none."
- Working to eliminate AIDS-related discrimination in the workplace, health care institutions, employment, and housing.
- Collaborating with business leaders to increase workplace AIDS education to help reduce the stigma attached to HIV disease.
- Empowering community-based organizations to develop culturally sensitive AIDS prevention efforts.
- Working with parents, schools, clergy, and youth advocates to reduce the number of adolescents and young adults becoming infected with HIV.

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

"The fact is, organized interests have too much power in the halls of government. These influence groups too often promote their own interest at the expense of the public interest. Too often they operate in secret. Too often they have special privileges ordinary Americans don't even know exist....We have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and strengthen our country. If we truly believe in a government that puts ordinary Americans ahead of the powerful and privileged, then we must act and act now."

President Bill Clinton
Radio Address to the Nation
February 17, 1996

On February 17, 1996, President Clinton announced his support for the first real bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation in a generation, the McCain-Feingold Senate Campaign Finance Reform Act. The McCain-Feingold bill would help fight the cynicism that is gripping the American people, help restore faith in the U.S government, reaffirm that elections are won and lost in a competition of ideas, and reduce the cost of campaigning. The bill includes many of the campaign finance reform ideas that President Clinton championed in 1992, including:

- Campaign spending limits
- Banning Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions to candidates
- Limiting the use of personal funds
- Ending the current soft money system by requiring disclosure of all soft money contributions
- Requiring broadcasters to provide free broadcast time and discounts to candidates
- Prohibiting Congressional franked mailings in the year of a campaign

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by creating more accessible voter registration locations by enacting the National Voter Registration Act ("Motor-Voter"). The Motor-Voter law has already created the greatest expansion in the voter registration rolls since the 19th century.
- Fought for and signed into law the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. The Act is the first overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years and requires lobbyists to disclose who they work for and eliminated loopholes that allowed lobbying organizations to avoid disclosure.
- Enacted the Congressional Accountability Act to ensure that the same laws apply to Congress as to the rest of America.

- Fought for and signed into law the Line-Item Veto changing the way Washington works by cutting spending on wasteful special-interest programs.
- Eliminated the tax deductions corporate lobbying expenses.
- Imposed the strictest Administration ethics guidelines in history, including barring top officials from lobbying their former agencies for five years and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton believes we have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and help restore trust in our government. That is why the President will continue to call on Congress to pass bipartisan campaign finance reform and curb the influence of money in our country's political system.

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CHERISHING AND PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN

"Our first challenge is to cherish our children and to strengthen America's families. Family is the foundation of American life. If we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America."

President Clinton
January 23, 1996

Quality child care is critical to the millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. The Clinton Administration, which has increased funding for child care in every budget proposal, has been committed to expanding child care assistance through Head Start and other successful child care programs - and to improving the quality of child care. President Clinton is also committed to ensuring the safety of children in foster care, reuniting families where it is possible and encouraging adoption where it is not, reducing the unnecessary amount of time children spend in foster care, and strengthening the capacity of parents to nurture healthy children.

Although often hidden, hunger exists in America. Adequate nutrition for low income families and individuals is still a problem and contributes to low birthweight babies, impaired physical and cognitive development, lack of preparedness to learn, and alarming rates of infant mortality. The Clinton Administration is committed to protecting these children and improving the nutritional quality of school meals, reaching full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and opposing block grants for child nutrition programs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD CARE:

- **Increased Funding for Child Care.** Every budget submitted by President Clinton has included increases in child care.
- **Improving Coordination.** The Clinton Administration has worked to make programs more consistent and coordinated, proposing new regulations to reduce red tape, improve quality, give states more flexibility, and streamline child care operations into a single Child Care Bureau.
- **Technical Assistance.** The Clinton Administration has revamped and strengthened technical assistance to the states, territories and tribes to ensure they have access to the best available information on quality issues, particularly health and safety. In addition, the Administration has launched a National Child Care Information Center for policymakers and the general public.

- **Head Start.** President Clinton has made expanding and improving pre-schooling the starting point for helping families give their children a good start on the right course. With bipartisan support, the President appointed the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine and recommend improvements to the program. These recommendations formed the basis of the reauthorization of Head Start with major quality improvements in 1994. In his first two budgets, the President increased Head Start spending by \$760 million helping an additional 50,000 children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD WELFARE:

- **Removing Barriers to Adoption.** In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multi-ethnic Placement Act, which will help increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity, while allowing a narrow consideration for certain factors such as race.
- **Increasing Special Needs Adoptions.** During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by about 30 percent.
- **Improving Court Operations.** The Administration is working with state court systems in 49 states to improve operations so that children spend less time in foster care unnecessarily.
- **Focusing on outcomes and accountability.** The Administration is shifting the Federal government's role from a focus on how well forms are filled out to a focus on how well children are doing. We are providing states with flexibility and technical assistance so that they can reform their child welfare systems. We are working with 48 states to automate their child welfare systems and reduce the paperwork burden on caseworkers.
- **Strengthening Families.** The Family Preservation and Support Act, passed in 1993, provided almost \$1 billion over five years for the development of preventive and supportive services.
- **Preserving Critical Programs.** The President has also stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and SSI -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD NUTRITION:

This Administration is standing up for America's children by supporting and improving child nutrition programs and protecting the national nutrition safety net.

- **Increased Funding for Nutrition.** The President's FY97 Budget requests about \$41 billion for nutrition assistance, up from \$39 billion allotted in FY96. In FY96, the President increased funding for nutrition to \$39 billion, up from \$38 billion in FY95.

- **Reaching Full Participation in WIC.** The Clinton Administration will achieve its commitment to reaching full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) by reaching 7.5 million participants by the end of FY97. This program works: Every \$1 invested in WIC has proven to save up to \$4.25 in preventive health-care costs.
- **Reforming the School Lunch Program.** This Administration's School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children is a comprehensive plan to ensure healthy school meals. USDA's Team Nutrition -- a network of public-private partnerships -- improves the health of children by promoting food choices for a healthy diet through schools, families, communities, and the media. There are now more than 6,000 Team Nutrition Schools across the nation, building local coalitions to improve meals and provide nutrition information to children and their families.
- **Protecting the National Nutrition Safety Net in Welfare Reform.** The President believes it is possible to enact real welfare reform that is tough on work and responsibility -- not tough on children, while protecting the national nutrition safety net. On January 9, the President rejected the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1995 (H.R. 4) because the bill threatened to undermine the national nutrition safety net that has successfully promoted the nutrition and health of children and families. This welfare reform bill reduced nutrition benefits to the children and families participating in the Food Stamp Program and Child Nutrition Programs by \$29 billion over seven years.

Statistical Backup

Child Care

The quality of child care is far from adequate and the need for assistance with child care is large and growing. Poor quality care threatens children's development. A recent study conducted by economists and child development experts confirms that quality care is related to child outcomes. The vast majority of care in the country was found to be mediocre, with 40% of infant care considered poor.

- Almost one million children of working poor families receive assistance through the At-Risk and Child Care and Development Block Grant Programs.
- Low-income families who pay for child care spend more than a quarter of their income on these expenses, and millions more are in need of child care assistance. In California, 225,000 children are on a waiting list for subsidized child care.
- More than 400,000 children each month receive child care assistance through AFDC and Transitional Child Care programs. Studies indicate that when child care arrangements break down, parents are more likely to drop out of school or leave work and go back on welfare.

Child Welfare

Children become part of the child welfare system because they have been abused or neglected or because they are in danger of being abused or neglected. Nearly 3 million children -- 4 percent of America's children -- were the subjects of reports alleging abuse or neglect in 1993. Nearly half a million children are in foster care, an almost 50 percent increase since 1988. 20,000 children, many of them with special needs, are legally free for and awaiting adoption at this moment. Children wait on average 1.8 years to be adopted.

Child Nutrition

Every day federal nutrition programs make a real difference in the health and well-being of children across the nation by getting them the nutrition they need.

- An average of 1.8 million infants -- 45 percent of all infants born in the United States -- participate in the WIC program each month.
- Almost 13 million children receive food stamps each month -- families with children receive more than 80 percent of all benefits.
- School meals programs in 94,000 schools nationwide give 50 million schoolchildren access to nutritious meals -- nearly 26 million children participate in the programs each school day.
- More than 2 million children participate daily in the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) -- a program that helps feed children in child care programs.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to champion programs that break down barriers to adoption through recruitment of adoptive and foster care parents; support the placement of special needs children and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care; and shift the federal focus from paperwork to a focus on outcomes for children by increasing flexibility for states and communities.

The President will also work to ensure that children are protected in any legislative changes to the program. The welfare reform conference report that the President vetoed would have undermined the ability of states to protect children's safety, prevent child abuse and neglect, and recruit safe and loving foster and adoptive homes. Child welfare programs would have been capped and block granted -- cutting funds for child protection programs by \$4.6 billion over 7 years, or 21 percent.

- **A Central Element of Welfare Reform.** The Work and Responsibility Act introduced by the President in 1994 continued the guarantee for families moving toward self sufficiency and expanded child care assistance for working families - part of the effort to "make work pay." The President has made increasing funding for child care one of his bottom lines in the present welfare reform debate. He has consistently said that true welfare reform must help parents go to work and expanding child care assistance is critical to that goal. The President's plan included a \$1.5 billion increase

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFER

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America... Let's stick with a strategy that is working, and keep the crime rate coming down."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

Over the past three years, the Clinton Administration has made tremendous progress in bringing crime and drug abuse under control. The violent crime and murder rates across the country are falling, thousands of criminals have been prevented from buying guns, and more police are on the street. We must continue to move forward. For while overall crime rates are decreasing, we are witnessing more crime committed by juveniles. President Clinton is committed to stopping any attempts to roll back the progress we have made in reducing crime and will continue in his efforts to put more cops on the street and take guns, drugs, and gangs off the streets.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Broke six years of Congressional gridlock by signing the **toughest and smartest Crime Bill** ever with bipartisan support and endorsements from every major law enforcement organization. This historic legislation:
 - Created the COPS program, which is putting **100,000 new community police officers** in cities, towns, and rural areas.
 - Banned **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** and their copies, but specifically protected more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons.
 - Provided the **death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of law enforcement officers** and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
 - Increased penalties for **sex offenders** and imposed a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.
 - Included the **Violence Against Women Act**; the first national effort to reduce violence against women ever. The Act tripled funding for **battered women's shelters**, and has already provided **\$26 million in state grants** to bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims services.
 - Created a nationwide **24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline** that provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals.
 - Targeted career violent offenders with a **"Three Strikes and You're Out"** policy that keeps them behind bars for life.
 - Provided **\$7.9 billion in funding for more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
 - Created the **Community Schools Program**, which promotes constructive alternatives for young people after school, in the evening, on weekends and during the summer to prevent involvement in and the victimization by crime.

- Fought for and signed the **Brady Bill**, which has prevented over 60,000 convicted felons, fugitives, stalkers and other criminals from buying handguns.
- Granted awards totalling **\$88 million to assist states in automating and updating their criminal history record systems** to prevent the sale of firearms to prohibited purchasers.
- Launched the **Anti-Violent Crime Initiative** that has led to the arrest and conviction of many of our most violent criminals.
- Provided grants to fight gang activity and youth violence through the **HHS Youth Gang Initiative Program**.
- Provided up to \$1 million to each of 10 urban police departments, through the **COPS Youth Handgun Initiative**, to expand or enhance community policing and enforcement efforts to comprehensively address the rise of youth firearms violence.
- Initiated **Operation Safe Home** in which federal law enforcement agencies are working with public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so that public housing can be a safer place to live.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "**zero tolerance**" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Supported **School Athlete Drug Testing** before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Encouraged schools to adopt **School Uniform Policies**, which promote discipline and respect, and developed a manual for schools to assist them in establishing these policies. The manual will be distributed to 16,000 school districts.

Statistical Backup

- In just over one year, provided funding to hire 33,000 new community policing officers throughout the country.
- The number of **murders** fell **12%** in the first half of 1995 -- the lowest level in more than three decades. The nation's largest cities saw their overall **crime** fall **6%** during the same period.
- In two years, the Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 felons, fugitives, and others** from purchasing handguns.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

While overall crime rates have been dropping, young people today are increasingly the perpetrators -- and the victims -- of some of society's most violent crimes. That is why reducing juvenile crime and violence are key components of President Clinton's continuing crime-fighting agenda: The President is challenging Congress and our communities to get tough with **juvenile criminals** by:

- Directing the **FBI** to wage a coordinated war on **gangs**;
- Submitting to Congress legislation that gives prosecutors the discretion to prosecute **juvenile offenders as adults**.

In addition, the President is challenging:

- Congress to pass his comprehensive **Anti-Terrorism legislation**;
- States to ensure that prisoners serve at least **85%** of their **sentences**; and
- Local housing authorities to implement a **One-Strike-And-You're-Out** program for public housing for those who commit crime and sell drugs.

While President Clinton is moving forward with additional initiatives to rid our streets and neighborhoods of crime and drugs, he will fight any misguided attempts by Congress to erode our progress -- such as any effort to repeal the **Assault Weapons Ban** or reduce the number of **police** in our communities.

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Last Update: March 11, 1996

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM DRUGS

"To reduce crime and violence we have to reduce the drug problem. The challenge begins in our homes, with parents talking to their children openly and firmly. It embraces our churches and synagogues, our youth groups and our schools."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

Over the last three years, tremendous progress has been made in reducing overall drug use and related crime in our country. We have dealt serious blows to international criminal networks -- such as the notorious Cali Cartel of Colombia -- that import drugs into our country. We have targeted hardcore users who consume the majority of drugs in this country, expanded drug treatment, and provided prevention programs that work. Despite the significant headway in many areas of drug control, national attention must now focus on the alarming trend of increased adolescent drug use. President Clinton is committed to continuing our progress in reducing drug use and to reversing the trend among youth through a national effort to target youth gangs that deal in illicit drugs, expanded drug treatment, and prevention programs that work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Made the **National Drug Policy Director** a full Cabinet level position and appointed General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.) as Director.
- Proposed the largest budget ever to combat drugs in FY 1996.
- Dismantled the Cali Drug Cartel with the arrest of 6 of its top leaders.
- Strengthened and expanded the **Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act** which enables schools and school districts to develop and implement violence and drug programs; over 97 percent of the school districts in the country utilize these funds to keep violence and drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "**zero tolerance**" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Supported **school athlete drug testing** before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Convened **first White House Conference** ever that exclusively addressed the issues of adolescent drug use and violence.
- Expanded **drug treatment** for hard-core users to help end the cycle of violence and drug abuse.

- Initiated a **National Drug Media Literacy Campaign** for parents, youth and communities.
- Proposed **restricting youth access to tobacco products** and reducing the advertising and promotional activities that make these products appealing to young persons.
- Provided states and localities resources to make treatment and prevention available with expanded **drug courts, boot camps**, and treatment in our criminal justice system.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to develop a **comprehensive drug testing program** for the Federal criminal justice system and urged states and localities to adopt a similar program.
- First President to decertify Colombia for failure to make progress in halting drug production
- Refused full certification to Andean source countries, which resulted in the arrest of six of the Cali Cartel's top leaders.
- Issued first **Heroin Strategy** to develop international cooperation against heroin.
- Strengthened U.S. Borders by increasing the number of **Border Patrol Agents** and initiating **Operation Hard Line** through the Customs Service.
- Announced a freeze on assets of companies cooperating with the Cali drug cartel, and called for worldwide cooperation in stopping money laundering and narcotics flow.

Statistical Backup

- Overall number of drug users in the United States has decreased dramatically. In 1979 there were 24 million users of illicit drugs and 5 million cocaine users. By 1994, there were only 11 million -- a decrease of more than 50 percent -- and the number of cocaine users has dropped 30 percent in the past 3 years.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Under the leadership of General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.), the Clinton Administration will continue to implement its concise and action-oriented approach to the drug problem -- (1) reducing the demand for illicit drugs; (2) reducing crime, violence, gangs, and drug availability; (3) enhancing domestic drug program flexibility and efficiency at the community level; and (4) strengthening interdiction and international efforts.

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Last Update: March 11, 1996

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

" America has to be serious about education. We have to be serious about education if we want to have a strong economy, if we want these young people to live up to fullest of their God-given abilities. If we really believe that our obligation to our children is to give them the ability to make the most of their own lives in this world we are living in, that means education, education, education. We must face it, embrace it, and be glad about it."

President Clinton
September 22, 1995

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to providing Americans with the educational opportunities children and adults will need to improve their skills and maximize their potential. President Clinton has fought hard to help equip students with the training and know-how necessary to keep America competitive and its families strong.

The President has compiled an impressive record of achievement in education and has a series of new reform proposals as well. While bringing the deficit down by historic amounts and proposing a balanced budget within seven years, President Clinton has still made investing in education a top priority.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving **pre-schooling** the starting point for **helping families** give their children a good start on the right course. Based on recommendations made by the Head Start Advisory Commission, Head Start was reauthorized in 1994 with major quality improvements. In his first two budgets, the President increased Head Start spending by almost \$760 million, assisting an additional 37,000 children.
- **Direct lending:** President Clinton's Direct Lending program eliminates billions of dollars in unnecessary payments to lenders and third parties and makes student loans cheaper and more efficient for students, schools and taxpayers. Over 1,300 schools, representing 40% of the total number of loans, are participating in this program, which cuts red tape and saves taxpayers and students billions of dollars, while allowing more borrowers flexible repayment arrangements -- including pay-as-you-earn plans through Individual Education Accounts.
- **GOALS 2000: Educate America Act:** President Clinton helped to create Goals 2000 -- signed into law in 1994 -- which supports state, community and school efforts to raise standards of achievement and discipline and encourage students to work hard to meet them. Goals 2000 affirms the President's belief in the critical role of education in building America's future and the federal government's central role as a partner in that effort. More than 40 states participate in Goals 2000 and have developed their own strategic plans -- based on raising academic and occupational standards, improving teaching, increasing parental involvement and expanding the use of technology -- for educational reform.

- **Improving America's Schools Act:** Signed by President Clinton in October of 1994, this law focuses on improvements in teaching in more than 50,000 schools and has a direct impact on five million children in high poverty areas. By increasing school flexibility to use federal aid and supporting effective innovations, this law is a significant step in helping all students meet high academic standards.
- **School to Work:** Signed by President Clinton in May of 1994, this act broadens educational, career and economic opportunities for students not immediately bound for four-year colleges through local partnerships among businesses, schools, community organizations and state and local governments. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue work or post-secondary training, this law helps ensure that America will be capable of performing and prospering in a competitive global economy.
- **National Service:** President Clinton created the AmeriCorps program -- signed into law in September of 1993 -- to enable young people to earn money for education by serving their communities. In the past two years, 45,000 volunteers have worked in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods and parks.
- **Access to Advanced Telecommunications:** President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which ensures that schools, libraries, hospitals, and clinics will have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. The law can help connect every child in every classroom in America to the information superhighway -- opening up worlds of knowledge and opportunities to all students.
- **Technology Learning Challenge:** The Clinton Administration initiated the Technology Learning Challenge grant program to challenge communities to form local partnerships of school systems, colleges, universities, and private businesses to develop creative new ways to use technology for learning. Grants focus on integrating innovative learning technologies into school curricula. Federal funds leverage local resources -- each federal dollar is matched by more than 3 to 1 by local and private funds. The Administration awarded 19 grants for fiscal year 1995. The President's proposed Technology Literacy Challenge would expand this program from less than \$10 million to \$75 million per year to assure that local innovation keeps U.S. schools on the leading edge of learning technologies.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton remains committed to education reform and has vowed to continue helping Americans invest in their children's and their nation's future. In his State of the Union Address, the President made the following proposals:

- **Technological Literacy For The 21st Century:** President Clinton has proposed the creation of a \$2 billion, five-year Technology Literacy Challenge. The Challenge will catalyze state, local, and private sector efforts to provide all our children with greater opportunity to learn the skills they need to thrive in the next century. Modern technology is key to preparing our public schools for the 21st century.
- **School Uniforms:** Schools should be able to require students to wear school uniforms if it means that violence will decrease and learning will increase.

- **Higher Education Standards For Students And Teachers:** In order to ensure America's competitive strength, President Clinton wants to see public schools driven by demanding high standards for students and teachers.
- **Public School Choice:** President Clinton believes that information, competition, and choice among public schools should be the rule, not the exception. Any parent who is dissatisfied with either their own child's or the school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will do better.
- **Charter Schools:** To ensure that every parent has the opportunity to choose a school for their child, the President called on all 50 states to enact charter school laws within 12 months. Twenty states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. Charter schools have greater flexibility but they are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state, or other public institution.
- **Parent Involvement:** President Clinton believes strongly that parents are and should continue to be their children's first and most important teacher. The President asked parents to read with their children, see that their homework is done, see that they take the tough courses, know their children's teachers, talk to their children directly about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and talk to them about the values they want them to have. The President has also challenged businesses, schools, and religious organizations to help parents find the time for all of this by being family-friendly for learning.

Between 1992 and 1995, the dollar amount of aid to students -- including loans, grants and work-study -- increased from \$22.5 billion to \$34.4 billion. In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton vowed to continue the trend of increasing college enrollments by calling for the enactment of three key initiatives to increase access and the affordability of a college education.

- **Merit Scholarships:** The President called for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top 5% of high school graduates in every school with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. If this proposal is enacted, this year, 128,000 graduating high school seniors will receive a scholarship to help finance their college education.
- **Expansion Of Work Study:** The President proposed a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program, from 700,000 students to over one million over the next five years. This increase will significantly expand a program that reaffirms the American ethic, rewarding hard work and helping ensure that all who want a higher education are able to afford it.
- **Tuition Tax Deduction:** The President has called for a deduction of up to \$10,000 for the cost of tuition and training. Families could deduct up to \$10,000 in expenditures for postsecondary education. 17.1 million students and 14.3 million families stand to benefit from this proposal for tax relief to working families.

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

"We must ask more of ourselves, we must expect more of each other, and we must face our challenges together. . . . Our fifth challenge: to leave our environment safe and clean for the next generation. . . . People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

During the last generation, we have made great progress in protecting the environment. We now have cleaner, safer air and water. Lead levels in children's blood have been cut 70 percent, and toxic emissions from factories have been cut in half. We must continue to move forward. A third of us still breathe air that endangers our health, and in too many communities, the water is not safe to drink. President Clinton is committed to making common-sense reforms to environmental programs and is determined to block attempts to roll back safeguards for our families' food, water and air.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Community Right to Know:** Issued a "Pollution Disclosure" Executive Order to require industry to disclose information about toxic releases to their neighbors.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants.
- **Reinventing Environmental Regulation:** Cutting paperwork requirements and allowing businesses to throw out the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. Issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective.
- **Clean Air:** Issued new rule to reduce by 90% the toxic air pollutants released from chemical plants by 1997.
- **Clean Water:** Vowed to veto the lobbyist-written bill to roll back the Clean Water Act that keeps billions of pounds of toxic pollutants and sewage out of our rivers, lakes and streams. Stopped the bill dead in its tracks.
- **Meat Safety:** Issued new standard to prevent *E. coli* contamination in meat.
- **Everglades Restoration:** Bold new program to double federal commitment to the Everglades.
- **Incineration:** Issued new requirement for municipal incinerators to reduce dioxin emissions by 99 percent.

- **National Parks:** Withdrew land from new mining claims to protect Yellowstone, while fighting attempts to close national parks.
- **California Water:** Ended decades of conflict over allocation of California Bay-Delta water, a critical link in the system that supplies drinking water to two-thirds of the state's citizens.
- **Superfund Cleanups:** Fought GOP attempts to repeal the law that makes polluters -- rather than taxpayers -- pay to clean up toxic dumps.
- **Recycling:** Issued executive order to jump start the market for recycled goods, which are now more valuable than ever.
- **Global Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants like DDT:** Led the way to an agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants worldwide, such as PCBs and DDT.
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** Expanded funding for energy efficiency and renewables.
- **Pesticides and Food Safety:** Canceling some of the most dangerous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.
- **Homeowner Protection:** Reformed Endangered Species and Wetlands programs to focus on sensitive ecological areas and exempt the vast majority of American homeowners.
- **Environmental Technology:** Implementing technology programs to help American business compete more effectively in the fast growing global market while creating jobs for American workers.
- **Eliminating Unnecessary Regulation:** Eliminating 16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support policies that protect our health and natural resources while continuing to make common sense reforms to environmental programs by:

- Expanding community right-to-know laws and challenging communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution;
- Challenging Congress to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pickup the tab for environmental cleanup. The President strongly believes the polluters must pay;
- Replacing one-size-fits-all regulations with result focused programs;

- Challenging American businesses to take more initiative in protecting the environment;
- Challenging Congress to re-examine and reverse those policies that would endanger our health and safety by weakening health and safety programs such as safe drinking water and clean air;
- Continuing to work with state and community leaders and businesses to find better ways to protect our natural resources and provide economic opportunities.

Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ

Last Update: February 21, 1996

PROMOTING AND INCREASING HOMEOWNERSHIP

"Over the past few years, I have emphasized three basic ideas - - community, opportunity and responsibility - - that I believe are at the heart of a more dynamic and prosperous America. The priorities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, from making sure that hardworking Americans realize the dream of homeownership, to addressing the tragedy of homelessness, are outstanding examples of how our government can empower people and institutions."

President Clinton, October 1993

Recognizing that our homes are central to our well-being, President Clinton has worked to increase housing opportunity for all Americans, make homes and communities safer and drug-free, and to reinvent HUD to meet America's housing and community development needs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Making the Dream of Homeownership a Reality for More Working and Middle Class Families. The Clinton Administration has helped increase the nation's homeownership rate to its highest level in 15 years. Last year's increase in homeownership was the fastest annual increase in 30 years.

- **National Homeownership Strategy.** Entered into an unprecedented partnership with more than 50 key public and private sector organizations to form a National Homeownership strategy. Coupled with a stable economy and low interest rates, this initiative is aimed at increasing homeownership levels in America by 8 million households by the year 2000.
- **FHA Working for Homebuyers Better than Ever.** Revamping Federal Housing Authority to better meet the needs of today's consumers -- through streamlining and consolidating, automating functions using the latest technologies, new innovative products, and strategic alliances with private and public partners. FHA service to low-income and minority home buyers is also stronger than ever. FHA insures home purchase loans for African-American and Hispanic home buyers at more than twice the rate of conventional home purchase loan insurers, and the rate is increasing.
- **Fair Housing.** Working to reduce barriers to homeownership caused by unlawful discrimination. To date, HUD has signed 70 "Best Practices" agreements with key lenders that are resulting in more fair lending practices and expanded opportunities for fair housing.

Producing More Affordable Housing for All Americans. This Administration has provided the necessary flexibility and incentives to communities and business to encourage the development of more affordable housing, and has improved assistance for those with acute housing needs.

- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.** Fulfilled campaign pledge to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to produce more than 120,000 homes per year.
- **Innovative Public-Private Pension Fund Initiative** Launched an innovative public-private partnership initiative to encourage pension funds to invest in the production and rehabilitation of affordable multifamily housing. These partnerships will create 2,000 units of affordable housing for working families and the elderly.
- **Improved HOME program.** Through a streamlined and more effective HOME program, the Administration, working with states and units of local government, has significantly increased housing and rental assistance to families. In FY 1994 and 1995, the Administration provided approximately 127,000 families with housing assistance through the HOME program and over 19,000 families with HOME tenant-based rental assistance.
- **Assisting more poor households with acute housing needs.** Continued to expand rental assistance for the record--and growing--number of renter households who struggle to pay over 50 percent of very-low-incomes toward rent and utilities. This assistance can be a critical tool for states and localities to use in helping families transition from welfare to work.
- **Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM)** Strengthened and extended the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, which allows seniors to use the equity in their homes to meet financial needs, without having to sell their homes or move. The program has helped over 15,000 seniors -- a majority of whom are women living alone, and the numbers are increasing.
- **FHA Multifamily Portfolio Reengineering.** Launched effort to address long-standing problems in the FHA-insured subsidized multifamily portfolio that provides housing to nearly 800,000 low-income households. HUD proposes a comprehensive strategy to restructure debt, give tenants more housing choices, and adjust rents to market, thereby reducing future subsidy costs and producing long-term savings.
- **Comprehensive and Coordinated Approach to Homeless Assistance.** The Clinton Administration and Secretary Cisneros have made homeless assistance a top priority, doubling funding since FY 1993 and requesting \$1.12 billion for FY 1997. In 1995, HUD awarded \$900 million in federal homeless assistance funds to 818 projects in 228 communities throughout the United States. These grants support comprehensive local and state initiatives that move homeless people off the streets to self-sufficient lives in permanent housing through a coordinated strategy -- called a continuum of care -- involving local and state governments, non-profit organizations, homeless persons, the business community and others.

Transforming Public Housing. The Clinton Administration is implementing the most far-reaching changes in public housing in decades -- from demolishing the worst developments to rewarding residents who work to cracking down on crime.

- **Replacing Worst Developments.** Will tear down an unprecedented 30,000 units of the worst public housing and rebuild them with lower-density townhome-style developments which can serve as an anchor for neighborhood renewal. HUD has awarded \$1.44 billion in grants to spur economic development and change the shape of 85 public housing developments nationwide.
- **Improving Management.** Cracking down on bad management in public housing through takeovers of the most troubled public housing authorities in innovative partnerships with local and state officials.
- **Building Positive Incentives and Tougher Expectations in Public Housing.** Changing admission rules and rent calculations to reward working families. Making public housing a springboard to further opportunities and a safe place to live through:
 - **Campus For Learners** initiative to transform public housing developments into living and learning centers through linkages with education, technology, and job training;
 - **Aggressive implementation of "One Strike and You're Out"** policy that helps cities prevent drug dealers and violent offenders from terrorizing public housing residents in their homes by ensuring that people who engage in drugs and other criminal activity will face certain and swift eviction; and
 - **Operation Safe Home** under which Federal law enforcement agencies are working with local police departments and public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so public housing developments can be safer places to live. This initiative has resulted in the arrest of thousands of criminals, and confiscation of hundreds of assault weapons and \$3 million worth of drugs.

Reinventing HUD. The Clinton Administration and Secretary Cisneros have proposed a dramatic restructuring of HUD to respond more fully to local needs and local efforts to help people improve their own lives. The Administration's proposals would: consolidate HUD's 60 programs into 3 flexible performance-based funds, giving mayors and governors the flexibility to develop local demand and supply-side housing and community investment strategies; continue the transformation of public housing and provide portable vouchers to residents of the worst developments; and turn HUD into a "right-side-up, community-first" agency by relocating and empowering local personnel.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Continue efforts to expand homeownership for all Americans.
- Continue working to build affordable homes and revitalize neighborhoods.
- Continue aggressive efforts to transform public housing.
- Expand Campus of Learners initiative to build education and technology linkages in public housing.
- Continue to expand opportunities for choice through tenant-based assistance for residents of public and assisted housing.
- Continue reinvention of HUD and efforts to turn agency community side up.

Contact: Molly Brostrom, Room 207 EOB, X65561
Last Update: April 8, 1996

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

[There] needs to be a new partnership between Washington and the communities and the individuals of this country, and there needs to be a way of doing business in which we try to create the conditions in which people can seize opportunities for themselves."

President Clinton

January 17, 1994

America's cities and rural communities continue to be a vital component of the American way of life. President Clinton is committed to investing in our communities and our people to provide opportunity and hope to all Americans. The President has launched initiatives that promote economic opportunity and job growth in America's communities by focusing on helping people help themselves.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Communities (EC)

- Thirteen years after the first federal enterprise zone legislation was introduced, President Clinton's Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Community initiative became law.
- The President's initiative includes **\$2.5 billion in tax incentives** and **\$1.3 billion in flexible grants** to spur local communities to address barriers to economic growth.
- Over **500 communities** across America took up the "EZ" challenge, submitting strategic plans for revitalizing their communities. Last December, President Clinton and Vice President Gore announced 105 winners -- nine urban and rural EZs, two supplemental zones, and 95 ECs, four of which received enhanced awards.
- The private/public partnerships that have developed as a result of the EZ/EC application process will be a force for change far into the future. In Detroit, for example, more than **\$2 billion** in private-sector commitments have been pledged. And Baltimore's plan leverages **\$8** in outside resources for every **\$1** of federal funds.

Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions

- The CDBFI Act fulfills the President's campaign promise to create a network of community development banks and financial institutions. Their primary mission is to lend, invest, and provide **basic banking services in low- and moderate-income communities**. This initiative will encourage the private sector to work in places it has not gone before. The CDBFI program leverages **\$10** of private investment for every **\$1** of federal investment.
- With **\$50 million** already appropriated for 1995, and **\$1.625 billion** requested in the President's Budget over seven years, the CDBFI Act will provide matching capital and other assistance to create and expand new and existing Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions (CDBFI).

Community and Reinvestment Act

- On April 19th, 1995, the banking regulators met the President's directive to reform CRA, the 1977 law to prevent bank redlining. Under the new regulations, banks will be **judged on performance** -- actual lending, investments, and basic banking services -- rather than paperwork. Reform will unleash billions in new credit to low- and moderate income communities. Already, the Community Reinvestment Act has helped increase the number of mortgage loans to African Americans and Hispanic Americans by **55%** and **42%**, respectively, from 1993 to 1994.
- To reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, a **streamlined examination process** applies to about 80% of all banks and S&Ls.

Other Empowerment Initiatives

- Clinton Administration initiatives are moving millions in new private capital into underserved communities. The Administration permanently extended the **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** and the **Mortgage Revenue Bond program** to encourage private investors to build affordable housing and to help first-time homebuyers.
- Up to 15 new **SBA One-Stop Capital Shops** will distribute \$3 billion in loans and investment for small and minority business over the next five years.
- **Capital Gains Rollover and Exclusion** -- To encourage capital investment in small and minority-owned business, the-President signed legislation to provide capital gains tax relief for investments in certain venture capital companies.
- The Administration launched the **National Homeownership Strategy**, an innovative partnership between the private sector and government, designed to boost America's national homeownership rate to an all-time high of 67.5 percent, adding 8 million new homeowners by the year 2000. **Homeownership** is already at its **highest level** in 15 years.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

By continuing to help people help themselves, President Clinton is giving people the tools to rebuild our distressed communities, which in the end, will provide economic opportunity to all Americans.

- On March 11, 1996 the President proposed a new tax incentive to spur the private sector to clean up **brownfield sites** -- abandoned, contaminated industrial or commercial properties. This new \$2 billion tax incentive is expected to leverage some \$10 billion in private cleanups nationwide, and return to productive use as many as 30,000 brownfields properties in the U.S., improving environmental and public health protection, and spurring economic development.
- The Administration is proposing a second round of EZ/EC designations to continue to stimulate private-sector investment and economic opportunity in America's urban and rural communities and to connect residents to jobs available throughout the local labor market.

- As in the first round, the President and the Vice President will challenge communities to develop their own comprehensive strategic plans for revitalization, with the input of residents and a wide array of community partners. The Administration will provide tax incentives and grants to those communities that developed the most innovative plans and garnered significant local and private-sector commitments.

Contact: Paul Weinstein
Latest Update: March 13, 1996

FOSTERING LEGAL IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

"So I have tried to keep America open as an immigration-friendly society. . . And we need to try to get as many of our immigrants who want to do so to become citizens as quickly as possible so that the American people will all see that this is a part of the process of American history which is a good one for our country."

President Clinton

July 19, 1995

The Administration wants to reform and improve the legal immigration system. We support legal immigration policy that is pro-family, pro-work, and pro-naturalization. These core values must be protected as legal immigration reform is considered by Congress. In addition, the Administration will continue to protect those who fear persecution in their homeland. The President has indicated his support for a moderate reduction in the overall level of legal immigration consistent with these principles.

For those eligible for citizenship, the Administration is implementing an unprecedented naturalization initiative. The President believes that rewarding those who have "played by the rules" with United States citizenship strengthens our communities and our nation.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- The Administration has presented to Congress a plan that would lower the overall number of legal immigrants while preserving family reunification and strengthening protections for U.S. workers.
- The Administration's plan would reduce family reunification waiting lists in an equitable manner.
- More than 500,000 new citizens were sworn-in during FY 1995, an increase of 12 percent over 1994.
- The INS' naturalization initiative -- "**Citizenship USA**" responds to a surge this past year in citizenship applications. Over a million new applications were received in FY 1995, a 73 percent increase over 1994. FY1996 applications are expected to be even higher. This year, INS is:
 - hiring more than 850 additional staff to process applications, **tripling its naturalization workforce**. INS also is hiring more than 500 temporary staff and contract workers;
 - using **new technology** (e.g. testing the use of electronic filing of citizenship applications);
 - **streamlining** procedures, including accepting mail applications at Service Centers for applicants in Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Chicago; and

- forging new and better partnerships with **community organizations** and other levels of government to provide better information to applicants, host interviews in community settings, and to assist with naturalization ceremonies.
- Los Angeles was the first site for this nationwide initiative. Other cities include: San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Miami. These five cities account for more than 70% of the new citizenship applications.
- The INS obtained Congressional approval for \$52 million in additional funding in January to support citizenship efforts.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- The Administration will continue to seek responsible legislation providing needed legal immigration reform.
- The Administration is expanding efforts to help legal immigrants become citizens, achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and to participate and contribute fully as members of our national community. The Administration's naturalization goals this year are to swear-in over one million new citizens and to clear the entire backlog of applications. We will increase public education about applying for citizenship, improve customer service to ease the application process and reform procedures to reduce backlogs.
- The Administration will continue to oppose welfare reform proposals that are unfair to legal immigrants and legislative efforts to nationalize California's Proposition 187.
- Discrimination can deny legal immigrants the opportunity to fully participate and contribute in our communities. This Administration is serious about strengthening our fight against discrimination that denies these opportunities to legal immigrants.
- The President will continue to fight against "immigrant-bashing" and to prevent immigration from being used as a wedge to divide the country.

Contact: Stephen Warnath -- Domestic Policy Council
Last Updated: March 20, 1996

SECURING OUR NATION'S BORDERS

"We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it."

President Clinton
1995 State of the Union

President Clinton has made controlling illegal immigration a top priority of his Administration. The President's comprehensive and effective strategy to combat illegal immigration includes: strengthened border control, safeguarding the interests of legal workers through increased enforcement of employer sanctions and worksite standards, and removal of criminal and other illegal aliens. This strategy is backed with a record \$2.6 billion in funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in FY 1996 and increased outreach to obtain broad community support.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Strengthening Border Control:** The Clinton Administration is deploying more Border Patrol agents than any previous Administration. In FY 1996, the Clinton Administration will deploy an additional 1,000 new and reassigned agents and over 550 new inspectors at the Southwest border. Overall, the Administration has increased the number of Border Patrol agents at the Southwest border by 40% since 1993. For the first time, Border Patrol agents are being equipped with the high technology resources needed to do the job, including: sensors, night scopes, computers, and encrypted radios. Strengthened anti-smuggling efforts have reduced the criminal transport and exploitation of smuggled aliens. In addition, the Clinton Administration's asylum reform is excluding fraudulent asylum applicants from entering the country, and as a result, asylum claims have dropped 57%.
- **Protecting American Jobs:** Employment is the number one incentive for illegal immigration. The Clinton Administration is the first Administration to initiate effective enforcement of employer sanctions and worksite standards to reduce this magnet. In addition, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to keep Federal contracts from going to businesses that knowingly hire illegal workers. The Administration is also piloting a computer work authorization verification system in Southern California and is creating more fraud-resistant immigration documents.
- **Removing Criminal and Deportable Aliens:** In 1995, the Clinton Administration removed a record number of criminal and other illegal aliens from this country -- 74% more removals than in FY 1990. Deportations will increase this year as we further streamline deportation procedures, expand the Institutional Hearing Program which deports criminal aliens immediately upon completion of their sentence, implement our national detention and transportation network to maximize the efficiency of deportable alien removals, and enhance the international prisoner transfer treaty program.

- **Assistance to the States:** The Clinton Administration is also the first Administration to: 1) implement a comprehensive strategy from the border to the workplace to control illegal immigration and curtail States' illegal immigration costs; and 2) obtain funding from Congress to reimburse States for a share of the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens, in addition to assisting with education and medical care costs.

Statistical Backup

- **Border Control:** Through Operations Gatekeeper (California), Hold-the-Line (Texas), and Safeguard (Arizona), we have increased the number of Border Patrol agents at the Southwest border by 40% since 1993. Operation Disruption resulted in a 150% increase in smuggling cases. The Clinton Administration is dedicating \$206 million this year for increased border activities.
- **Protecting American Jobs:** Stronger worksite enforcement has resulted in replacing illegal workers with legal workers. For example, Operation Jobs, a project implemented in 18 states, resulted in the removal of nearly 5,000 illegal workers, and opened up nearly 4,000 jobs for legal workers.
 - Operation SouthPAW (PAW - Protecting American Workers) was the largest worksite enforcement effort in more than a decade in the South (Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida). It resulted in the removal of more than 4,000 illegal workers at over 300 worksites to their country of origin and the restoration of \$55 million in annual salary opportunities for legal workers. Surveyed employers reported filling more than 2,400 of those jobs with legal workers.
 - More than 1,500 fines were issued in FY 1995 to employers who knowingly hired illegal aliens or violated employer sanction law.
- **Deporting Criminal And Other Deportable Aliens:** The Administration removed a record number of 51,300 criminal and other deportable aliens from the U.S. last year. In addition, more than 1,100 criminal aliens were prosecuted in 1995 in California for reentering the country after having been deported, a 240% increase over 1992. President Clinton's FY 1996 budget provides for \$140 million for detention and removal of deportable aliens.
- **Providing The Resources To Do The Job.** The Clinton Administration has increased the INS budget by 72% since FY 1993. The Administration's total INS budget for FY 1996 is \$2.6 billion.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to implement his comprehensive strategy to reduce illegal immigration, including:

- Continuing to build-up of border personnel and technology to curtail illegal crossings and smuggling.
- Vigorously enforcing the worksite and employer sanctions laws against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens for business advantage.
- Deporting illegal immigrants who take jobs away from American workers.
- Testing effective, nondiscriminatory means of verifying the employment authorization of all new employees.
- Reforming and streamlining deportation procedures and seeking enhanced exclusion authority.
- Tripling deportation levels over 1992 levels.
- Seeking legislation to strengthen illegal immigration enforcement and reform legal immigration.

Contact: Stephen Warnath, Domestic Policy Council
Last Update: March 27, 1996

LINE-ITEM VETO

"This law give the President tools to cut wasteful spending, and , even more important, it empowers our citizens, for the exercise of this veto, or even the possibility of its exercise will throw a spotlight of public scrutiny onto the darkest corners of the federal budget."

President Clinton
Line-Item Veto Signing Ceremony
April 9, 1996

President Clinton has long-championed the line-item veto. The President consistently called on Congress to pass the line-item veto so that he could begin cutting wasteful government spending. In his book, Putting People First, the President promised to ask Congress to give him the line-item veto in order to "eliminate pork-barrel projects and cut government waste". As Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton used the line-item veto to help balance twelve budgets in a row.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- On April 9, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Line-Item Veto Act. This historic legislation significantly enhances the President's authority to eliminate wasteful spending by allowing the President to cancel wasteful special-interest projects and targeted tax breaks that benefit special interests. The line-item veto will allow the President to:
 - **End Business as Usual.** The line-item veto can help the President close the door on business as usual in Washington by ending breaks for special interests and cutting pet spending projects that sneak into the budget year after year.
 - **Protecting Public Resources.** With this line-item veto, the President will have a valuable new tool to ensure that our public resources are being put to the best possible uses.
- Even without the line-item veto, President Clinton already has a strong record of deficit reduction. Since entering office, the President has:
 - **Cut the Deficit in Half.** In 1992, the budget deficit was \$290 billion. According to the most recent Congressional Budget Office analysis, the budget deficit will be approximately \$140 billion in 1996. President Clinton has thus fulfilled his commitment in Putting People First to cut the budget deficit in half.

- **Reduced the Size of Government.** The Clinton Administration has reduced the federal civilian workforce by more than 200,000 employees in less than three years, and will continue to reduce the workforce in the years ahead. Already we have the smallest federal workforce in thirty years; as a share of the nation's civilian workforce, it is the smallest since 1933.
- **Streamlining The Bureaucracy.** With the help of the Vice President's Reinventing Government efforts, the Clinton Administration is streamlining the bureaucracy, overhauling the procurement system, and delivering better service -- that is creating a government that works better and costs less.

Contact: Paul Weinstein, DPC
Last Update: April 12, 1996

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

"Our country needs a government that is smaller and more responsive--that has lower cost but a higher quality of service--that moves more authority away from the federal government to states and localities, and to entrepreneurs in the private sector--that produces fewer regulations and more incentives--that has more common sense and seeks more common ground."

President Bill Clinton

Foreword, COMMON SENSE GOVERNMENT

October, 1995

Americans expect and deserve common sense government--a government that performs well, uses their tax dollars wisely, views them as valued customers, does not impose excessive burdens and makes a positive impact on their lives when it addresses such problems as crime and poverty and the challenges of employment and education. To answer the call, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are making government smaller, better managed and more efficient. They are, in fact, creating a government that works better and costs less.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Smaller Government.** Already cut the federal workforce by over 200,000 positions -- the civilian workforce is now at its lowest level in 30 years.
- **Government Costs Less.** \$58 billion in savings proposed in 1993 are already locked in.
- **Less Intrusive Government.** Agencies are sending 16,000 pages of obsolete regulations to the scrap heap and reworking another 31,000 pages.
 - Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens on the public by **\$28 billion**
 - Cut EPA paperwork requirements by **25%**, saving industry some **20 million** hours of labor per year.
 - The Department of Education eliminated **30 percent** of its regulations.
 - The Department of Housing and Urban Development is **cutting 65 percent** of its regulations.
 - The Department of Agriculture **dropped 3 million pages** of government forms that America's farmers filled out each year.
 - The Small Business Administration will have **eliminated 50 percent** of its regulations by the end of the year and will have revised the rest.
- **Putting Customers First.** For the first time ever, over 200 government agencies have published customer service standards for serving the American people better.
- **Results Oriented: Eliminating, Consolidating, Privatizing Government.** Transforming agencies into flexible organizations that emphasize performance: measuring the results of programs, not just the amount of money spent on them.
 - Department of Energy -- **\$23.5 billion** in savings.
 - Department of Transportation -- **\$17.9 billion** in savings
 - NASA -- **\$8.7 billion** in savings.
 - Department of the Interior -- **\$4 billion** in savings.
 - Department of Agriculture -- **\$2.9 billion** in savings.
 - National Science Foundation -- **\$1.6 billion** in savings.
 - Department of the Treasury -- **\$1.4 billion** in savings.

- General Services Administration -- \$1.4 billion in savings.
 - Small Business Administration -- \$1.2 billion in savings.
 - Department of Commerce -- \$1 billion in savings.
 - Social Security Administration -- \$787 million.
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development -- \$825 million in savings.
 - Department of Health and Human Services -- \$671 million in savings
 - Department of Veteran's Affairs -- \$209 million in savings.
- **Changing the Way Government Works.** Forming partnerships with America's businesses and with states and local governments, making them accountable for results and not telling them how to operate their programs or run their businesses.
 - Cut the Small Business Administration loan form from **1 inch thick to 1 page thick.**
 - Enacted interstate banking **deregulation** and intrastate trucking deregulation.
 - Expanding the use of **cost-benefit analysis and risk analysis** in the development of regulations.
 - Dramatically **simplifying bank regulations** issued by the Comptroller of the Currency, and radically reducing the regulatory burden placed on exporters.
 - **Unfunded Mandates.** The President signed legislation restricting Congress from passing on new mandates to state and local governments without paying for them.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office committed to reinventing the federal government. Over the last three years, President Clinton has taken significant steps toward the creation of a government that not only is smaller, but is more effective in meeting the needs of the American people. His commitment to balance the budget requires that further changes take place, building on the reinvention successes of the last three years. These initiatives will provide significant benefits to Americans in either improved service or reduced costs:

- Create performance-based organizations with executives hired to get results; toss out restrictive government rules and make the executives personally accountable for delivering results.
- Dramatically improve customer service to give Americans the best service they've ever experienced with the government.
- Increase the use of regulatory partnerships with the private sector and abandon the old way of doing business; form alliances with management and labor that focus on results.
- Forge new relationships with communities by creating performance partnerships in which together we set goals, but the communities decide how best to meet them.
- Establish single points of contact for large communities so that their problems with the federal government can be solved more quickly.

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Last Updated: March 25, 1996

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCY

"Ultimately, what is needed to stop teen pregnancy is a revolution of the heart. We must all work to instill in every young man and woman a sense of personal responsibility. Having a child is the greatest responsibility any person can assume. It is not the right choice for a teen to make."

President Clinton
January 29, 1996

Each year, about 1 million American teenagers become pregnant -- approximately 11% of all women ages 15-19. To address this serious problem, the Clinton Administration has pursued policies which recognize the fundamental obligation of all Americans to exercise personal responsibility, while expanding opportunities for at-risk young people to make positive life choices. In addition, the President has stated clearly that government alone cannot solve the complex problem of teen pregnancy. He has called upon leaders in the private sector to join together to take action in their own communities.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Research and Evaluation.** The Administration has supported extensive research into the influences which contribute to the incidence of teen pregnancy, as well as evaluation of prevention programs across the country to learn what works best.
 - In 1995, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a comprehensive review of recent research literature on teenage sexual behavior, pregnancy, and parenthood and on effectiveness of teenage pregnancy prevention programs. The report is entitled, "Beginning Too Soon: Adolescent Sexual Behavior, Pregnancy, and Parenthood."
- **Community Demonstrations.** The Administration has built partnerships with local governments and nonprofit organizations to promote the development of community-based interventions that are innovative, comprehensive, and sustainable.
 - In 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched the new Community Coalition Partnership Programs for Prevention of Teen Pregnancy. 13 grants totalling \$6.5 million were awarded to communities to develop plans for implementing and evaluating community-wide interventions.
 - In 1994, the Administration started the Healthy Schools / Healthy Communities Program, funding 27 new school-based health centers in 20 states and the District of Columbia. These centers provide for the health services and education needs of children and teens at high risk for poor health, teenage pregnancy, and other problems.

- **Promoting Personal Responsibility.** President Clinton has advocated welfare reform proposals that promote work, demand parental responsibility, and toughen child support activities.
 - The Administration has approved state welfare reform demonstrations to a record 37 states that include various provisions affecting minor parents. Nine of the states now have authority to link AFDC benefits to the school attendance of minor parents. Seven states have the authority to require minor parents to live with their parents or guardians or in another adult-supervised setting.
 - The Administration has pursued aggressive enforcement of child support laws. In 1995, a record \$11 billion was collected in child support from non-custodial parents, an increase of 40% since 1992. Over that same period, paternity establishments rose by over 40%.
- **Comprehensive Approach to Youth.** The Administration has worked to address the complex economic and social factors which often underlie high rates of teen pregnancy and to support communities in offering young people positive alternatives to early sexual behavior and parenting.
 - Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Education has launched a number of initiatives that address teen pregnancy prevention through improved schooling for disadvantaged students, coordination of health and social services, and school-to-work opportunities to increase economic self-sufficiency. Specific initiatives started or expanded include: Goals 2000; 1994 School -To-Work Opportunities Act; Head Start.
 - In 1995, the Department of Justice created the SafeFutures Program, a 5-year initiative which will provide approximately \$8 million per year to 6 jurisdictions for a comprehensive and coordinated delinquency prevention and intervention program for at-risk and delinquent youth.
 - The Administration is implementing the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, passed in 1994, by supporting local school districts in high-need areas in their efforts to coordinate violence and drug prevention programs with comprehensive school health education programs.
- **Private-Sector Initiative.** In his 1995 State of the Union Address, President Clinton challenged leaders across the US to come together to address the serious problem of teen pregnancy. In response to this call for action, an independent, bipartisan organization has been formed. The new National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has been established as a private, not-for-profit entity under the direction of Thomas Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and now President of Drew University, and Dr. Isabel Sawhill of the Urban Institute. The Campaign's board of directors includes prominent individuals from business, the media, entertainment, medicine and the philanthropic community.

- **Appointed Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention** In January of this year, President Clinton appointed Dr. Henry Foster, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College and founder of the "I Have A Future" teen pregnancy prevention program in Nashville, TN, to serve as Senior Advisor to the Administration on teen pregnancy and related youth issues. Dr. Foster will work in partnership with community-based organizations across the US to give young people the tools they need to build responsible and productive lives.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support government policies which promote responsible behavior on the part of America's teens and increase opportunities for young people to develop themselves in positive directions. In his FY97 budget request, the President has proposed a \$30-million teen pregnancy prevention initiative. These funds will be used to implement and evaluate promising prevention strategies in communities which have demonstrated a commitment to community problem solving.

The President will also continue to urge leaders from all sectors of society to marshal their resources on behalf of America's youth. The Administration will work in partnership with the newly formed National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which has set the goal of reducing teen pregnancy in the United States by one-third by the year 2005.

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Last Update: March 25, 1996

PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

"Unfortunately, in Washington today, pure political correctness and raw political power count a whole lot more than actually doing something to reduce the tragedies of teen pregnancy and the high number of abortions...I believe it is clear what the law of the land is. And I believe that abortion should be rare, but it should be legal and safe."

President Clinton
Saturday Radio Address
June 24, 1995

The President believes that decisions about abortion should be between a woman, her doctor and her faith, and that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. That's why he has consistently protected women's health and safety, and the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, while he has worked to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Ended the Gag Rule:** The Bush Administration instituted a "Gag Rule" that prevented women--primarily poor women--using federally funded clinics from getting the information they needed to make informed choices about unwanted or health-threatening pregnancies. President Clinton reversed the "Gag Rule" in his first week in office.
- **Ensuring Clinic Safety:** Since 1992, five people have been murdered and seven others have been shot and wounded at family planning clinics where abortions are performed. President Clinton signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to fight violence and intimidation by anti-choice extremists against women and their doctors, which is now being implemented by the Department of Justice.
- **Assured Access for Military Families Overseas:** President Clinton reversed the Bush Administration ban on privately funded abortions at military medical facilities overseas for women in the military and in military families. *The ban has since been reinstated by the Republican Congress in the Fiscal Year 1996 Department of Defense Appropriations and Authorizations Bills despite strong opposition from the President.*
- **Repealed the "Mexico City Policy":** President Clinton reversed 12 years of attacks on reproductive choice for women around the world when he repealed the "Mexico City" policy that banned distribution of family planning funding for overseas organizations if they perform abortions or speak out about reproductive choice, even with private money.

- **Established Services for Victims of Rape or Incest:** President Clinton supported permitting Medicaid coverage for abortion services for poor women who are the victims of rape or incest, in addition to those whose life is endangered. These services had been banned during the Reagan and Bush Administrations by the "Hyde Amendment" to the appropriations bill that funds Medicaid. *Proposed 1996 Republican House Appropriations Bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, states would be allowed to deny Medicaid funding for victims of rape and incest.*
- **Ended the Ban on Fetal Tissue Research:** The Bush Administration banned federal funding of fetal tissue transplantation research. President Clinton reversed the ban on this research, which could lead to advances in women's health and in treatment of diseases like leukemia and Parkinson's.
- **Appointed Two Supreme Court Justices who support the constitutional right to privacy**
- **Funding Family Planning:** To help prevent unwanted pregnancies, the President has requested budget increases for the federal Family Planning Program for each year he has been in office. Among other reproductive health and education services, this program makes family planning information and contraception available to millions of women who might not otherwise get reproductive health care.
- **Preventing Teenage Pregnancy:** President Clinton has made teen pregnancy prevention a priority for this Administration. In order to continue to bring rates down, the Administration has pursued two fundamental goals: instilling a greater sense of personal responsibility in young people for the consequences of their behavior, while providing increased opportunities for education, jobs and their future so that they are more likely to make the right choices.

Furthermore, President Clinton's challenge to the private sector to address the high rates of teen pregnancy has also prompted formation of a National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. This effort aims to marshal private resources across the country to effectively reduce teen pregnancy rates by one third in ten years.

- **Facilitating Adoption:** The Administration is working to encourage adoption and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multiethnic Placement Act, which removes barriers to adoption based on race or ethnic origin. The President has also stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and SSI -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children. During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by about 30%.

- **Welfare Reform:** President Clinton has fought hard for welfare reform that promotes work and responsible parenting, but that does not force states to cut people off welfare just because they're poor, young, and unmarried. Instead of punishing young mothers by simply cutting them off welfare -- a policy that the Catholic Church and others believe might lead to more abortions -- we should require minor mothers to live at home, stay at school, and turn their lives around.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to protect women's health and the constitutional guarantee of a woman's right to choose. The Republican Congress has consistently proposed legislation that violates this guarantee, endangering women's health and safety, and the Administration will continue to oppose these efforts.

This includes the President's opposition to current legislation, H.R. 1833, which would prohibit doctors from performing a certain type of abortion. Although the President does not support use of this procedure on an elective basis, he is committed to protecting the Constitutional requirement that it be available for women when it is necessary in the attending physician's medical judgment in order to save the woman's life or to preserve her health.

The Administration will further continue to work to reduce the numbers of unwanted pregnancies, to support domestic and international family planning, and to champion programs that breakdown barriers to adoption.

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Last Update: March 15, 1996

UNFUNDED MANDATES

"This bill (The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act) is another acknowledgement that Washington doesn't necessarily have all the answers, that we have to continue to push decision-making down to the local level, and we shouldn't make the work of governing at the local level any harder than the circumstances of the time already ensure that it will be."

President Bill Clinton

March 22, 1995

Before 1964, the number of explicit mandates from Congress placed on state, local governments was zero. On the day President Clinton took office, 172 pieces of legislation imposed requirements on State and local governments. According to the Congressional Budget Office, between 1983 and 1990, the cost to states and localities of all the regulations imposed from the Federal government reached \$8.9 billion.

Since his days as Governor of Arkansas, President Clinton has spoken out on the need to address the burgeoning growth of federal unfunded mandates. Too often in the past, the Federal government placed unfunded requirements on state, local, and tribal governments, taking important decision-making responsibilities out of the hands of local elected officials and their communities and giving it to bureaucrats in Washington. Since the beginning of his Administration, the President has worked hard to restore balance to the intergovernmental partnership between the Federal government and state, local and tribal governments, to empower communities and promote bottom-up solutions to our nation's problems, and to curtail the imposition of unfunded mandates.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act** -- On March 22, 1995, the President signed legislation restricting Congress from passing on new mandates to state and local governments without paying for them. This law honors the President's commitment to reinvent government, to create a government that works better and costs less. The bill requires Congress to show how much mandates over \$50 million per will cost state and local governments, to require Congress to identify a specific funding source for these mandates, and if it does not meet these criteria, Congress must explicitly waive the requirement that there be no unfunded mandate.
- **Executive Order 12875** -- President Clinton took action to control the growth of unfunded mandates within the Executive Branch by issuing Executive Order 12875, "Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership." This Executive Order prevents the issuing of any new, non-statutory unfunded regulations except in cases where the agency submits to the Office of Management and Budget, prior to promulgation, a justification supporting the need for the regulation and includes a description of the extent of the agency's prior consultation with state, local, and tribal governments. The Executive Order also sets a deadline of 120 days for the approval or notification of waiver requests. State and local governments praised the signing of this Executive Order.

Contact: Paul Weinstein, DPC

Last Updated: April 10, 1996

HONORING AND PROTECTING AMERICA'S VETERANS

"To honor our veterans...gratitude and ceremonies are not enough. We must protect the benefits you have earned, address fully the dangers imposed by modern warfare, and preserve what you fought for: the American Dream at home and our leadership around the world."

President Clinton

VFW Conference, March 6, 1995

President Clinton has fought to protect the benefits that veterans have earned in service to this nation and to address the new needs and challenges created by a changing world. The Administration has aggressively responded to veterans of the Persian Gulf War suffering from unexplained illnesses, to the challenges created as the military downsized after the Cold War, and to the needs of homeless veterans. This Administration has also worked hard to make the Department of Veterans Affairs more efficient and responsive, proposing and implementing changes at VA that will improve services and save money, many of which have long been advocated by veterans.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Protecting Veterans Benefits.** Ensured full cost of living adjustment on benefits going to disabled veterans and military retirees; fought to fully fund benefit programs; expanded eligibility for disability compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; opposed Congressional proposals to eliminate compensation for certain mentally incompetent veterans; and proposed increased funding for national cemetery system to ensure that veterans and their families are buried with dignity.
- **Improved and Restructured VA Health Care System.** Implemented significant management restructuring of VA medical system, creating integrated service networks and consolidating duplicative medical and administrative services, to ensure that scarce resources are focused on patient care. To further expand resources, proposed "gainsharing" to allow VA medical facilities to retain a portion of the money VA collects from third parties. These changes will allow VA to provide 1.6 million more patient visits in 1996 with fewer resources.
- **Persian Gulf War Veterans' Illness.** Established Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illness aimed at finding the causes of these illnesses and improving the care available to Persian Gulf veterans. As part of Gulf War illness' effort, expanded funding for research, medical care and communication at DoD, VA, and HHS.
- **Firm commitment to veterans in federal hiring.** Despite overall hiring declines across the federal government in the last three years, the percentage of jobs going to veterans has increased. The federal government continues to lead the nation in the percentage of veterans and disabled veterans in its workforce.

- **Training and Assistance.** Helped over one and a half million veterans into jobs through the Department of Labor's veterans employment service. Nearly half a million separating service members and their spouses received job search training under DOL's Transition Assistance Program.
- **Faster Benefits Delivery.** Improved processing time and reduced pending caseload for compensation and pension claims at the Veterans Benefits Administration. Included funding in FY 97 budget for 50 positions for the Board of Veterans' Appeals to improve timeliness in processing appeals.
- **Targeted, Supportive Assistance to Homeless Veterans.** Fought for increased funding to assist communities in developing local, coordinated solutions to break the cycle of homelessness. More than doubled VA funding of homeless programs in three years, to the current level of \$76 million. As part of a new Homeless Providers Grant Program, VA awarded more than \$11.8 million to 59 public and private nonprofit groups to develop new programs to assist homeless veterans. The Administration's Interagency Council on the Homeless established a Homeless Veterans Task Force to improve services and programs for homeless veterans across agencies.

Statistical Backup

- *In FY 97, the Veterans Benefits Administration will process original compensation claims 33 days faster than in FY 96, and the pending caseload will be reduced from 378,600 at the end of FY 95 to 277,000 cases at the end of FY 97 -- a 27% reduction.*
- *The proportion of veterans in the federal workforce increased from 23.6% in 1992 to 33.3% in 1994.*
- *The veterans' unemployment rate has been cut by almost a third during the first three years of the Clinton Administration (7.2% in January 1993 to 4.9% in January 1996).*

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to fight to protect the benefits veterans have earned and to help veterans respond to new needs and challenges.

- Work for passage of reinventing government initiatives that will improve services to veterans, simplify complex eligibility rules, and save money through streamlining
- Continue implementation of restructuring of VA's health care system
- Continue to improve veterans benefits delivery system to give veterans increased access and more efficient service
- Continue work with Presidential Advisory Committee to find causes and care for Persian Gulf Veterans with undiagnosed illnesses
- Continue unprecedented outreach to veterans and veterans service organizations

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Last Update: 03/21/96

WELFARE REFORM

"For too long our welfare system has undermined the values of family and work, instead of supporting them....I challenge this Congress to send me a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will really move people from welfare to work and do the right thing by our children. I will sign it immediately."

President Clinton

State of the Union Address

January 23, 1996

President Clinton is committed to welfare reform that reinforces the basic American values of work, responsibility, and family. We must reward work over welfare; require people to take responsibility for supporting themselves and their families; and ensure that children are protected. There is bipartisan consensus around the country on the fundamental elements of real welfare reform. Congress should not waste this opportunity to enact national legislation. In the meantime, the Clinton Administration is changing the welfare system profoundly while we wait for Congress to act.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Reforming Welfare through Waivers:** By granting 58 waivers to 37 states, the Administration is giving states the flexibility they need to fix the welfare system at the local level. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people -- about 75 percent of all welfare recipients. Welfare caseloads have declined by 1.4 million since March of 1994 -- a decrease of 10 percent.
- **Requiring Parents to Take Responsibility for their Children:** Through partnerships with states, tougher enforcement, waivers, and executive order, this Administration has achieved unprecedented financial support for children. Child support collections have grown nearly 40 percent since 1992, to a record \$11 billion, while paternity establishments have risen by more than 40 percent. We have proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever, including suspending drivers' licenses and tracking delinquent parents across state lines.
- **Tough New Sanctions for Refusing to Work:** President Clinton is changing Federal regulations so states can impose tougher sanctions on welfare recipients who refuse to work.
- **Rewarding Work Over Welfare:** The President provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- **Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** President Clinton worked with community, business and religious leaders to form the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy which will marshal private resources across the country to reduce teen pregnancy rates.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

The President will continue to work with Congress and the nation's governors to craft a bipartisan bill that is tough on work and fair to children. Until then, the Administration will continue to work to reform welfare.

- The President has proposed a sweeping welfare reform plan that would impose time limits and require work; provide adequate funding for child care to move people from welfare to work; strengthen child support enforcement; protect children; and save taxpayers \$40 billion.
- The National Governors' Association's welfare proposal this winter represents an important bipartisan step forward. The NGA's statement confirmed that the President was right to veto the flawed legislation passed by Congress -- legislation that did very little to encourage work, and too much that could harm children. The Administration is working with governors and members of Congress to pass a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will move people from welfare to work, protect children, and make responsibility a way of life.

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Last Update: March 29, 1996

OPENING NEW MARKETS TO CREATE JOBS FOR U.S. WORKERS

"When we have the opportunity to sell American products and services around the world, we know we can compete -- and that means new jobs and a rising standard of living, the core of the American Dream."

President Bill Clinton
Miami, Florida
December 9, 1994

President Clinton has sought to grow our economy by opening up more opportunities to sell Americans goods and services in foreign markets and create jobs for American workers. As a result, our nation has the highest growth of any major economy in the world over the last three years. The economy has created 8.5 million jobs -- 93% of which have been in the private sector. Approximately 62% of the 3.3 million new jobs created in 1994 alone were created by small companies. Unemployment is averaging 5.6%. The combination of unemployment plus inflation is the lowest in 27 years.

The President has stood up for American interests by implementing a new trade policy. He has sought to open new markets to U.S. exports; to create high-wage jobs in the United States; to monitor our trade agreements to ensure our trading partners are living up to their obligations; and to enforce our trade laws.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Stood Up for American Workers Against Unfair Competition:** Stood up to the Japanese and opened markets for U.S. goods and services in the market of our second largest trading partner. Opened the markets of our first and third largest trading partners -- Canada and Mexico -- by leading a bipartisan coalition in support of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Leveled the playing field for U.S. products around the world by concluding the Uruguay Round of the GATT, which puts in place tough new international rules of trade. Ensured that all our trading partners are living up to their obligations by establishing a permanent enforcement unit to monitor and enforce trade agreements.
- **Created Over 1 Million High-Wage American Jobs through an Unprecedented Export Boom:** Implemented a National Export Strategy that has helped create American jobs by promoting U.S. goods and services abroad, including providing high-level government advocacy, financing and risk insurance for our American companies. Reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the markets of our largest and fastest growing trading partners.
- **Put America First by Restoring U.S. Competitiveness:** Put the United States' financial house in order through sound macroeconomic policies such as a smart and tough deficit reduction plan and reduced government. Promoted education and training programs to give the American people the tools they need to prosper in the new global economy. Strengthened our economy by opening up opportunities to sell American goods and services in foreign markets.

Statistical Backup

Stood Up for American Workers Against Unfair Competition

- The Clinton Administration stood up to the Japanese and opened markets for U.S. goods and services -- accomplishing what American presidents have been trying to do for decades. And the results are impressive. Total U.S. exports to Japan are up 35% since 1993, reaching a record \$64 billion in 1995 and supporting over 800,000 American jobs. This represents a 20% increase in 1995 alone.
- Merchandise exports to Japan grew five times faster than our imports from Japan in 1995. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit with Japan declined for the first time in five years and to its lowest level since 1992. Half of the improvement in the trade deficit with Japan was a result of autos: for the first time in a decade, U.S. auto exports to Japan increased significantly while imports fell.
- The Clinton Administration has reached 21 agreements with Japan since 1993, covering a range of market sectors: autos and auto parts, medical technology, flat glass, insurance, financial services, telecommunications, supercomputers, construction, cellular phones, chemicals, rice, paper, apples, wood, and intellectual property rights.
- According to the Council of Economic Advisers, U.S. exports in sectors covered by these market-opening agreements, have grown over 85% since 1993. That's three times as fast as other U.S. exports to Japan over the past three years. For example:
 - U.S. auto and auto parts exports to Japan increased over 35% since the agreement went into effect in August 1995, totaling \$3.8 billion in 1995. The Big Three auto manufacturers and Japanese transplant producers sold over 140,000 U.S.-made vehicles in Japan in 1995, up 40% since 1994.
 - U.S. exports of telecommunications equipment to Japan have grown nearly 50% since November 1994 -- almost two times as fast as telecom equipment exports to the EU. U.S. telecom exports to Japan reached \$1.7 billion in 1995.
 - U.S. exports of medical technology to Japan have grown over 35% since November 1994, reaching nearly \$2 billion.
 - U.S. exports of chemicals to Japan have grown nearly 25% since the Uruguay Round was concluded, reaching \$2.8 billion in 1995.
 - U.S. copper exports to Japan are up over 80% since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, reaching \$350 million in 1995.
 - Just a few years ago, rice exports to Japan were virtually banned. Since a crop failure in Japan, however, U.S. rice producers have sold \$287 million of rice to Japan -- more than the previous 25 years combined. In 1995, U.S. exports of rice to Japan reached \$31 million.

- U.S. manufacturing firms increased their share of the Japanese market over the past three years -- up 20% in 1995 over 1992.
- Overall agricultural exports surged to \$56 billion in 1995, up almost 22% over 1994, with highs in poultry, pork, wheat, and cotton.
- Even with the difficult economic situation in Mexico, U.S. exports to Mexico in 1995 were \$46 billion. That's 11% higher than 1993 -- the year before NAFTA was implemented. And 74 cents of every dollar that Mexicans spend on imported goods go to buy U.S. goods.

Created Over 1 Million High-Wage Jobs through an Unprecedented Export Boom

- The United States is the world's largest exporter. Exports have grown 31% since President Clinton took office. In 1995 alone, exports were up more than 14%.
- Exports accounted for one-third of overall U.S. economic growth since the beginning of the Clinton Administration.
- Over one million high-quality, high-wage jobs have been created as a direct result of increased exports. 11 million American jobs are supported by exports and since 1993, roughly one out of every ten American workers depends on exports for their jobs. Export-related jobs pay on average of 13-16% better than other jobs.
- One in five manufacturing jobs is supported by U.S. exports. Almost 300,000 manufacturing jobs have been created just in the past three years. Auto jobs have increased by 89,000 during the Clinton Administration, after declining during the previous four years.

Put America First by Restoring U.S. Competitiveness

- The United States has been ranked Number One on competitiveness for two years in a row -- up from Number Five in 1992.
- The United States is the world's Number One producer of automobiles for the first time since the 1970's -- overtaking Japan.
- U.S. aircraft industry dominates the world market -- supplying 65% Asia's imports.
- The United States is once again the world's Number One producer of semiconductors, surpassing Japan.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to open markets around the world and will continue to promote American exports by:

- Aggressively pushing foreign trading partners to further open their markets to U.S. goods and services;
- Ensuring that our trading partners live up to their obligations by strictly enforcing our trade agreements, using sanctions and other punitive measures when necessary;
- Continuing to place special emphasis on the fast-growing emerging markets around the world;
- Continuing to help small and medium sized enterprises export;
- Continuing to give American workers and businesses the tools they need to compete and win in the new global economy.

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Last Update: April 17, 1996

IMPROVING THE AIR WE BREATHE

"I cannot and I will not compromise any clean water, any clean air, any protection against toxic waste. The environment cannot protect itself."

President Clinton
April 7, 1995

President Clinton supports a strong Clean Air Act, one of the nation's most successful laws. The Clean Air Act has dramatically reduced air pollution. This has reduced respiratory and heart problems, dramatically reduced cancer and mortality rates, cut crop and forest damage and improved visibility. But there is a lot that still needs to be done. One in three Americans still breathes air that fails to meet the health standards of the Clean Air Act.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Right-to-Know:** President Clinton signed a "Pollution Disclosure" Executive Order to require industry to disclose information about toxic releases to their neighbors.
- **Incinerators:** President Clinton issued a new safeguard so municipal incinerators reduce dioxin emissions by 99%.
- **Chemical Plants:** President Clinton issued a new rule to reduce by 90% the toxic air pollutants released from chemical plants by 1997.
- **Regulatory Reform:** President Clinton is cutting paperwork by 25% and allowing businesses to put aside the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can find a cleaner and cheaper way to meet environmental standards. He also issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective.
- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like clean air.

Statistical Backup

- Since President Clinton took office, 50 million people are now breathing cleaner air.
- Since 1970:
 - Lead emissions have dropped 98 percent;
 - particulate matter 78 percent;
 - sulfur oxides 30 percent;
 - carbon monoxide 24 percent; and
 - smog-forming volatile organic compounds 24 percent.
- Meanwhile, the economy grew by 71 percent and the U.S. population by 25 percent.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. President Clinton will also continue to defend the Clean Air Act against GOP Congressional attempts to repeal or weaken it.

The President will continue to fight for adequate Clean Air funding in the budget. His 1997 budget calls for an increase in the EPA operating budget (which funds standard setting and enforcement and other programs) by 9 percent over 1996, a 23 percent increase over 1993.

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Last Update: March 19, 1996

PRESERVING THE CLEAN WATER ACT

"Some members of the new Congress, operating with major industry lobbyists, have come up with a bill that would roll back a quarter-century of bipartisan progress in public health and environmental protection. The bill would let polluted water back into our lives. ... newspapers all over America are calling it the 'Dirty Water Act.' And it won't get past my desk."

President Clinton
Rock Creek Park, May 30, 1995

President Clinton recognizes that the Clean Water Act is a great American success story. Before the Clean Water Act, rivers caught on fire, Lake Erie died, and garbage floated in the Chesapeake Bay. Today, cleaned up rivers, lakes and beaches are the heart of revitalized communities from Cleveland to Baltimore. But now, the House of Representatives have passed a Clean Water rollback that President Clinton has vowed to veto should it ever reach his desk.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Stopping Attempts to Rollback the Clean Water Act:** In 1995, the House passed a new clean water bill (H.R. 961) that would roll back the Clean Water Act. It would undermine our achievements and stop or significantly delay further action. President Clinton said he would veto the bill if it came to his desk, and stopped it dead in its tracks.
- **Written by Lobbyists:** The House bill was written with the help of lobbyists, while citizens, the Administration and public interest groups were excluded. As the New York Times said, "In brief, the subcommittee bill will make it much easier for polluters to pollute. But that is no surprise. Polluters wrote the bill." (4/2/95)
- **Reduce Water Quality Protection:** This bill would undermine the standards that have improved water quality. It would allow polluters to circumvent national industrial performance standards and undercut the current commitment to healthy waters. Finally, lower standards in upstream states would mean higher costs for downstream states.
- **Eliminate Fundamental Wetlands Protection:** Wetlands function as natural filters to improve water quality and mitigate against flooding. This bill would redefine wetlands in a way that would remove important wetlands -- including much of the Everglades -- from existing protection.
- **"Takings" Measure Would Create Enormous New Costs:** The bill includes a "takings" provision that would dramatically increase the cost of clean water to the taxpayers. The bill would increase the deficit by several billion dollars. (See also the takings issue brief.)

- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like clean water.
- **Regulatory Reform:** President Clinton is cutting paperwork requirements and allowing businesses to put aside the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. He issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective. But he could not accept a "regulatory reform" bill that would roll back safeguards for clean water.

Statistical Backup

- The Clean Water Act removes more than one billion pounds per year of toxic pollutants from our nation's waters.
- 900 million tons of sewage are no longer discharged.
- The Republican Clean Water rollback would redefine wetlands in a way that could remove existing protections from as much as 75 percent of the nation's waters (including much of the Everglades).

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. President Clinton will continue to defend the Clean Water Act against GOP Congressional attempts to repeal or weaken it.

President Clinton will continue to fight for adequate Clean Water funding in the budget. His 1997 budget calls for an increase of \$50 million for clean and safe water infrastructure beyond the \$465 million he proposed the Congress add back to their inadequate level for 1996.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 19, 1996

ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER

"People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

President Clinton believes that all Americans have a right to safe drinking water. Although the United States has some of the safest drinking water in the world, our water is not free from contamination. In the last few years, millions of residents of major U.S. cities -- such as Milwaukee, New York and Washington, DC -- have been ordered to boil their water. In 1993, 400,000 people became sick and more than 100 died from drinking contaminated drinking water in Milwaukee.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Better Standards:** EPA is in the midst of a three step process that will better protect public health and help prevent another incident like Milwaukee. The standards are the result of a negotiated process between industry, state and local governments, and citizen representatives.
- **Eliminating Contaminants:** The Administration has required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants.
- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like safe water. The President vetoed a GOP budget that would have cut safe drinking water funding by 45 percent from his request.
- **Regulatory Reform:** The President is cutting paperwork requirements and allowing businesses to put aside the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. He issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective. But he could not accept a "regulatory reform" bill that would roll back safeguards for safe food and water.
- **Fighting to Reform the Safe Drinking Water Act:** President Clinton has proposed to reform the safe drinking water law to help local water systems protect their citizens' health and give people tap water they can trust. The President's proposal was supported by industry and environmentalists alike.

Statistical Backup

- 30 million people are served by drinking water systems that violated one or more public health standards last year.

- 13 million people are served by the more than 1,000 drinking water systems that have not yet installed filters to prevent waterborne disease.
- Under current law, EPA must regulate 25 new contaminants every three years -- whether or not they are needed. This -- and the need to better protect public health -- illustrates the need for reform.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In his 1996 State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. President Clinton will continue to fight to ensure that the law that governs our drinking water supply is as affordable as it is effective for our communities.

President Clinton's 1997 budget calls for an increase of \$50 million for clean and safe water infrastructure beyond the \$465 million he proposed that Congress add back to their inadequate level for 1996.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 19, 1996

CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTE/SUPERFUND REFORM

"Some say that the taxpayer should pick up the tab for toxic waste and let polluters who can afford to fix it off the hook. I challenge Congress to reexamine those policies and to reverse them."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

President Clinton believes that more effort should go to cleaning up toxic dumps and less should go to lawyers who are simply cleaning up. Contaminated, neglected land costs communities jobs, development and their tax base. President Clinton rejects efforts to reform the Superfund law in a way that leaves public health at risk from neglected toxic dumps or leaves taxpayers -- rather than polluters -- paying for the cleanup.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Superfund Reform Bill:** Early in his Administration, President Clinton proposed a major reform of Superfund, the bill that cleans up toxic dumps. President Clinton put together a historic coalition, gaining support from everyone from the Chemical Manufacturers to the Environmental Defense Fund, small businesses and private citizens.
- **Fighting Misguided Reform Efforts:** Now, many in Congress would discard these reforms to pursue more extreme measures that could reduce cleanups and make taxpayers -- rather than polluters -- picking up the tab. President Clinton rejects those measures, but remains eager to work with Congress to pursue common-sense Superfund reform.
- **Not Waiting for Congressional Action:** In the meantime, President Clinton is reforming the Superfund program administratively, to make it work better and cost less.
 - Actions include the "**Brownfields**" **Economic Redevelopment Initiative** to make it easier to develop contaminated sites in inner city industrial areas. When contaminated land sits neglected, communities lose business development, they lose jobs, they lose their tax base and they lose hope. These abandoned contaminated areas can be cleaned up and put to productive community use. As part of the initiative, President Clinton has proposed to offer new purchasers and other businesses that will redevelop brownfields a new targeted tax incentive.
 - The EPA removed 25,000 low priority sites from the Superfund site data base, a move that helps cleanup and redevelopment move forward quickly.

- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like health protection from toxic waste.

Statistical Backup

- Fifteen years after Love Canal, one in four Americans still lives within four miles of a toxic dump site.
- Five million children under the age of four still live within four miles of a Superfund toxic dump site.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. The President challenged the GOP Congress to drop misguided attempts to make taxpayers, rather than polluters, pay to clean up toxic dumps.

President Clinton will continue to fight for common-sense reform of the Superfund law. His principles for reform include:

- Cleanups must be faster, fairer and more efficient.
- The polluter must pay.
- Less money should go to lawyers and more money should go to cleanups.
- We must promote economic redevelopment in our communities.

The President's 1997 budget includes an increase of \$85 million for Superfund on top of the \$150 million he proposed that the GOP Congress add back to its inadequate level for 1996.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ

Last Update: March 19, 1996

WETLANDS REFORM

"There's no reason on Earth why Americans should have to settle for anything less than the best when it comes to keeping our water safe and pure."

President Clinton
Rock Creek Park
May 30, 1995

Wetlands filter and cleanse our water and buffer against flooding. They are among the most prolific ecosystems in the world, essential to maintaining healthy fisheries and fishing communities. Protecting wetlands is therefore one of the central components of one of America's most successful laws, the Clean Water Act. Before the Clean Water Act, rivers caught on fire and Lake Erie died. Today, cleaned up rivers, lakes and beaches are the heart of revitalized communities from Cleveland to Baltimore. Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress have passed a bill to roll back the Clean Water Act and decimate wetlands protection. The President has vowed to veto that bill should it ever reach his desk.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Making it Easier for Landowners: On July 12, 1995, President Clinton announced that the vast majority of homeowners will never have to worry about wetlands or endangered species laws on their property. This reform includes a "nationwide general permit" that will, for example, allow homeowners to build or expand their home on non-tidal wetlands property without applying for an individual wetlands permit under the Clean Water Act.

Fair, Flexible and Effective Wetlands Programs: In response to the needs of and recommendations from states, developers, farmers, homeowners, environmental groups, Congress and scientists, the Clinton Administration issued a 40-point wetlands reform package in August 1993, based on the following principles:

- No net loss of wetlands
- Streamlining wetlands permitting programs
- Better cooperation with private landowners
- Sound science
- Increasing participation by states, tribes, local governments and the public
- Greater use of non-regulatory approaches to wetlands protection

Cutting Litigation and Resolving Disputes: The Corps of Engineers, the main wetlands agency, is designing a process by which landowners can challenge a wetlands permit denial without going to court.

Mitigation Banking: The Clinton Administration issued guidance on wetlands mitigation banking that gives landowners more flexibility and improves protection.

Statistical Backup

- More than 99% of all wetlands permits are granted. However, the Clinton Administration believes that we can do better because the wetlands programs have been a source of justifiable frustration for many.
- The Republican Clean Water rollback would redefine wetlands in a way that could remove existing protections from as much as 75% of the nation's wetlands (even including much of the Everglades).

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. The President believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses the flexibility to find cleaner and cheaper ways to cut pollution.

President Clinton will continue to fight against attempts to enact unscientific wetlands laws. The President's budget specifically includes a \$111 million increase in the wetlands reserve program and a doubling of the federal commitment to the Everglades to \$1.5 billion over 7 years.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 25, 1996

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGE TO PROTECT AND HONOR
OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

"I think we're obligated to balance this budget to take the debt off our children and our grandchildren, but we're obligated to do it in a way that represents -- that reflects our responsibility to our parents and our grandparents..." -- President Clinton

FIGHTING TO PROTECT MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

- **Fighting Drastic Republican Cuts** in Medicare and Medicaid that will shift a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries; and reduce Medicaid nursing home coverage for hundreds of thousands of the elderly and disabled.
- **Long-Term Care** -- Opposing Republican proposals to reduce Medicaid long-term care coverage and to repeal enforcement of quality standards for nursing homes. Consistently supported expanding state administered home and community-based care services, tax clarifications and consumer standards for private long-term care insurance, and penalty-free withdrawals from IRAs to pay for long-term care.
- **Making Medicare and Medicaid Responsive to Beneficiary Needs** -- Worked to strengthen and improve Medicare and Medicaid by combating fraud and abuse, enhancing quality, and supporting an expansion of managed-care options to increase choices for beneficiaries -- not as a smokescreen for deep and arbitrary cuts. Proposed providing more preventive services and a respite care benefit for families of victims of Alzheimer's disease under Medicare.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **A Stable Social Security System** -- Committed to preserving Social Security benefits and ensuring the long-term integrity of the Trust Fund. The President stated benefits should not be used to balance the budget or pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.
- **A Reliable Pension System** -- Signed the Retirement Protection Act in December 1994. Now workers and retirees will be able to count on receiving the pension they have earned.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Older Americans Act** -- Proposed reauthorization of Older Americans Act to renew and strengthen critical Meals on Wheels, transportation, senior community employment, and ombudsman services. Fighting to keep the program intact.
- **Senior Service Corps** -- Fighting to support and protect the Corporation for National Service's Senior Service Programs -- Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

BRINGING SENIORS TO THE TABLE

- **Elevation of Commissioner of Aging** to Assistant Secretary status.
- **1995 White House Conference on Aging** -- Called for the fourth White House Conference on Aging, after the 1991 Conference failed to take place.

April/1996

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY

- The economy created **8.5 million new jobs** in just over the three years of Administration.
- For adult African Americans, the **unemployment rate dipped to 9.6%** in March -- one of the **lowest rates in twenty years**. This is the **22nd consecutive month** that the unemployment rate for adult African Americans has been in the **single digits**. (When President Clinton took office in January 1993, the unemployment rate for African American adults was **12.6%**.)
- In the year after the President's Economic Plan, the **incomes of African American households increased 5 percent** -- the first real increase since 1988.
- **Lowest combined rate of unemployment, inflation and mortgage rates in 27 years.**
- **Highest level of homeownership in 15 years.**
- Made **new tax cuts** available to **90%** of small businesses.
- Since 1992, over **100,000 new African American businesses** have been created.

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY

- Increased **Head Start** funding by \$760 million.
- Signed into law the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed into law the **National Service Act**, with African Americans comprising **one-third** of all participants, September 21, 1993.
- Enacted the **Goals 2000: Educate America Act**, March 31, 1994.
- Implemented the **School-to-Work Act** on May 4, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Improving America's School Act**, September 28, 1994.
- Signed **Telecommunications Bill** into law -- helping connect **every child** in America's classrooms to the **information superhighway** by the year 2000, February 8, 1996.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- Ordered a review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand **educational and economic opportunity**.
- The Administration argued in federal court to expand interpretation of the **Voting Rights Act**.
- The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division filed more cases in the last two years to **enforce fair housing laws** than ever before -- a **record 321 cases**.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development actively intervened and **desegregated a Vidor, Texas public housing complex**.
- The Treasury Department, working with the Justice Department, **ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans** for minority customers once denied loans by the bank.
- The Justice Department settled the **Denny's Restaurant racial discrimination lawsuit** brought by six U.S. Secret Service agents. The suit against Denny's was decided in favor of the plaintiffs.

MAKING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Signed into law the toughest most comprehensive **Crime Bill** ever, Sept. 13, 1994
- Signed into law the **Brady Bill** -- blocking more than **60,000 criminals** from purchasing guns, November 30, 1993.
- Signed into law the **Assault Weapons Ban**, as part of the Crime Bill.
- Put **100,000 new police** on the street -- over 33,000 more officers have been funded.
- Signed **Police Hiring Supplement** -- awards \$200 million for **community policing**.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy** in schools.
- Introduced **Operation Safe Home** to fight crime in public housing.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

- Appointed the most **diverse** Cabinet and Administration in history.
- Members of the Clinton cabinet include **3 African Americans**, two Hispanics and six women.
- **14%** of total Administration appointees are **African American**.
- President Clinton has to date **nominated 36 African Americans** to the Federal bench -- **19.5%** of his total Federal bench nominations.
- **More African Americans (45)** serving in the **White House** than at any time in history.
- Already cut the **Federal Workforce** by over **200,000** positions -- its lowest level in 30 years.
- **\$58 billion** in savings are already in the bank. **\$116 billion** in savings still to come.

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- Signed into law the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993.
- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed into law a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan**.
- Put the **Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)** on a full-funding path.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

- Created nine **Economic Empowerment Zones** and **95 Enterprise Communities**.
- Signed into law the **Community Development Banking Bill**, September 23, 1994.
- Made **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** and **Mortgage Revenue Bond Program** permanent.
- Reformed the **Community Reinvestment Act**, helping increase the number of **mortgage loans** to **African Americans** by **55%** from 1993 to 1994.

PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES

- Expanded the **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief for **15 million** working families. In 1994, the EITC lifted over **350,000** African Americans out of poverty.
- Passed the **Family Support and Preservation Program**.
- Passed major funding increases for **homeless programs** in both Houses.
- Increased **adoption and foster care funds** by almost **\$600 million** from 1994-1995.
- Approved **37 waivers** to states permitting comprehensive **welfare reform** demonstrations.
- Helped reduce **welfare rolls 5%** since taking office -- **700,000 fewer recipients**.
- Working to reduce the number of recipients in the **Food Stamp Program** -- today nearly **one million fewer people** need food stamps than in Oct. 1994, saving taxpayers over **\$800 million**.
- Collected a record **\$11 billion** in child support through enforcement in 1995 -- a nearly **40% increase** since 1992.

RESTORING TRUST IN OUR GOVERNMENT

- Signed into law the **National Voter Registration Act (Motor-Voter)**, May 20, 1993. This expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR PUBLIC HEALTH

- The EPA identified **20 environmental justice pilot projects** to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.
- Issued an **Executive Order on Environmental Justice**, ensuring that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

- Brought **democracy** to **Haiti** for first time in its history & did it without losing American lives.
- Hosted first ever **White House Conference on Africa**.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Family and Medical Leave Act, February 5, 1993**
This is an historic effort that allows working Americans to take leave up to **12 weeks** to care for a sick relative or a new child without the fear of losing their jobs. Over **42 million workers** are covered by the new law and it is estimated that as many as 2.5 million workers will take advantage of it annually.
- **Student Loan Reform Act, August 10, 1993**
The new direct student loan program will enable **more than 5 million borrowers** this year alone to consolidate their guaranteed loans into direct loans. Borrowers will benefit from lower fees and the option of income contingent repayment -- taxpayers will save as much as **\$4.3 billion** by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options.
- **President Clinton increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by \$100 million since FY1992, a nine percent increase.** Each year, the Administration provides **\$1.1 billion** in support for scholarships, research grants, fellowships, construction, and equipment for the nation's black colleges.
- **Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, August 10, 1993**
After a decade of failed attempts, President Clinton championed the passage of this legislation, which uses tax incentives and flexible grants to promote economic empowerment and private-sector job creation in **104 distressed communities** across America. Over **500 communities** took up the "EZ" challenge, developing comprehensive strategies and forging unprecedented partnerships for community renewal that made all applicants winners.
- **President Clinton is committed to increasing the minimum wage.** Over **1.3 million hourly-paid African Americans** would directly benefit from the President's proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour.
- **National Service Act, September 21, 1993**
In 1995, **25,000 AmeriCorps members** (more than served during the largest year of the Peace Corps) tutored students, immunized children, reclaimed parks and patrolled streets -- and in return received education awards that make college or job training more affordable. AmeriCorps is scheduled to increase to 50,000 members in FY1996, with a total of almost 100,000 Americans serving our country in the first three years.
- **The Brady Act, November 30, 1993**
After stalling for several years in Congress, the Brady Bill became law under the leadership of President Clinton. The Act requires a five-day waiting period during which all potential handgun purchasers are required to submit to a background check. \$100 million was appropriated for implementation in FY1995 and another \$50 million is authorized for this year. So far, the Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 fugitives and felons** from purchasing handguns.

- **Goals 2000: Educate America Act, March 31, 1994**

The Goals 2000 bill assists communities and states with funds to develop and implement their own school improvements based on local, "bottom-up" initiatives.

Improvements will include ways to strengthen **academic achievement**, improve discipline, increase **parent involvement**, better utilize technology, and improve teaching. Over 47 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and 7 territories have received federal grants.

- **School-to-Work Act, May 4, 1994**

This landmark legislation provides venture capital to spark a nationwide system for moving America's young people smoothly from the **classroom to a job with a future**. Since 1994, all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have received funds for planning their school-to-work programs, 27 states now have school-to-work state implementation grants, and 15 localities and 21 urban-rural-high poverty areas have received grants. In May 1995, over 116,000 students, 2,730 schools, and over 41,000 employers were involved in school-to-work after just one year.

- **The Crime Bill, September 13, 1994**

The \$30 billion Crime Bill attacks crime by adding **100,000 police officers**, funding comprehensive prevention programs and building more prisons. The legislation also includes strong punishment for criminals by implementing "three-strikes-and-you're-out" for repeat violent offenders. Half the nation's law enforcement agencies -- jurisdictions of all sizes -- have received grants to hire more than 31,000 new police officers.

-- Homicide fell 12% in the first half of 1995, the **largest drop in 35 years**. [FBI, December 17, 1995]

-- The nation's largest cities saw their **serious crime rate fall 6%** in the first six months of 1995. [FBI, December 17, 1995]

-- In 1995, New York saw its murder rate **drop 31%** in the first six months and is at the lowest level since 1970. [Department of Justice, September 13, 1995]

-- During the first half of 1995, the overall crime rate was down by more than **16%** in San Francisco, **10%** in San Antonio, and **9%** in Los Angeles County. [Washington Post, August 16, 1995]

- **Assault Weapons Ban, September 13, 1994**

President Clinton successfully challenged gun interests to ban **19 specific types of deadly assault weapons** while simultaneously protecting hunters rights by exempting over 650 hunting rifles.

- **Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act, September 23, 1994**

This legislation created a national network of non-traditional grassroots community lending institutions and will inject **\$4.8 billion of capital** into economically distressed urban and rural areas.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF HISPANIC AMERICANS

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY

- The economy created **8.5 million new jobs** in just over first three years of Administration.
- The **unemployment rate** for Hispanic Americans in March was **10.0%** down from **11.3%** when President Clinton first took office.
- After more than a decade of decline, over **1 million new manufacturing and construction jobs** have been created since President Clinton took office.
- By the end of 1995, over **220,000 new Hispanic-American-owned businesses** have been created since the President took office.
- Passed the largest **deficit-cutting** plan in history -- saving more than **\$1 trillion** over 7 yrs.
- Lowest **combined rate of unemployment, inflation, mortgage rates** in 27 years.
- Made **new tax cuts** available to over 90% of small businesses.

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY

- Signed the **Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans**, February 22, 1994.
- Increased **Head Start** funding by \$760 million.
- Enacted the **Goals 2000: Educate America Act**, March 31, 1994.
- Implemented the **School-to-Work Opportunities Act**, May 4, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed into law the **National Service Act**, with Hispanics comprising 14% of all participants, September 21, 1993
- Signed into law the **Improving America's Schools Act**, September 28, 1994.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- Ordered a **comprehensive review** of the government's **affirmative action** programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an **effective and important tool** to expand education and economic **opportunity** to all Americans.
- Authorized a nationwide investigation of discrimination by financial institutions to help end **discrimination** in the provision of **home mortgages**.
- Made "**naturalization**" a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration.
- Elevated the **Department of Justice Civil Rights Division**, the Office of Special Counsel for Discriminatory Immigration Employment Practices to protect against discriminatory aspects of employer sanctions.

MAKING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Signed into law the toughest most comprehensive **Crime Bill** ever, September 7, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Brady Bill** -- blocking over **60,000 criminals** from buying guns, Nov. 30, 1993.
- Introduced **Operation Safe Home** to fight crime in public housing.
- Signed into law the **Assault Weapons Ban**.
- Put **100,000 new police** on the street -- over 33,000 new officers have been funded.
- Signed the **Police Hiring Supplement**, awarding \$200 million for **community policing**
- Signed the **Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act** to expand security and violence prevention.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a "**Zero Tolerance**" **gun policy** in schools, October 22, 1994

RESTORING TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

- Signed into law the **National Voter Registration Act (Motor-Voter)**, May 20, 1993 This expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

- Appointed the most **diverse** Cabinet and Administration in history. Members of the Clinton cabinet include **2 Hispanics**. With the choice of **Federico Pena** and **Henry Cisneros**, this Administration has attained **13% Hispanic representation in the Cabinet**.
- Set a record (**11%**) on Hispanics appointed to the Fed. District and circuit courts, including **first Mexican American judge** in Los Angeles and the **first Hispanic judge** in Chicago.
- Appointed more Hispanic Americans to senior level positions than any President in American history. Significantly, these appointments are outside what has been considered the "traditional" Hispanic areas of interest.
- Already cut **Federal Workforce** by over 200,000 -- its lowest level in 30 years.
- **\$58 billion** in savings are already in the bank. **\$116 billion** in savings are still to come.
- Signed the **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act** into law, March 22, 1995.

OPENING FOREIGN MARKETS TO AMERICAN GOODS

- Signed **NAFTA** into law in 1993, creating a free trade zone between Mexico, the United States and Canada, and establishing the largest and richest market in the world - 360 million consumers and more than \$6 trillion in annual output.
- Hosted **Summit of the Americas** and agreed to negotiate a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed into law the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993.
- Signed a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan** into law.
- Established the **Office of Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine** at the National Institute of Health.
- Funded **supplemental unemployment and food assistance programs** to help some 1.9 million unemployed American workers, their families and poor children.
- Increased **Ryan White CARE Act** funding for outpatient AIDS care over 100% in first three budgets.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

- Created **nine Economic Empowerment Zones** and **95 Enterprise Communities**.
- Signed into law the **Community Development Banking Bill**, September 23, 1994.
- Signed the **Executive Order on Environmental Justice** to protect Americans -- particularly those who can least afford it -- from pollution and to help provide safe, clean communities.
- Made the **low-income housing credit** and **Mortgage Revenue Bond Program** permanent, increasing opportunities for affordable housing development by the private sector.
- Reformed **Community Reinvestment Act**, helping increase the number of mortgage loans to Hispanic Americans by **42%** from 1993 to 1994.

PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES

- Expanded **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief to **15 million** working families.
- Passed the **Family Support and Preservation Program**.
- Approved **37 waivers** to states permitting comprehensive **welfare reform** demonstrations.
- Helped reduce **welfare rolls 5%** since taking office -- **700,000 fewer recipients** each month.
- Reducing the number of recipients in the **Food Stamp Program** -- nearly **one million fewer people** who needed food stamps before October 1994, saving taxpayers over **\$800 million**.
- Passed **major funding increases for homeless programs** in both houses.
- Increased **adoption and foster care funds** by almost \$600 million from 1994-1995.
- Collected a record **\$11 billion** in child support through enforcement in 1995 -- a nearly **40% increase** since 1992.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Family and Medical Leave Act, February 5, 1993**
This is an historic effort that allows working Americans to take leave up to **12 weeks** to care for a sick relative or a new child without the fear of losing their jobs. Over **42 million workers** are covered by the new law and it is estimated that as many as 2.5 million workers will take advantage of it annually.
- **Student Loan Reform Act, August 10, 1993**
The new direct student loan program will enable **more than 5 million borrowers** this year alone to consolidate their guaranteed loans into direct loans. Borrowers will benefit from lower fees and the option of income contingent repayment -- taxpayers will save as much as **\$4.3 billion** by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options.
- **Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, August 10, 1993**
After a decade of failed attempts, President Clinton championed the passage of his legislation, which uses tax incentives and flexible grants to promote economic empowerment and private-sector job creation in **104 distressed communities** across America. Over **500 communities** took up the "EZ" challenge, developing comprehensive strategies and forging unprecedented partnerships for community renewal that made all applicants winners.
- **National Service Act, September 21, 1993**
In 1995, **25,000 AmeriCorps members** (more than served during the largest year of the Peace Corps) tutored students, immunized children, reclaimed parks and patrolled streets -- and in return received education awards that make college or job training more affordable. AmeriCorps is scheduled to increase to 50,000 members in FY1996, with a total of almost 100,000 Americans serving our country in the first three years.
- **Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, February 22, 1994**
This Order establishes an advisory commission to oversee the **improvement in education for Hispanic Americans**, but also ensures that Hispanic-serving institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanic Americans. Also created by the order is a White House Initiative Office operating out of the Department of Education and an interagency working group in which a senior level official from each government agency will have oversight for implementation of the Order.
- **Goals 2000: Educate America Act, March 31, 1994**
The Goals 2000 bill assists communities and states with funds to develop and implement their own **school improvements** based on **local, "bottom-up"** initiatives. Improvements will include ways to strengthen **academic achievement**, improve discipline, increase **parent involvement**, better utilize technology, and improve teaching. Over **47 states**, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and 7 territories have received federal grants.

- **School-to-Work Act, May 4, 1994**

This landmark legislation provides venture capital to spark a nationwide system for moving America's young people smoothly from the **classroom** to a **job** with a future. Since 1994, **all 50 states**, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have received funds for planning their school-to-work programs, 27 states now have school-to-work state implementation grants, and 15 localities and 21 urban-rural-high poverty areas have received grants. In May 1995, over **116,000 students**, 2,730 schools, and over 41,000 employers were involved in school-to-work after just one year.

- **The Brady Act, November 30, 1993**

After stalling for several years in Congress, the Brady Bill became law under the leadership of President Clinton. The Act requires a five-day waiting period during which all potential handgun purchasers are required to submit to a background check. \$100 million was appropriated for implementation in FY1995 and another \$50 million is authorized for this year. **More than 60,000 fugitives and felons have been prevented from buying guns.**

- **The Crime Bill, September 13, 1994**

The \$30 billion Crime Bill attacks crime by adding **100,000 police officers**, funding comprehensive prevention programs and building more prisons. The legislation also includes strong punishment for criminals by expanding the number of offenses eligible for the death penalty and implementing "three-strikes-and-you're-out" for repeat violent offenders.

-- Homicides across the country **fell 12%** in the first half of 1995, the **largest drop in 35 years**. [*FBI*, December 17, 1995]

-- The nation's largest cities saw their **serious crime rate fall 6%** in the first six months of 1995. [*FBI*, December 17, 1995]

-- In 1995, New York saw its murder rate **drop 31%** in the first six months and is at the lowest level since 1970. [*Department of Justice*, September 13, 1995]

-- During the first half of 1995, the overall crime rate was down by more than **16%** in San Francisco, **10%** in San Antonio, and **9%** in Los Angeles County. [*Washington Post*, August 16, 1995]

- **Assault Weapons Ban, September 13, 1994**

President Clinton successfully challenged gun interests to **ban 19 specific types of deadly assault weapons** while simultaneously protecting hunters' rights by exempting over 650 hunting rifles.

- **Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act, September 23, 1994**

This legislation creates a national network of non-traditional grassroots community lending institutions and will inject **\$4.8 billion of capital** into economically distressed urban and rural areas.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

"As we face the challenges of the global economy in the information age, we turn to you for hope and inspiration. You know well about overcoming barriers and embracing change. You know well about the importance of preserving the traditional values of family and hard work, and sacrifice today for a better future tomorrow. And, yet you have shown the most remarkable ability to adapt to changing circumstances of perhaps any group of your fellow Americans."

-- President Clinton, Cong. Asian American and Pacific American Institute Dinner, May 18, 1995

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

- The economy created **8.5 million new jobs** in just over 3 years.
- **Unemployment** has fallen to **5.6%** from **7%** when President Clinton first took office.
- After more than a decade of decline, **over 1 million new manufacturing and construction jobs** have been created since the President Clinton took office.
- Passed the largest **deficit-cutting** plan in history -- saving more than **\$1 trillion** over 7 yrs.
- Lowest combined rate of **unemployment, inflation and mortgage rates** in 27 years.
- **Highest level of homeownership** in 15 years.
- Made **new tax cuts** available to **90%** of small businesses.

EXPANDING BUSINESS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT

- Approved nearly **8,500 Small Business Administration loans** totalling nearly **\$2 billion** to **Asian American businesses**.
- Funded an SBA program targeted to **Asian American women** that provides **training and counseling** to thousands in the Chinatown section of New York City.
- Secured commitments from **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** leaders to **eliminate barriers** to open trade in the Asia Pacific region in 2020.
- Helped increase **exports to Asia** by more than **44%** since taking office; our exports to Asia account for over **2 million jobs** in the United States.

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- Increased **Head Start** Funding by \$760 million.
- Enacted the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed into law the **National Service Act**, September 21, 1993.
- Implemented **Goals 2000** -- Setting world-class educational standards, March 31, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Improving America's School Act**, September 28, 1994.
- Signed into law the **School-to-Work Act**, May 4, 1994.
- Signed **Telecommunications Bill**, helping connect **every child** in America to **internet** by 2000.
- Increased funding for Office of **Bilingual Education & Minority Languages Affairs**.
- Restructured **Foreign Language Assistance Program** to assist **local schools** in establishing programs in **Chinese, Japanese, and Korean**.
- Hosted two **Asian Pacific American Education Forums** to address the needs of Asian American students and their teachers.

MAKING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Signed into law the toughest most comprehensive **Crime Bill** ever, Sept. 13, 1994
- Signed into law the **Brady Bill**, blocking over **60,000 criminals** from buying guns, Nov. 30, 1993.
- Signed into law the **Assault Weapons Ban**, as part of the Crime Bill.
- Puts **100,000 new police** on the street -- over 33,000 more officers have been funded.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy** in schools
- Signed **Police Hiring Supplement** -- awards \$200 million for **community policing**.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

- Appointed the most **diverse** Cabinet and Administration in history.
- There are currently **155 Asian Pacific Americans** serving in the Clinton Admin. -- **three times as many** Asian American appointees as the previous Administration.
- Nominated **more Asian-Americans** to the **federal bench** than any other Administration; President Clinton's first Asian-American nomination to a federal court was the first in almost **15 years**.
- Already cut the **federal workforce by over 200,000 positions** -- its lowest level in 30 years.
- **\$58 billion** in savings are already in the bank. **\$116 billion** in savings still to come.
- Cut the Small Business Administration loan form from **1 inch thick to 1 page**.

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- Signed into law the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993.
- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed into law a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan**.
- Put the **Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)** on a full-funding path.
- Established the **Office of Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine** at the National Institute of Health.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

- Created nine **Economic Empowerment Zones** and 95 **Enterprise Communities**.
- Signed the **Community Development Banking Bill**, September 23, 1994.
- Made the **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** and **Mortgage Revenue Bond Program** permanent.

PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES

- Expanded the **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief for **15 million** working families.
- Passed the **Family Support and Preservation Program**.
- Increased **adoption and foster care funds** by nearly \$600 million from 1994-1995.
- Approved **37 waivers** to states permitting comprehensive **welfare reform** demonstrations.
- Collected a record **\$11 billion** in child support through enforcement in 1995 -- a **40 percent increase** since 1992.

RESTORING TRUST IN OUR GOVERNMENT

- Signed into law the National Voter Registration Act (**Motor-Voter**), May 20, 1993 -- expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations.

PROMOTING LEGAL IMMIGRATION

- Launched **Citizenship USA** whose goal is to ensure that by summer 1996, eligible persons who apply for citizenship will become **new citizens within six months**.
- Already implemented in **Los Angeles**, Citizenship USA will begin in **San Francisco, New York, Miami, Chicago** -- cities that represent more than **75%** of all pending citizenship applications.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Family and Medical Leave Act, February 5, 1993**
This is an historic effort that allows working Americans to take leave up to **12 weeks** to care for a sick relative or a new child without the fear of losing their jobs. Over **42 million workers** are covered by the new law and it is estimated that as many as 2.5 million workers will take advantage of it annually.
- **Student Loan Reform Act, August 10, 1993**
The new direct student loan program will enable **more than 5 million borrowers** this year alone to consolidate their guaranteed loans into direct loans. Borrowers will benefit from lower fees and the option of income contingent repayment -- taxpayers will save as much as **\$4.3 billion**.
- **Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, August 10, 1993**
After a decade of failed attempts, President Clinton championed the passage of this legislation, which uses tax incentives and flexible grants to promote economic empowerment and private-sector job creation in **164 distressed communities** across America. Over **500 communities** took up the "EZ" challenge, developing comprehensive strategies and forging unprecedented partnerships for community renewal that made all applicants winners.
- **National Service Act, September 21, 1993**
In 1995, **25,000 AmeriCorps** members (more than served during the largest year of the Peace Corps) tutored students, immunized children, reclaimed parks and patrolled streets -- and in return received education awards that make college or job training more affordable. AmeriCorps is scheduled to increase to 50,000 members in FY1996, with a total of almost 100,000 Americans serving our country in the first three years.
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After stalling for several years in Congress, the Brady Bill became law under the leadership of President Clinton. The Act requires a five-day waiting period during which all potential handgun purchasers are required to submit to a background check. \$100 million was appropriated for implementation in FY1995 and another \$50 million is authorized for this year. So far, the Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 fugitives and felons** from purchasing handguns.
- **Goals 2000: Educate America Act, March 31, 1994**
The Goals 2000 bill assists communities and states with funds to develop and implement their own **school improvements** based on **local, "bottom-up"** initiatives. Improvements will include ways to strengthen **academic achievement**, improve discipline, increase **parent involvement**, better utilize technology, and improve teaching. Over **47 states**, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and 7 territories have received federal grants.
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- **The Crime Bill, September 13, 1994**

The \$30 billion Crime Bill attacks crime by adding **100,000 police officers**, funding comprehensive prevention programs and building more prisons. The legislation also includes strong punishment for criminals by implementing "three-strikes-and-you're-out" for repeat violent offenders. Half the nation's law enforcement agencies -- jurisdictions of all sizes -- have received grants to hire more than 31,000 new police officers.

-- Homicides **fell 12%** in the first half of 1995, the **largest drop in 35 years**. [*FBI*, December 17, 1995]

-- The nation's largest cities saw their **serious crime rate fall 6%** in the first six months of 1995. [*FBI*, December 17, 1995]

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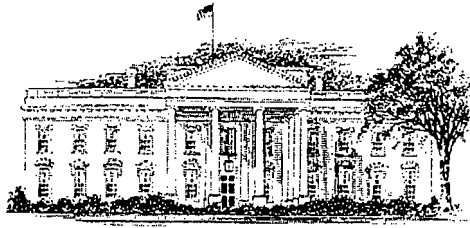
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PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGES IN AN AGE OF POSSIBILITY

May 1996

"Now it is time for us to look also to the challenges of today and tomorrow, beyond the burdens of yesterday. The challenges are significant. But America was built on challenges, not promises....I am confident: When Americans work together in their homes, their schools, their churches, their synagogues, their civic groups, their workplace, they can meet any challenge."

— President Clinton, State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

First Challenge: To Cherish Our Children and Strengthen America's Families

Cherishing Our Children

- Announced a breakthrough agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a **television ratings system** to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content.
- Gave parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("**V-chips**") in all new televisions.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off **children's access to tobacco products** and to ban **advertising directed at children**.
- Established a Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure **vaccinations and healthy futures for all children**. The President's initiative contributed to the immunization of 75% of two-year-old children in 1995, an historic high.

Strengthening Our Families

- Enabled **workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave** to care for a family member without fear of losing their jobs. (Family and Medical Leave Act)
- Provided **tax relief for 15 million working families** by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- Helped families move from **welfare to work** by authorizing 37 states to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for 75% of all welfare recipients

Ensuring Responsibility

- Collected a **record \$11 billion in child support** in 1995 through tougher enforcement, almost a 40% increase over 1992.
- Issued an Executive Order to help track down **federal workers who fail to pay child support**.
- Worked with community, business and religious leaders to form a **national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy**.

Second Challenge: To Provide Educational Opportunities for the New Century

Making the Necessary Investments in Education

- Increased **Head Start funding by almost \$800 million** to provide early education to tens of thousands of additional children in need.
- Supported the development of the **nation's first system of voluntary standards of excellence** for students while encouraging grassroots reforms to improve our schools. (Goals 2000: Educate America Act)
- Encouraged schools, colleges and employers to join in creating **school-to-work opportunities**, providing students with work-based learning and giving them new pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. (School-to-Work Opportunities Act)
- Gave schools **greater flexibility to use federal aid** and develop **effective teaching innovations** to help economically disadvantaged students achieve their full potential. (Improving America's Schools Act)

Preparing Our Schools for the 21st Century

- Proposed a **\$2 billion Technology Literacy Challenge Fund** to help communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.
- Launched an **Educational Technology Initiative** to connect every classroom to the Information Superhighway and provide all students with access to computers by the dawn of the next century.
- Challenged the technology industry to connect 20% of California's public schools to the **Information Superhighway** by the end of this school year. This challenge became a reality in March during Net Day '96.

Opening the Door to College

- Reformed the **student loan program**, making college more affordable this year for **5.5 million students** and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. (Student Loan Reform Act)
- Enabled **45,000 volunteers to earn money for college** by serving their communities and their country in the **AmeriCorps** program. (National Service Act)
- Challenged Congress to make **\$10,000 of college tuition tax-deductible each year**; expand **work-study** to help 1 million young Americans work their way through college by the year 2000; provide **\$1,000 merit scholarships** for the top 5% percent of graduates in every high school; and increase the number of **Pell Grants** for students who need financial help.

Third Challenge: To Help Every American Achieve Security in the New Economy

Strengthening America's Economy

- Submitted to Congress the ***first genuine balanced budget in 17 years*** — balancing the budget in seven years based on both Administration and Congressional Budget Office estimates while protecting our fundamental priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.
- Won enactment of the ***largest deficit-cutting plan in history*** — cutting the deficit in half within four years, after it quadrupled during the previous two Administrations.
- Oversaw the creation of more than ***8.5 million new jobs in just over three years*** — a faster annual rate of job growth than any Republican Administration since the 1920's.
- ***Unemployment rate has fallen to 5.4%*** — down from over 7% when President Clinton took office.
- ***93% of all new jobs created are in the private sector*** — higher than the average percentage during any Administration since the Truman Administration.
- More than ***3.5 million new jobs in high-wage industries*** have been created since January 1993 — by contrast, 200,000 high-wage industry jobs were lost in the previous four years.
- ***One million new manufacturing, automotive and construction jobs*** have been added since January 1993.
- Highest annual number of ***new business incorporations*** since World War II.
- Real median ***family income has increased*** during the Clinton Administration — after falling 4% during the previous four years.
- The combined unemployment, inflation and mortgage rate is at its ***lowest level since 1968***.

Creating Economic Security

- Proposed a ***\$2,600 job-training voucher*** program to allow unemployed workers the freedom to choose the training programs that are right for them.
- Fought for meaningful ***health insurance reform*** to allow people to keep coverage when they change jobs and prevent denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Challenged Congress to ***raise the minimum wage*** to provide the opportunity for working Americans to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.
- Protected the pensions of more than 40 million workers and retirees by ***reforming the federal pension insurance system*** and requiring companies to keep their retirement plans sufficiently funded. (Retirement Protection Act)
- Challenged Congress to enable Americans to ***save for their retirements*** by increasing pension portability, enhancing pension protection and expanding coverage.

Opening New Markets to Create Jobs for U.S. Workers

- Exports have surged ***31% over the last three years*** because President Clinton stood up for American workers and opened more markets to U.S. goods and services.
- ***More than 1 million new export-related jobs*** have been created under the Clinton Administration — jobs supported by exports pay on average 15% more than other jobs.
- America is once again the ***world's number one manufacturer of automobiles*** — overtaking Japan for the first time since the 1970's.

- American goods exported in sectors covered by Clinton Administration trade agreements with Japan have grown over 85% — *three times faster* than growth in other U.S. goods exported to Japan.
- The United States was named the *most competitive economy in the world* for the second year in a row.

Fourth Challenge: To Take Back Our Streets From Crime, Gangs and Drugs

Won Passage of the Toughest and Smartest Crime Bill Ever

- Puts *100,000 more police officers* on the street — more than 34,000 officers have already been funded.
- Imposed a targeted “*Three-Strikes-and-You’re-Out*” provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life.
- Expanded the *death penalty* to include drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
- Provided funding for *100,000 more prison cells* to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- The number of *murders fell 8%* in 1995 — one of the largest decreases in more than 30 years. The nation’s largest cities saw their *overall crime fall 6%* during the same period.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Criminals

- Stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the *Brady Bill* — as a result, more than *60,000 fugitives, felons and other criminals* have already been blocked from buying handguns.
- Banned the manufacture and importation of *19 of the deadliest assault weapons* while specifically protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. (Assault Weapons Ban)

Combatting Drug Use

- Developed a comprehensive *National Drug Control Strategy* that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction.
- Breaking the cycle of drugs and crime through *universal drug testing* in the criminal justice system and by providing funding for *drug courts*.
- The number of Americans who use cocaine has *declined 30% since 1992*.

Fighting to End Domestic Violence

- Tripled funding for *battered women’s shelters* and provided *\$26 million in state grants* to bolster local law enforcement, prosecution and victims’ services to better address violence against women. (Violence Against Women Act)
- Established nationwide 24-hour *domestic violence hotline* providing immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.

Making Our Schools Safer

- Keeping dangerous weapons out of our children’s classrooms by enforcing a “*Zero Tolerance*” *gun policy in schools*.
- Reducing *violence and drug abuse in our schools* by investing in school security, drug prevention programs and counseling. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act)
- Encouraged schools to adopt *school uniform policies* to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect.

Securing America's Borders

- Stood firm against illegal immigration and deported a record **51,600 illegal and criminal aliens** in 1995 — a 15% increase over 1994.
- Increasing the number of **Border Patrol agents** along the southwestern border by 50% to stem the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

Fifth Challenge: To Leave Our Environment Safe and Clean for the Next Generation

Ensuring Public Health

- Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing **new standards to cut toxic pollution** from chemical plants by **90%** and dangerous incinerator emissions by **98%**.
- Fought **attempts in Congress to roll back** the progress made in ensuring safe food and water for our families.
- Issued new policy to **control E. coli bacteria** contamination in meat.
- Expanded the public's **right-to-know** about toxic releases and required polluters to disclose information to the public.
- Ensured compliance with environmental safeguards by **toughening EPA's enforcement programs**.

Protecting Our Natural Resources

- Fought attempts to close **national parks** and lift the ban on offshore oil drilling.
- Committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the unique **Florida Everglades**.
- Broke through decades of conflict and negotiated a consensus plan to protect and allocate **California Bay-Delta water**.

Common Sense Reforms to Environmental Programs

- Changed EPA rules and procedures to **reduce paperwork requirements** for businesses by 10 million hours.
- Reformed wetlands and endangered species programs to better protect the environment while lessening any adverse impact on homeowners.
- Launched a **Brownfields Initiative** to return land to productive use by providing tax incentives to clean-up old industrial waste sites.

Sixth Challenge: To Maintain America's Leadership in the Fight for Freedom and Peace

Leading the Fight for Peace

- Ended four years of bloodshed and destruction in **Bosnia** by brokering the Dayton peace accords.
- Championed peace efforts in the **Middle East** by negotiating the Israel-Jordan peace treaty and helping Israelis and Palestinians fulfill their historic peace agreement.
- Organized historic March 1996 **Summit of the Peacemakers** in Egypt, gathering 29 world and regional leaders to support the Middle East peace process and counter terrorism.

- Negotiated written *agreement between Israel and Syria* to end Hezbollah attacks on Israel and provide restoration of calm and protection of civilians on both sides of the Lebanon-Israel border.
- Restored democracy to *Haiti*, stopping the flow of refugees to the U.S. and accomplishing the first transfer of power from one democratically-elected president to another in Haitian history.
- Became the first American President to visit *Northern Ireland* in the pursuit of a just and lasting peace.

Making a Difference in America and Around the World

- *Russian nuclear missiles* are no longer pointed at America's children.
- Poised to reduce *nuclear stockpiles* by another 25% by successfully securing bipartisan Senate ratification of the Start II Treaty with Russia.
- Imposed the *toughest sanctions ever* on Castro's Cuba following the brutal killing of U.S. nationals over international waters.
- Shaped new American military for post-Cold War challenges to peace, ensuring America remains the *best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world*.
- Intensified the *fight against terrorism and organized crime* at home and abroad by enacting anti-terrorism legislation giving law enforcement officials tough new tools to stop terrorists before they strike.

Seventh Challenge: To Reform Our Political System and Make Government Work for People

Reforming Our Political System

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by creating more accessible "*motor-voter*" registration locations. (National Voter Registration Act)
- Enacted the *first major overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years* — now lobbyists must disclose the organizations for which they work. (Lobbying Disclosure Act)
- Fought for passage of *comprehensive campaign finance reform* to curb the influence of money in our political system.
- Imposed the strictest Administration *ethics guidelines* ever, including a five-year ban on top officials lobbying their former agencies and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments.
- Ensured that the *same laws apply to Congress* as to the rest of America. (Congressional Accountability Act)

Making Government Work Better and Cost Less

- Cut the federal civilian workforce by *more than 200,000 positions* — the size of the federal government is now at its *lowest level in 30 years*.
- Eliminating *16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations*.
- Saved taxpayers *\$58 billion* by cutting wasteful government practices and spending through Reinventing Government efforts. Additional recommendations will save another *\$116 billion*.
- Prohibited Congress from imposing new requirements on state and local governments without paying for them. (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act)
- Fought for and signed into law *line-item veto* legislation to change the way Washington works by *cutting spending* on wasteful special-interest projects.

Administration Accomplishments in Education and Technology

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into the classroom. As a central element of the President's lifelong learning agenda, the Administration believes that technology can help expand opportunities for American children to improve their skills, maximize their potential, and ready them for the 21st century workforce.

- . **Connecting classrooms.** Connecting schools is so important that the President and Vice President have made a connecting every classroom, library, hospital and hospital clinic to the National Information Infrastructure by the year 2000 a national priority. The Clinton Administration is working actively with Congress, the states, local governments, private industry, public interest groups and the public groups themselves to achieve this goal.
- . **Grants to schools through TIIAP.** In 1994, the Clinton Administration created the TIIAP (Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program) which makes grants to public institutions to speed up the flow of information through the application of advanced communications technology. Through federal support and investment, TIIAP has accelerated the pace of connecting public institutions and has stimulated private sector investment. This program has enabled the federal government to leverage \$24.4 million in federal funds to provide a total of \$64.4 million in cutting-edge demonstration projects for public institutions. The program is so successful that there are 200 times more applications than there are grants.
- . **AskERIC Program.** In order to reach out to the teachers across the country, the Clinton Administration created the AskERIC service, which stands for the Educational Resources Information Clearing House Service. Educators are able to send questions through e-mail to askERIC, and receive a response within 48 hours. Educators can ask about lesson plans, educational techniques information on GOALS 2000 and so on. Every week 200 new questions come in, and the information that ERIC has made available on-line, such as sample lesson plans and answers to frequently asked questions is accessed more than 15,000 times a week.
- . **Connecting Students to the Environment.** Vice President Gore initiated the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program in 1994. GLOBE joins students, educators and scientists in an international science and environmental education network using state-of-the-art technology. GLOBE students make environmental observations at or near their schools and share their data through the Internet. More than 2,000 schools in the U.S. are participating in GLOBE in 1995.
- . **Improving rural education and health care.** The Administration's commitment to ensuring the wide dissemination of information has worked through the Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Medical Link (DLML) Grant Program, to improving education and health care for rural residents throughout the Nation. The program has already given hundreds of students attending rural schools in 28 states access to previously unavailable courses.

- . **Teaching computer science skills.** The Clinton Administration has worked through the Department of Energy's Computer Science Education Project (CSEP) to develop educational materials, including experimental syllabus for teaching interdisciplinary computational science. This information is available on the Internet and is also disseminated through training workshops for educators.
- . **Regional Technology Consortia Grant Program.** The Clinton Administration initiated the Regional Technology Consortia Grant Program authorizing \$10 million in FY 95. Six consortia of technical assistance providers will be funded to help state, local educational agencies, teachers, administrators and others to integrate advanced technologies into K-12 grade classrooms, library media centers and other educational settings (including adult literacy centers). Consortia will establish and conduct regional activities that address professional development, technical assistance, and information resource dissemination to promote the effective use of technology in education.
- . **AmeriCorps Aids Technology Use in Classrooms.** The Clinton Administration created AmeriCorps to enable young people to earn money for education by serving their communities through teaching, caring for the sick and making the streets safer. Already 20,000 Americans are serving in AmeriCorps. Currently AmeriCorps members are involved in several programs that promote the use of computer technology in schools. For example, the Fostering Reform Through Service and Technology project (Project FIRST), an AmeriCorps grantee, focuses on improving students performance through the use of technology.
- . **Rural telecommunications infrastructure.** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) administers grants and loan programs to assist rural and remote communities with the development of their communications infrastructure, including schools. Additionally, fifty-two K-12 school systems will be provided two-way interactive video services.
- . **Goals 2000.** When President Clinton signed Goals 2000, he made educational technology a priority by requiring states to develop technology plans as part of their educational reform plans. So far, each of the 48 states participating in the program have developed a technology plan. These plans address the role of technology and standards, assessment, teacher preparation, professional development, parent involvement and system management.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

September 1995

Economy

- Signed the *Economic Package*, August 10, 1993.
- The economy created *7.3 million new jobs* in the first 31 months of this Administration.
- Passed the largest *deficit-cutting* plan in history — saving more than *\$1 trillion* over seven years.
- On track for three consecutive years of *deficit reduction* — for the first time since Harry Truman.
- *Cut federal spending* by \$255 billion over 5 years.
- Made *new tax cuts* available to over 90% of small businesses.
- Lowest *unemployment* in over 4 years.
- Lowest *combined rate of unemployment and inflation* in 27 years.
- 1994 real *GDP growth* was the highest in a decade.
- Proposed a plan to balance the budget while *protecting critical investments* in education.

Education

- Increased *Head Start* funding by almost \$760 million.
- Signed the *Student Loan Reform Act*, August 10, 1993.
- Signed the *National Service Act*, September 21, 1993.
- Signed the *Goals 2000: Educate America Act*, March 31, 1994.
- Signed the *School-to-Work Opportunities Act* on May 4, 1994.
- Signed the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization*.
- Introduced the *Reemployment Act*.

Crime

- Signed a tough \$30 billion *Crime Bill*, September 13, 1994.
- Signed the *Brady Bill*, November 30, 1993.
- Signed the *Assault Weapons Ban* as part of the Crime Bill.
- Put *100,000 new police* on the street — nearly 25,000 more officers have been funded.
- Signed the *Violence Against Women Act* as part of the Crime Bill.
- Signed the *Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act*, October 20, 1994.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a “*Zero Tolerance*” *gun policy* in schools, October 22, 1994.
- Introduced *Operation Safe Home* to fight crime in public housing.

Reinventing Government

- Already cut the *Federal Workforce* by over 160,000 — on the way to lowest level in 30 years.
- Abolishing 16,000 pages of *obsolete regulations* and rewriting 31,000 more pages.
- \$58 billion in savings are already in the bank. \$46 billion in savings are still to come.
- Over 180 new recommendations will save \$70 billion. Eliminated 284 federal advisory committees.
- Developed government-wide *Customer Service Standards* for the first time.
- Appointed the most *diverse* Cabinet and Administration in history.
- Signed the most important federal procurement act ever to *streamline government purchasing*.
- Reformed *Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation* to protect 8.5 million pensions.
- Signed the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*, March 22, 1995.

Community & Economic Development

- Created nine Economic *Empowerment Zones* and 95 *Enterprise Communities*.
- Signed the *Community Development Banking Financial Institutions Act*, Sept. 23, 1994.
- Signed the *Interstate Banking Bill*.
- Instituted the *Defense Reinvestment and Conversion Initiative*.
- Reformed the *Community Reinvestment Act* to focus on performance rather than paperwork.
- Made the *Low-Income Housing Tax Credit* and *Mortgage Revenue Bond Program* permanent.

Environment

- Signed a new executive order to *require polluters to disclose information* to the public and *expanded the public's right-to-know* about toxic releases.
- Launched "*reinventing environmental regulation*" to cut red tape and better protect public health.
- Issued a new standard to *cut pollution from chemical plants 90% by 1997*.
- Signed *executive orders to increase recycling* and cut pollution in federal buildings.
- Signed the *California Desert Protection Act*, October 31, 1994.
- Issued a new standard to *cut pollution from incinerators 95%*.
- Introduced comprehensive *Safe Drinking Water* and *Superfund* reforms.
- Developed a plan to *restore Florida's Everglades*.
- Ended decades of conflict over the allocation of *California Bay-Delta water*.

Health Care

- As part of the balanced budget plan, introduced *health care reform initiative* which strengthens *Medicare* and expands *coverage*.
- Signed the *Family and Medical Leave Act*, February 5, 1993.
- Signed a comprehensive *Child Immunization Plan*.
- Revoked the Reagan/Bush restrictions on *abortion* counseling ("*the gag rule*"), abortions in military hospitals, "Mexico City" policy and RU-486 imports.

- Increased *Ryan White CARE Act* funding for outpatient *AIDS care* by \$231 million.
- Put the *Women, Infants and Children* Program (WIC) on a full-funding path.
- Increased NIH Funding 65% for *breast cancer research*.

Families & Children

- Expanded the *Earned Income Tax Credit* by \$21 billion over five years.
- Introduced the *Work and Responsibility Act* - comprehensive welfare reform.
- Passed the *Family Support and Preservation* Program.
- Passed major funding increases for *homeless programs* in both Houses.
- Approved *34 waivers* to states permitting comprehensive *welfare reform* demonstrations.
- Signed the *Social Security Independent Agency Act*.
- Increased *adoption and foster care funds* by almost \$600 million from 1994-1995.

Political Reform

- Signed the National Voter Registration Act (*Motor-Voter*), May 20, 1993.
- Eliminated the tax deduction for *lobbying* expenses.
- Imposed strictest Administration *ethics guidelines* in history.
- Barred top officials from becoming *foreign lobbyists* after leaving government.
- Issuing executive order *banning contact* with *lobbyists* who do not disclose their activities.
- Fought for passage of and signed into law the *Congressional Accountability Act*, January 22, 1995.
- Fought for passage of *line-item veto, campaign finance and lobbying disclosure reform*.

Free Trade

- Signed *NAFTA* into law, December 8, 1993, which will create hundreds of thousands of US jobs.
- Signed *GATT* into law, December 8, 1994, the largest trade agreement in history.
- Secured free-trade commitments from *Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation* (APEC) leaders.
- Hosted *Summit of the Americas* and agreed to negotiate a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.
- Developed *National Export Strategy*, eliminating export controls on \$35 billion in exports.
- Opened *15 different market sectors* in Japan ranging from telecommunications procurement to rice.
- Reached historic agreement with Japan on *opening its automotive market* to *billions of dollars* worth of *American cars and parts*.
- Reached agreement with China to provide *intellectual property rights protection* for billions of dollars worth of U.S. exports.

Security Challenges/Promoting Peace

- Reached agreement with Russia to *detarget* all its *missiles* trained on U.S. citizens and cities.
- *Eliminating nuclear weapons* in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan; in 1994 brokered agreement with Russia and Ukraine that opened way to elimination of nuclear weapons in Ukraine; all nuclear weapons in Kazakhstan have been returned to Russia.

- Worked with Kiev to bring Ukraine into *Nonproliferation Treaty*, which permitted START I entry-into-force, which will reduce by over 9,000 (40%) U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear weapons.
- Facilitated agreement between *Russia* and the *Baltics* allowing the complete withdrawal of Russian troops. All Russian troops are out of Central and Eastern Europe for the first time since World War II.
- Proposed and helped create *Partnership for Peace* and led start of orderly NATO expansion process.
- Maintained strong commitments to *military readiness* and weapons modernization, including a \$25 billion increase over 6 years and a defense supplemental of \$3.04 billion for Fiscal Year 1995.
- Prepared a "*Bottom-Up-Review*" strategy for our armed forces to fight two major regional conflicts nearly simultaneously.
- Agreed to framework with *North Korea* that freezes and leads to the eventual *elimination* of North Korea's dangerous nuclear program.
- Reversed *Iraqi military threat* against Kuwait.
- Pursued and apprehended *terrorists*, including World Trade Center bombers.
- Helped *Israel and Jordan* achieve a historic peace treaty and *Israel and the Palestinians* fulfill their historic accord.
- Contributed to an historic cease-fire in *Northern Ireland*.
- Carried out a massive humanitarian operation in *Rwanda*.
- Undertook, with NATO allies and UN, actions to alleviate the suffering and end the conflict in *Bosnia*.
- Reached an agreement with *Cuba* to normalize immigration and avert a mass influx of boat people.
- Signed into law the most comprehensive *counterintelligence legislation* since 1976.
- Worked to *safely dispose of nuclear materials* from the former Soviet republics and took steps to combat smuggling.
- Played leadership role in *halting conflict between Peru and Ecuador*, participated in 4-country observer mission.
- Expanded *sanctions against Iran* in response to its continuing unacceptable behavior.
- Worked cooperatively with the states of the FSU to *prevent nuclear theft and nuclear smuggling*.
- Air-lifted more than half a ton of *vulnerable, highly enriched uranium*, enough to make dozens of nuclear bombs, from Kazakhstan to *safe storage*.

Promoting Democracy

- Assisted states, such as *Russia and Ukraine*, make progress toward democracy and market reforms.
- Assisted *South Africa's* transition to democracy, providing support for elections and development.
- Restored democratically elected Haitian *President Aristide* to power October 15, 1994; created a secure and stable environment which will enable UN to take over the operation.
- Hosted White House Conference on *Africa*.
- Made *promotion and consolidation of democracy* and free market reforms a foreign aid priority, especially in NIS, Russia, Central Europe and South Africa.

Dorothy: This indicates what needs to get done.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TOPIC

SOURCE

Strengthening Families

FMLA

Remarks by the President and Vice President in Nashville, Tennessee (see Health Care Issue Brief for document) See attached: *A Workable Balance: Report to Congress on Family and Medical Leave Practices* for recent accomplishments.

I have to do my security forms so let's talk later. J

EITC

See National Economic Council for information.

Protecting Children from TV Violence

information pending

(from Dennis/Anne will get to me)

Protecting Our Children's Health

Tobacco

"Regulations, Restrictions on the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products to Protect Children and Adolescents" Federal Register, p. 41314 - 41787. (see Health Care Issue Brief for document)

Immunization (75% rate)

Centers for Disease Control, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, "National, State, and Urban Area Vaccination Coverage Levels Among Children Aged 19 - 35 Months --United States, July 1994 - June 1995"; p June 21, 1996, Vol.45, No.24; pages 508-513;

(Actual document needed)

Historic High

Centers for Disease Control analysis of National Immunization Survey and National Health Interview Survey Data, as reported in CDC's publication "MMWR". We began measuring this immunization rate ("complete series") in 1991.

(Actual document needed)

Enforcing Child Support

Executive Order

Executive Order 12953, February 27, 1995 to track down federal workers. (See Women's Issue Brief for document)

Expanding Head Start

information pending

(from Mike/Anne C will get to me)

Investing in Education

Helping Communities

See attached: America's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.

TOPIC

SOURCE

**Opening the Door to College
Student Loans**

See attached: Fiscal Year 1997 Budget Supplement, pages 406-408 and Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Summary and Background Information, Department of Education, page 53.

AmeriCorps

See attached: Corporation for National and Community Service Projected and Final Appropriation and Service Levels, 7/12/96.

**Making Our Communities
Safer**

information pending

(Dennis/Anne B. will get to me)

**Helping Families Move from
Welfare to Work**

Waivers (61 to 38 states)

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, "Weekly Tracking Update, Welfare Reform: Section 1115 Waiver Activity," July 25, 1996.

(Actual document needed)

Note: *Correct count is now 69 waivers from 41 states.*

**Breaking the Cycle of
Dependency**

See attached: May 1996 Presidential radio address

Preventing Teen Pregnancy

See attached: White House press release - January 29, 1996 announcing the commission and list of Board members for National Campaign.

Preserving Critical Programs

see Health Care Issue Brief
see Medicare Issue Brief

**Increased Funding for Child
Care**

information pending

(Jeanine)

Improved Coordination

Creation of Child Care
Bureau

Federal Register notice for January 11, 1995 (see Women's Issue Brief for document)

Promoted Quality

National Child Care
Information Center

See attached: Web Site information

TOPIC**SOURCE****Launched New Partnerships
for Quality Services**

Healthy Child Care
Campaign

Actually short name for 1996 Maternal and Child Health
Community Integrated Service System grants. (see
Women's Issue Brief for June 20, 1996 Federal Register
notice.)

Removing Barriers to Adoption

Adoption Tax Credit

Letter from the President to House Speaker Newt
Gingrich, May 6, 1996. *(Actual document needed)*

Multiracial Placement Act

P.L. 103-382, part of "Improving America's Schools Act
of 1994," signed October 20, 1994. *(Actual document needed)*

Technical Assistance

Staff at HHS and DPC have been unable to substantiate. *needed)*

60% increase in special
needs adoptions

See Women's Issue Brief

Improving Court Operations

information pending *(ask Diana)*

**Focusing on Outcomes and
Accountability**

OBRA93 authorized HHS to develop the State Automated
Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and to
spend money on this project. A total of 48 states are
participating. (more information pending)

Increased Funding for Nutrition

President's budget, "Analytical Perspectives on the
Budget", p. 366. listing all food and nutrition assistance
in the Federal budget from FY95-2002. (tentative source)

**Reaching Full Participation
in WIC**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer
Service, "Explanatory Notes to the President's Budget,"
(Congressional justification that FCS publishes), p 24 -
54, 1996 edition. *Actual doc needed*

Savings

"The Savings in Medicaid Costs for Newborns and Their
Mothers Resulting From Prenatal Participation in WIC
Program," Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.. 1991.
(tentative source) *Actual document needed*

TOPIC**SOURCE****Reforming the School Lunch Program**

6,000 Team schools

Correction: There are now more than 14,200 schools serving 8.2 million children. The Team Nutrition Schools Data Base.

Protecting the National Nutritional Safety Net in Welfare Reform

information pending

(ask Diana)

The Challenges Ahead:

crime rate down
welfare and food stamp
participation falling
teen pregnancy dropped

information pending

(Dennis/Anne will get to me)

information pending

only modestly - HHS press release, June 24, 1996 HHS press release September 21, 1995 internal statement from HHS/Melissa Skofield, June 16, 1996. (see attached)

April 30, 1996

A Workable Balance:

Report to Congress on Family and
Medical Leave Policies

MY
FAMILY

MOMMY

Me

BRITHR



DADDY

Commission on Leave Members

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd,
Chairman
U.S. Senator
Connecticut

The Honorable Donna R. Lenhoff,
Vice Chair
General Counsel and Director of Work
and Family Programs
Women's Legal Defense Fund

The Honorable Ellen Bravo
President
9to5, National Association of Working
Women

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
U.S. Senator
Idaho

The Honorable Leland B. Cross, Jr.,
Esq.
Attorney-at-Law
Ice, Miller, Donadio and Ryan

The Honorable Pamela L. Egan
Executive Director, Secretary-Treasurer
Montana Family Union, AFL-CIO

The Honorable Steve Gunderson
U.S. Representative
Wisconsin, 3rd District

The Honorable Lenore Miller
President
Retail, Wholesale, and Department
Store Union, AFL-CIO

The Honorable Scottie Theresa Neese
CEO
Terry Neese Personnel Services

The Honorable Richard L. Reinhardt
President and CEO
PII Affiliates, Ltd.

The Honorable Patricia Schroeder
U.S. Representative
Colorado, First District

The Honorable Mary Tavenner
Senior Associate
Boland and Madigan

The Honorable Ronald H. Brown,
Ex-Officio
Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Philip Lader,
Ex-Officio
Administrator, Small Business
Administration

The Honorable Robert B. Reich,
Ex-Officio
Secretary of Labor

The Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human
Services

Ann Bookman
Executive Director

Additional copies are available from:

The Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite S-3002
Washington, DC 20210
Tel. 202 219-6611

Executive Summary

Families and Employers in a Changing Economy

In 1993, Congress passed the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA or the Act) to provide a national policy that supports families in their efforts to strike a workable balance between the competing demands of the workplace and the home. These demands have intensified over the last 25 years, as the nation has experienced dramatic social and economic changes affecting businesses, employees and families alike. American businesses have confronted a changing world economy marked by increasing competition, technological innovation and instability. Many more women have entered the labor force. Many families' caregiving needs are now being met by family members who also are holding down jobs. This, in turn, has fueled the rising need among employees for workplace policies that enable them to meet the often competing demands of job and home.

In almost every family a time comes when some family member has a serious medical problem or a caregiving need that requires time off from work. Without the availability of job-protected family and medical leave, employees often face the difficult choice of returning to work prematurely, of giving up their jobs or of not providing their families the care and support they need.

Prior to the Family and Medical Leave Act, employees had access to family and medical leave in two ways: 1) voluntary or collectively bargained employer policies; and 2) policies required by state leave statutes. A quarter to a third of formal employer policies matched FMLA requirements in the protections they offered. Many voluntary policies did not provide leave for all the reasons offered by FMLA - especially to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse, or to care for a newborn, newly-adopted or foster child. Leave was often handled on a case-by-case basis, for a shorter duration, and health insurance and other benefits were not necessarily maintained. In addition, the discretionary nature of many leave policies meant that leave-taking employees often did so at some risk to their job security.



State statutes, enacted in 34 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., expanded unpaid, job-guaranteed leave options for some employees, especially in the area of maternity leave, but very few were as comprehensive as the FMLA. The amount of job-guaranteed leave that a worker could take varied widely in state law - from 16 hours to one year. Eligibility requirements also varied, and many of the laws applied only to state employees. Most of the laws exempted certain small businesses. Five states and Puerto Rico also have Temporary Disability Insurance laws (TDI) which pre-date FMLA and provide partial wage replacement during maternity-disability leave as well as other temporary disabilities.

Today, many more employers are providing family and medical leave policies through their compliance with the new law, which requires employers with 50 employees or more to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave a year to eligible employees to care for a newborn, newly-adopted or foster child, a child, spouse or parent with a serious health condition, or for the serious health condition of the employee, including maternity-related disability. Employees are eligible to take leave if they have worked for a covered employer for at least one year, and for 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months, and if there are at least 50 employees working for their employer within a 75-mile radius of their worksite.

This report provides an initial assessment of family and medical leave policies in general, and of FMLA in particular: are we approaching the workable balance envisioned by this nation's lawmakers?

How the Commission Went About its Work

The Commission on Leave, which commenced in November 1993, was composed of members who possessed the expertise and practical experience needed to evaluate family and medical leave issues. They included Congressional leaders, representatives of women and families, labor and the business community, including small businesses and ex-officio Cabinet members from Federal agencies with direct interest in family and medical leave issues. Following its formation, the Commission set about to meet a broad and ambitious legislative mandate by coordinating a variety of research and information gathering efforts that together help to provide comprehensive answers to all the questions posed by Congress.

The FMLA charges the Commission to study the following points: existing and proposed mandatory and voluntary family and medical leave policies of both covered and non-covered employers; their costs, benefits and impact on productivity; the possible differences to employers in costs, benefits and impact on productivity, job creation and business growth based on size; the impact of family and medical leave policies on the availability of benefits provided by covered and non-covered employers; state enforcement of the FMLA with regard to special provisions pertaining to teachers; methods used by employers to reduce administrative costs of policies; the ability of employers to recover health insurance costs from employees who do not return to work; and the impact on employers and employees of temporary wage replacement policies.

The Commission, placing a high priority on hearing directly from businesses, employees and their families, held three public hearings in different sites across the country. A broad cross-section of people testified and provided important insights on a wide variety of topics related to family and medical leave.

In FY '95, the Commission, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, contracted with two research organizations, Westat, Inc. and the Institute for Social Research, Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan, to conduct two major studies - an Employer Survey and an Employee Survey. The Employer Survey, a national, random sample survey, provides the first post-FMLA statistically valid data on private-sector employers of diverse sizes assessing their experience with the Family and Medical Leave Act, as well as with family and medical leave policies in general. The Employee Survey is the first ever national, random sample survey on employee leave-taking. The data, collected in 1995 and based on an 18-month period commencing in January, 1994, provide important national estimates on the need for and occurrence of taking leave from work for family and medical reasons. In addition, the Commission requested several smaller studies to assist in answering the questions posed by Congress (see Chapter II).

Major Research Findings

The following data are based on results of the two nationally representative, random sample surveys described above.

A. Family and Medical Leave Policies Today

1. Coverage under FMLA

Approximately two-thirds (66.1 percent) of the U.S. labor force, including private and public-sector employees, work for employers covered by the FMLA. Slightly more than half (54.9 percent) of U.S. workers (and 46.5 percent of private-sector workers) also meet the FMLA's length of service and hours-related eligibility requirements.

Only one-tenth (10.8 percent) of private-sector U.S. worksites are covered by the FMLA, but this relatively small proportion actually employs over half (59.5 percent) of the nation's private-sector employees. Industries with the largest worksites, such as manufacturing, also have a large number of eligible employees working in a relatively small percentage of worksites. All public-sector employers are covered by the FMLA without regard to the number of employees at a given worksite.

2. Overview of Employer Leave Practices

The FMLA has had a significant impact on covered employers' leave practices and especially on formal leave policies. Two-thirds of covered worksites have changed some aspect of their policies in order to comply with the Act. The most common change was to increase the reasons for which employees can take leave. For example, 69.3 percent of covered worksites changed their policies to provide leave for fathers to care for seriously ill or newborn children.

There is a significant difference between the family and medical leave policies provided by worksites that are and are not covered by the FMLA. Over 90 percent of covered worksites now provide up to 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons, whereas among non-covered worksites only 32.3 percent offer parental leave and only 41.7 percent offer leave to care for a seriously ill child, spouse or parent. Between 95 and 99 percent of covered worksites provide the different types of leave provided by the FMLA with a job guarantee, while 84 to 87 percent of non-covered worksites which offer leave provide a job guarantee with family and medical leave.

3. Knowledge of the FMLA

The great majority of covered employers (86.5 percent) know they are covered by the FMLA. However, only 58.2 percent of employees working at covered worksites have heard of the Act. Some groups of employees - salaried, union members and those with higher educations - are more likely to know about the FMLA than are others. Employees from all demographic groups are most likely to hear about the FMLA through the media, but those in higher-paying jobs are comparatively more likely to learn about the Act from their employers.

B. Employer Impact: Costs and Benefits of the FMLA

1. Ease of Administration

Most covered employers find it relatively easy to administer the FMLA. The vast majority of worksites (over 90 percent) find it "very" or "somewhat easy" to determine whether the Act applies to them and to determine employee eligibility. A significant majority also find other administrative responsibilities - additional record-keeping, coordination with state and federal leave laws and other federal laws - to be no trouble. Larger worksites find it somewhat more difficult to administer the FMLA than do smaller covered worksites. Unlike other administrative activities, management of intermittent leave presents an administrative difficulty for a significant minority of worksites (39.2 percent), but it represents a small proportion of leave-taking overall (11.5 percent).

2. Costs and Cost-savings

For the great majority of worksites, compliance with the FMLA entails no costs or only small costs. Between 89.2 and 98.5 percent of covered worksites report no costs or small costs in each of four broad areas: general administrative costs; the cost of continuing health benefits; costs associated with hiring and training replacements for leave-taking employees; and "other" costs. Again, larger employers are most likely to experience an increase in costs. This, in part, is due to the fact that they are more likely to have leave-takers and to have larger numbers of leave-takers. One large employer cited increased costs as the "unintended adverse consequences" resulting from implementation of the Act. However, only 1.3 percent of employers report that they reduced benefits to offset costs associated with the FMLA, giving further evidence that costs overall are minimal.

Very few covered worksites report cost savings resulting from the FMLA (2.5 percent). Interestingly though, the larger worksites (250 employees or more) that are more likely to incur costs from the Act, also report slightly more cost savings (7.5 percent) than covered worksites as a whole. Some employers who testified at the Commission's public hearings report cost savings, particularly from reduced employee turnover. They also paint an overall picture of enhanced employee productivity, goodwill and willingness to "go the extra mile" resulting from employees' ability to take leave.

3. The FMLA's Effects on Business and Employee Performance

Most worksites report that the FMLA has no noticeable effect on business performance. Between 86.4 and 95.8 percent report no noticeable effect on productivity, profitability and growth. To the extent that employers do report an effect, it is as likely to be positive as negative on business productivity and growth, and more likely to be negative regarding profitability.

Most employers also find that the FMLA has no noticeable effect on employee performance. There are significant positive effects in the areas of employee career advancement and employee productivity. And it is noteworthy, in light of the Act's goals, that a third of employers note a positive effect on employees' ability to care for family members, and this number doubles for larger worksites.

4. Expectations of the Non-Covered

Small covered worksites¹ have relatively benign experiences with the FMLA, reporting low costs and minimal effects on business and employee performance. Their positive experiences contrast sharply with the negative expectations voiced by many small non-covered sites. For example, between 8.2 percent and 15 percent of non-covered sites expect negative effects on employees' ability to care for family members, career advancement and turnover, while less than one percent of covered sites experience negative effects in these areas. The expectations of non-covered employers are far more pessimistic than the experiences of covered sites in general, and of the small covered sites in particular.

¹ These worksites have fewer than 50 employees, but are considered "covered" because of the 75-mile radius rule.

C. The Employee Experience

1. Employees' Need for Leave and Utilization of the FMLA

About one-fifth of U.S. workers have a need for some form of leave covered under the FMLA. The Employee Survey found that 16.8 percent of employees took leave for a reason covered by the FMLA, and 3.4 percent of employees needed but did not take leave. In addition, about 40 percent of all employees think they will need to take leave for an FMLA reason at some time within the next five years. The reason most frequently cited for future leave is care of a seriously ill parent. More than two-thirds (70.9 percent) of employees agree that "every employee should be able to have up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a year from work for family and medical problems."

Thus far, the rate of leave use designated by employees as FMLA leave is fairly low. As reported in the Employee Survey, among the 16.8 percent of employees who have taken some type of family and medical leave, about seven percent of that group designate their leave as "FMLA leave" (about 1.2 percent of all employees). Given that 55 of every 100 employed persons both work at a covered worksite and are eligible to take leave under the Act, the FMLA utilization rate among these employees is about two percent.² The Employer Survey of private-sector covered worksites found a slightly higher estimate of FMLA utilization (3.6 percent). Given the statistical variability in these two estimates, the number of employees who took FMLA leave in the period of both surveys ranges between one-and-a-half million to just over three million.

A significant minority of employees (3.4 percent) - "leave-needers" - have expressed a need for leave that as yet remains unmet. Among employees who need but do not take leave, fully 63.9 percent cannot afford the accompanying loss of wages, underscoring the importance of wage replacement. Hourly workers, African Americans and employees with some college education are most likely to be among those employees who need, but do not take leave.

² This is a conservative estimate. See discussion in Chapter IV.

2. Employees' Experiences with Leave

Employees described in this section include all leave-takers, both those working at covered and non-covered worksites, who take leave for a reason covered under the FMLA. Only a portion of these employees (seven percent) designated the leave that they took as "FMLA leave."

a. The leave-takers

Leave-takers are as diverse as the American workforce. The demographic profile of leave-takers generally resembles that of the overall employee population, with some noteworthy distinctions. Employees aged 25 to 34 years are proportionately more likely than younger or older employees to take leave. Employees between 35 and 49 years of age (the "sandwich generation"), are numerically the largest group of leave-takers. Employees with one or more children, hourly employees and employees with family incomes of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year are more likely to take leave than are employees with higher family incomes.

b. Employees' reasons for leave

Family leave to care for a seriously ill child, spouse or parent and medical leave for one's own health together account for almost 80 percent of all leave. About 59 percent of employees of all ages take leave because of their own serious health problems (exclusive of women who take maternity-disability leave). About a quarter of leave is taken by relatively young parents to care for their children at birth, adoption or during a serious illness. A further ten percent of leave is taken by somewhat older employees to care for ill parents or spouses.

In general, men take more leave for their own serious health condition. Women (who alone take maternity leave) are somewhat more likely than men to need leave, to take leave and to take longer periods of leave. Men, however, take comparable amounts of parental leave and are slightly more likely to take leave to care for an ill spouse than women (some of this may be taking care of wives before or after childbirth).

c. Lengths of leave

Most periods of leave are short. The great majority of all leave (almost 90 percent) falls within the 12-week limit established by the FMLA. While the length of leave tends to vary depending on the reason for the leave, the median length of leave for all leave-takers is ten days.

Executive Summary

d. Methods used to cover the work of leave-taking employees

By far the most prevalent method that employers use to cover work is to assign it temporarily to other co-workers (67.5 percent). Employers are least likely, however, to use work reassignment to cover work among highly-educated, higher-income employees - often the hardest to replace. Employers are most likely to find permanent replacements to cover the work of the youngest leave-takers and those with the lowest family income. Many employers also hire temporary replacement workers to help cover the job duties of leave-takers.

e. Benefits, wage replacement and covering lost income during leave

The FMLA requires employers to continue health benefits during leave. Over 95 percent of covered employers report that they continue health benefits during FMLA leave, and three percent of leave-takers at covered and non-covered worksites report losing health benefits during leave. Although wage replacement is not required by the FMLA, a significant proportion of leave-takers receive full wage replacement (46.7 percent) or partial wage replacement (19.6 percent) during their leave period. This is most likely to be sick pay, vacation pay or pay from a disability insurance plan, benefits which pre-dated the FMLA. Wage replacement is more likely to be available to employees who work at covered worksites. Salaried employees, more highly educated employees, unionized employees, men and those with higher levels of household income are most likely to receive wage replacement; the employees least likely to receive wage replacement are the youngest and oldest employees, non-salaried workers and non-union workers. Also, employees who have never been married, those in the lowest income and education groups and Latino employees are most likely to be unpaid during leave.

Not surprisingly, then, employees who fare best in covering for lost income during leave-taking are employees with high family incomes, salaried employees, union members, highly educated employees and white employees. These employees are less likely than other leave-takers to borrow money, cut leave short or to go on public assistance. Women and employees with annual family incomes of less than \$20,000 per year are more likely to need public assistance in order to deal with lost income. Nine percent of leave-takers overall use public assistance to supplement income during periods of leave, and 11.6 percent of women leave-takers use public assistance for this reason.

f. Returning to work

The vast majority of leave-takers (84 percent) return to their same employer while six percent do not, and ten percent remain on leave. Employees in low-wage jobs, including jobs with no wage replacement, are least likely to return to their same employer. Employees from households with incomes of less than \$20,000 are far less likely to return to work; women and employees from non-covered worksites are also less likely to do so. Employees with high family income levels, unionized workers and salaried employees are more likely to return to their same employer.

3. Employees' assessment of their leave-taking experiences

Overall, employees' experiences with family and medical leave policies, including the FMLA, have been positive. The majority of employees who take family or medical leave find it relatively easy to arrange, have few concerns about the job-related consequences of taking leave and are relatively satisfied with the amount of leave they take.

To the extent that employees do have trouble arranging to take leave, express job-related concerns about taking leave or are dissatisfied with the amount of leave they take, they are more likely to work in non-covered worksites. Women, non-whites and non-salaried employees are particularly likely to report negative experiences on at least one of these measures. This finding is probably related to differences in wages and benefits among employees that existed in the labor market prior to FMLA, and which the FMLA, by expanding minimum levels of protection to all eligible employees, has helped to mitigate. Nonetheless, the majority of employees in all demographic groups report positive leave-taking experiences.

Overall Impact of the FMLA

The Family and Medical Leave Act has had a positive impact on employees overall. It has succeeded in replacing the piecemeal nature of voluntary employer leave policies and state leave statutes with a more consistent and uniform standard. The FMLA has not been the burden to business that some had feared. For most employers, compliance is easy, the costs are non-existent or small and the effects are minimal. Most periods of leave are short, most employees return to work and reduced turnover seems to be a tangible positive effect. The FMLA, with its signature features of guaranteed job protection and maintenance of health ben-

Executive Summary

efits, begins to emerge, even now, as a significant step in helping a larger cross-section of working Americans meet their medical and family caregiving needs while still maintaining their jobs and their economic security - achieving the workable balance intended by Congress.

AMERICA'S TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND

"In our schools, every classroom in America must be connected to the information superhighway with computers and good software and well-trained teachers....I ask Congress to support this education technology initiative so that we can make sure this national partnership succeeds."

President Clinton, State of the Union, January 23, 1996

NATIONAL MISSION TO MAKE EVERY YOUNG PERSON TECHNOLOGICALLY LITERATE: The President has launched a national mission to make all children technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st century, equipped with communication, math, science, and critical thinking skills essential to prepare them for the Information Age. He challenges the private sector, schools, teachers, parents, students, community groups, state and local governments, and the federal government, to meet this goal by building four pillars that will:

1. Provide all teachers the training and support they need to help students learn through computers and the information superhighway;
2. Develop effective and engaging software and on-line learning resources as an integral part of the school curriculum;
3. Provide access to modern computers for all teachers and students;
4. Connect every school and classroom in America to the information superhighway.

A NEW TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND: President Clinton has proposed the creation of a \$2 billion, five year, Technology Literacy Challenge to catalyze and leverage state, local, and private sector efforts so that our schools provide all our children with a greater opportunity to learn the skills they need to thrive in the next century.

States, communities, and the private sector face a challenge of massive proportions, in terms of effective innovation and school improvement, as well as in terms of substantial investments and reprioritizing of school budgets. The purpose of the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund is to serve as a catalyst for states, local communities, companies, universities, and individuals to work together on a common set of goals. The President has asked Congress to appropriate \$2 billion over five years for the fund. For the fund to succeed, each Federal dollar will have to be matched by dollars and in-kind contributions from state, local, and private-sector sources. The President has included the first installment of this fund -- \$250 million -- in his 1997 budget.

The fund would provide states with maximum flexibility. To receive funds, states would have to meet only these basic objectives:

- Each state would develop a strategy for enabling every school in the state to meet the four technology goals. These state strategies would address the needs of all schools, from the suburbs to the inner cities to rural areas. Strategies would include benchmarks and timetables for accomplishing the four goals, but these measures would be set by each state, not the Federal government.

- State strategies would include significant private-sector participation and commitments, matching at least the amount of Federal support. Commitments could be met by volunteer services, cost reductions, and discounts for connections under the expanded Universal Service Fund provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, among other ways.
- To ensure accountability, each state not only would have to set benchmarks, but also would be required to publicly report at the end of every school year the progress made in achieving its benchmarks, as well as how it would achieve the ultimate objectives of its strategies in the most cost-effective manner.

By design, states would have tremendous flexibility. Because the states are different points in financing and using educational technology in the classroom, this flexibility is necessary so each state can address its own particular needs according to a technology plan that it develops itself.

The Technology Literacy Challenge Fund
Catalyzing State, Community, and Private Sector Efforts

To jumpstart efforts, the technology literacy challenge fund would support a wide variety of innovative efforts. For example:

- Districts and schools may provide funding for on-demand technical assistance to help technology-using teachers during the school day;
- Districts may link schools electronically to gather and maintain administrative data;
- States and districts may enter partnerships with the private sector and universities to develop software and train teachers geared to challenging state academic standards;
- States and districts may building high-speed networks carrying voice, video, text, and graphics that connect schools;
- Districts may provide incentive grants, awards, and salary increases to individual teachers who make a commitment to upgrade their knowledge of computers and technology;
- States may target funds to communities that are farthest behind in effective use of educational technology; and
- States and districts may collaborate with each other to explore the most effective ways of purchasing and using hardware and software.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
(\$ in thousands)

Projected +
Appropriation and Sense Levels

	FY 1994 Enacted	FY 1995 Enacted	FY 1995 Post Rec	FY 1996 Request	1996 Final Conference	FY 1997 1st Yr. Ramp	FY 1997 House House passed	FY 1997 Senate Full Committee mark	FY 1998 2nd Yr. Ramp
NCSA PROGRAMS									
National Service Trust	\$93,250	\$145,900	\$116,270	\$189,000	\$59,000	129,096	\$0	\$59,000	132,840
AmeriCorps Grants	155,500	250,000	219,000	429,800	215,000	260,963	0	215,000	283,372
Innovation, Assistance and Other	31,900	60,200	30,000	60,200	30,000	37,375	0	30,000	38,459
Evaluations	4,600	7,000	5,500	8,000	5,000	6,544	0	5,000	6,837
National Civilian Community Corps	10,000	26,000	18,000	30,000	18,000	22,300	0	18,000	22,947
Learn and Serve	40,000	50,000	46,000	60,000	43,000	52,725	0	43,000	54,254
Points of Light	5,000	6,500	5,830	5,000	5,500	6,000	0	5,500	6,174
Program Admin	24,750	29,400	27,523	35,476	25,000	28,446	0	25,000	29,271
Subtotal NCSA	365,000	575,000	468,123	817,476	400,500	543,549	0	400,500	574,153
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	944	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,125	0	2,000	2,187
SUBTOTAL NCSA BA	365,944	577,000	470,123	819,476	402,500	545,674	0	402,500	576,340
DVSA PROGRAMS									
Volunteers in Service to America							House committee same as 96 w/ rescission		
VISTA	37,715	42,678	42,678	53,800	41,385	46,500			46,500
VISTA Literacy Corps	5,009	5,024	5,024	6,200	0	5,100			5,100
Subtotal VISTA	42,724	47,700	47,700	60,000	41,385	51,600	41,235		51,600
Special Volunteer Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
National Senior Service Corps									
RSVP	34,388	35,708	35,708	44,500	34,949	37,708	63,737		37,708
FGP	66,117	67,812	67,812	78,810	62,237	72,812	32,655		72,812
SCP	29,773	31,244	31,244	43,090	31,155	34,244	36,449		34,244
Senior Demonstration Program	0	1,000	1,000	2,000	0	0	0		0
Subtotal, Senior Programs	130,278	135,764	135,764	168,400	128,341	144,764	132,841		144,764
Program Administration	31,151	31,160	31,160	34,500	28,667	29,745	27,870		29,745
Subtotal DVSA BA	204,153	214,624	214,624	262,900	198,393	226,109	202,046		226,109
TOTAL CORPORATION BA	\$570,097	\$791,624	\$684,747	\$1,082,376	600,893	771,783	202,046		802,449
FTE	589	603	554	603		574			574
PARTICIPANTS									
NCSA PROGRAMS									
AmeriCorps (including VISTA)	20,000	33,000	25,000	47,042	24,198	30,000	15,000		33,000
Learn and Serve	375,000	450,000	439,300 (780,000)	580,000	708,000	843,000	660,000		915,000
DVSA PROGRAMS									
VISTA (Included in AmeriCorps above)	(3,574)				(3,238)	(4,037)	9,200		
National Senior Service Corps	496,457	488,893	488,893	526,787	400,000	478,770	400,000		478,770
TOTAL CORPORATION PARTICIPANTS	881,457	971,893	953,193	1,153,829	1,132,198	1,351,770	1,075,000		1,426,770

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APPENDIX

3-17-96



BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Fiscal Year 1997

General and special funds—Continued

VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION—Continued

g. Vocational education programs	1,120		
2. Adult education:			
a. State programs	252		
b. Evaluation and technical assistance	4		
c. National Institute for Literacy	5		
d. Workplace literacy partnerships	13		
e. Literacy programs for prisoners	5		
f. Adult education programs		300	
3. Unallocated amount under P.L. 104-99		1,163	
Total	1,390	1,170	1,420

Vocational and adult education.—As part of the GI Bill for America's Workers initiative, which is designed to promote lifelong learning and economic security for all Americans, the Administration proposed in fiscal year 1996 to restructure Federal workforce-related education and training programs, including those under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, the Adult Education Act, and the National Literacy Act. As proposed by the Administration, State formula grant programs for vocational education and for adult education would be consolidated into a single State grant for each program. In addition, national activities for both vocational and adult education would support State efforts through research, development, technical assistance, and evaluation. The Administration and the Congress are currently working together to ensure that new legislation in support of this initiative is enacted in 1996.

Pending enactment of the new legislation, the fiscal year 1997 budget estimate reflects funding under current law. Funds will be allocated for specific activities once new legislation is enacted.

Object Classification (In millions of dollars)

Identification code 91-0400-0-1-501	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Personnel compensation: Full-time permanent	1		1
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	4		4
25.2 Other services	3		3
25.3 Purchases of goods and services from Government accounts	1		1
25.5 Research and development contracts	2		2
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1,448	60	1,416
92.0 Undistributed		1,163	
99.0 Subtotal, direct obligations	1,459	1,223	1,427
99.0 Reimbursable obligations	1		
41.0 Allocation Account—Direct Obligations: Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1		
99.9 Total obligations	1,461	1,223	1,427

Personnel Summary

Identification code 91-0400-0-1-501	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
1001 Total compensable workyears: Full-time equivalent employment	13	11	10

VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION
(Legislative proposal, subject to PAYGO)

Program and Financing (In millions of dollars)

Identification code 91-0400-4-1-501	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Permanent appropriation			-7
10.00 Total obligations			-7
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
22.00 New budget authority (gross)			-7
23.95 New obligations			7

New budget authority (gross), detail:

60.00 Appropriation	-7
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Change in unpaid obligations:

73.10 New obligations	-7
73.20 Total outlays (gross)	1
74.40 Unpaid obligations, end of year: Obligated balance: Appropriation	-6

Outlays (gross), detail:

86.97 Outlays from new permanent authority	-1
87.00 Total outlays (gross)	-1

Net budget authority and outlays:

89.00 Budget authority	-7
90.00 Outlays	-1

The Smith-Hughes Act authorizes a permanent appropriation for four vocational education activities: Basic Grants, the Indian and Hawaiian Natives set-aside, the Territorial set-aside, and National Programs. The permanent appropriation is proposed for repeal, and an equivalent level of funding is included in the Administration's proposal to reauthorize and restructure the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act.

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Federal Funds

General and special funds:

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For carrying out subparts 1 and 3 of part A, and parts C and E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, \$7,359,407,000, which shall remain available through September 30, 1998.

The maximum Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during award year 1997-1998 shall be \$2,700: Provided, That notwithstanding section 401(g) of the Act, if the Secretary determines, prior to publication of the payment schedule for such award year, that the amount included within this appropriation for Pell Grant awards in such award year, and any funds available from the FY 1996 appropriation for Pell Grant awards, are insufficient to satisfy fully all such awards for which students are eligible, as calculated under section 401(b) of the Act, the amount paid for each such award shall be reduced by either a fixed or variable percentage, or by a fixed dollar amount, as determined in accordance with a schedule of reductions established by the Secretary for this purpose.

Note.—A regular 1996 appropriation for this account had not been enacted at the time this budget was prepared. The 1996 amounts included in this budget are based on the levels provided in three continuing resolutions: P.L. 104-91, P.L. 104-92, and P.L. 104-99. Of the 1996 appropriation, ten percent is not available for obligation pending resolution of a full-year appropriation.

Program and Financing (In millions of dollars)

Identification code 91-0200-0-1-502	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Obligations by program activity:			
Pell grants:			
01.01 Current academic year program	3,144	3,538	3,670
01.02 Prior academic year program	2,675	3,561	2,169
01.91 Subtotal, Pell grants	5,819	7,099	5,839
Campus-based aid:			
03.01 Work-study	620	617	679
03.02 Supplemental educational opportunity grants	588		583
03.03 Perkins loans: Federal capital contributions	161		158
03.04 Perkins loans: Teacher cancellations	26	20	20
03.91 Subtotal, Campus-based aid	1,395	637	1,440
04.01 State student incentive grants	64		
05.01 State postsecondary review program	13		
06.01 Unallocated amount under P.L. 104-99		1,243	
10.00 Total obligations	7,291	8,979	7,279
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year: Uninvested balance	3,074	3,561	2,169

22.00	New budget authority (gross)	7,586	7,586	7,359
22.10	Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	196		
22.30	Unobligated balance expiring	-4		
23.90	Total budgetary resources available for obligation	10,852	11,147	9,528
23.95	New obligations	-7,291	-8,979	-7,279
24.40	Unobligated balance available, end of year:			
	Uninvested balance	3,561	2,169	2,249

New budget authority (gross), detail:

40.00	Current:			
	Appropriation	7,583	7,586	7,359
62.00	Permanent:			
	Transferred from other accounts	3		
70.00	Total new budget authority (gross)	7,586	7,586	7,359

Change in unpaid obligations:

72.40	Unpaid obligations, start of year: Obligated balance:			
	Appropriation	3,334	3,363	4,902
73.10	New obligations	7,291	8,979	7,279
73.20	Total outlays (gross)	-7,047	-7,440	-8,083
73.40	Adjustments in expired accounts	-19		
73.45	Adjustments in unexpired accounts	-196		
74.40	Unpaid obligations, end of year: Obligated balance:			
	Appropriation	3,363	4,902	4,098

Outlays (gross), detail:

86.90	Outlays from new current authority	1,334	741	1,226
86.93	Outlays from current balances	5,709	6,696	6,857
86.97	Outlays from new permanent authority	1		
86.98	Outlays from permanent balances	3	3	
87.00	Total outlays (gross)	7,047	7,440	8,083

Net budget authority and outlays:

89.00	Budget authority	7,586	7,586	7,359
90.00	Outlays	7,047	7,440	8,083

Summary of Budget Authority and Outlays

(In millions of dollars)

Enacted/requested.	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Budget Authority	7,586	7,586	7,359
Outlays	7,047	7,440	8,083
Adjustment to 1996 continuing resolution levels:			
Budget Authority		-453	
Outlays		-45	-394
Total:			
Budget Authority	7,586	7,133	7,359
Outlays	7,047	7,395	7,689

¹The Ninth Continuing Resolution, P.L. 104-99, provides for a maximum Pell grant of "at least \$2,440." The preliminary Federal Pell Grant Program payment and disbursement schedules for 1996-97 are therefore calculated using a \$2,400 maximum award. However, the President's 1996 policy for the Federal Pell Grant Program calls for a maximum award level of \$2,620. The Pell grant estimates for 1996 are based on an assumed maximum award level of \$2,620. Establishing this maximum award level would require the joint agreement of the Administration and the Congress.

²Includes obligations from budget authority in the amount of \$3,165 thousand in 1994 and 1995 for benefits for participants in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm appropriated by transfer from the Department of Defense pursuant to P.L. 102-27, the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1991.

³Represents budget authority for benefits for participants in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm appropriated by transfer from the Department of Defense pursuant to P.L. 102-27, the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1991.

Status of Direct Loans (In millions of dollars)

Identification code 91-0200-0-1-502	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Cumulative balance of direct loans outstanding:			
1210 Outstanding, start of year	323	187	189
1251 Repayments: Repayments and prepayments	-66	-51	-50
1262 Adjustments: Discount on loan asset sales to the public or discounted	-7	-8	-8
1264 Write-offs for default: Other adjustments, net	-63	61	61
1290 Outstanding, end of year	187	189	192

Object Classification (In millions of dollars)

Identification code 91-0200-0-1-502	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	7,291	7,736	7,279
92.0 Undistributed		1,243	

99.9	Total obligations	7,291	8,979	7,279
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¹Includes in all years institutional matching share of defaulted notes assigned from institutions to the Education Department.

Federal Pell Grants.—Undergraduate students establish eligibility for these grants under award and need determination rules set out in the authorizing statute and the annual appropriation act. The maximum award for FY 1997 would be \$2,700.

Federal Work-Study.—Federal grants are awarded by formula to qualifying institutions, which develop and provide part-time jobs for eligible undergraduate and graduate students with demonstrated need. Federal grants in most cases pay 75 percent of a student's hourly earnings, with the remainder paid by the employer. Hourly earnings must not be less than the Federal minimum wage. Institutions are required to spend at least 5 percent of their Work-Study allocation to pay students working in community service jobs. The President is proposing to increase funding for Work-Study over the next four years to help one million students per year work their way through college by the year 2000.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.—Federal funds are awarded by formula to qualifying institutions, which use these funds at their discretion to award grants to undergraduate students, with priority for Pell Grant recipients and others with exceptional need. The Federal share of such grants may not exceed 75 percent of the total grant.

Perkins Loan Program.—Schools award loans from revolving funds, composed of Federal Capital Contributions, collections on prior year loans, and Federal payments for loan cancellations granted in exchange for specified types of teaching, military or public service.

Perkins Loans—Cancellations.—Under the Perkins Loan (formerly national direct student loan (NDSL)) cancellation program, institutional revolving funds are reimbursed for indebtedness cancelled as a result of a borrower engaging in certain public service occupations.

The Higher Education Amendments of 1992 broadened statutory cancellations in the Perkins Loan program. This has resulted in a progressive increase in the usage of cancellations provisions by Perkins Loan borrowers in recent years.

Gatekeeping in Student Financial Assistance Programs.—The Federal student aid programs will make available more than \$41 billion in grant, loan, and work-study assistance to about 7.3 million students in the academic year 1997-98. The Department of Education, together with States and accrediting agencies, works to ensure that institutions of higher education participating in the Federal student aid programs meet a basic standard of quality in the education and training of their students, and that these institutions are administratively capable and financially responsible.

Since 1993, the Department has terminated the participation of more than 300 institutions that have violated the Federal regulations. In 1997, the Department plans to complete its recertification of all institutions currently eligible to participate. It also plans to develop a system of risk analysis that will better enable the Department to identify institutions with potentially serious problems, and to improve major elements of its information management system, including the National Student Loan Data System and the Postsecondary Education Participants System.

The Department also plans to provide regulatory relief—such as less frequent recertification, less frequent submission of compliance audits, and exemption from certain regulatory requirements—to institutions that have demonstrated outstanding administration of federal programs and strong financial responsibility.

In addition, the Department helps students make better decisions by requiring schools to provide important informa-

General and special funds—Continued

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—Continued

tion about their education programs. It enforces long-standing statutory requirements for institutions to inform prospective students of educational programs, college costs, and financial aid. Final regulations to implement the Student Right to Know Act, published in 1995, require institutions to disclose completion and graduation rates for students who enter the institution after July 1, 1996.

The following tables display student aid funds available, the number of aid awards, average awards, and the unduplicated count of students receiving awards, based on current law and legislation proposed for later transmittal. The tables include aid under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program, formerly the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program, the William D. Ford Direct Loan (DL) Program, as well as under programs in this account. The tables include the effects of matching funds wherever applicable. Perkins loan amounts also reflect available capital in institutional revolving funds, including loan collection and loan cancellation receipts. FFEL and DL amounts reflect the capital actually loaned, not the Federal costs of those loans.

AID FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

	(In millions of dollars)		
	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Pell Grants	5,426	6,170	6,406
Student loans:			
Guaranteed student loans:			
Stafford loans	11,086	8,843	7,859
Unsubsidized Stafford loans	5,989	4,688	4,137
PLUS	1,445	1,229	1,198
Direct student loans:			
Stafford loans	3,181	6,229	7,750
Unsubsidized Stafford loans	1,499	3,213	4,168
PLUS	480	949	1,243
Consolidation:			
FFEL	3,117	4,031	4,510
Direct Loans	329	882	1,599
Student loans, subtotal	27,126	30,064	32,464
Work-study	760	760	837
Supplemental educational opportunity grants	738	NA	738
Perkins loans	999	NA	1,058
State student incentive grants	127	NA	
Total aid available	35,176	NA	41,503

Note: 1996 amounts not available for SEOG, Perkins loans, and SSIG pending final appropriations.

NUMBER OF AID AWARDS

	(In thousands)		
	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Pell grants	3,600	3,712	3,755
Student loans:			
Guaranteed student loans:			
Stafford loans	3,392	2,592	2,197
Unsubsidized Stafford loans	1,673	1,290	1,087
PLUS	267	212	190
Direct student loans:			
Stafford loans	824	1,669	2,137
Unsubsidized Stafford loans	393	834	1,086
PLUS	81	156	200
Consolidation:			
FFEL	208	234	246
Direct Loans	32	106	140
Student loans, subtotal	6,870	7,101	7,282
Work-study	713	713	786
Supplemental educational opportunity grants	991	NA	991
Perkins loans	744	NA	788
State student incentive grants	211	NA	
Total awards	13,129	NA	13,603

Note: 1996 amounts not available for SEOG, Perkins loans, and SSIG pending final appropriations.

AVERAGE AID AWARDS

	(In whole dollars)		
	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Pell grants	1,507	1,662	1,706
Student loans:			
Guaranteed student loans:			
Stafford loans	3,268	3,412	3,578
Unsubsidized Stafford loans	3,581	3,634	3,805
PLUS	5,409	5,794	6,308
Direct student loans:			
Stafford loans	3,862	3,733	3,627
Unsubsidized Stafford loans	3,814	3,854	3,837
PLUS	5,910	6,074	6,229
Consolidation:			
FFEL	15,005	16,576	18,356
Direct Loans	10,281	8,358	11,349
Work-study	1,065	1,065	1,065
Supplemental educational opportunity grants	745	745	745
Perkins loans	1,342	1,342	1,342
State student incentive grants	600	600	

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AIDED

	(In thousands)		
	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Unduplicated student count	6,986	NA	7,284

Note: 1996 count data not available pending final appropriations.

The following table displays institutional administrative costs paid from program funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENTS TO INSTITUTIONS

	(In millions of dollars)		
	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Pell grants	18	19	19
Work-study	47	47	52
Supplemental educational opportunity grants	30	NA	30
Perkins loans	40	NA	42
Direct student loans	10	20	32

Note: 1996 amounts not available for SEOG, Perkins loans, and SSIG pending final appropriations.

The following table displays the status of defaulted Perkins loans held by the Department and by institutions.

DEFAULTED PERKINS LOANS

	(In millions of dollars)		
	1995 actual	1996 est.	1997 est.
Outstanding defaulted loans, beginning of year:			
Assigned defaulted loans ¹	323	187	189
Unassigned defaulted loans ²	744	754	764
New defaulted loans	34	159	162
Collections on assigned loans	-66	-51	-50
Collections on unassigned loans	-82	-84	-88
Write-offs for assigned loans	-7	-8	-8
Write-offs for unassigned loans	-4	-4	-4
Outstanding defaulted loans, end of year	1,263	1,140	1,156

¹ Permanently assigned to the Federal Government for collection. Does not include the following amounts in loans made to institutions to establish Perkins revolving funds: \$94 thousand in 1995, \$94 thousand in 1996, and \$94 thousand in 1997. These amounts are recorded as outstanding loans in the "Status of Direct Loans" schedule.

² Unassigned loans at institutions.

HIGHER EDUCATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, titles III (without regard to section 360(a)(1)(B)(ii)), IV, V, VI, VII, IX, and part A and subpart 1 of part B of title X of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); and the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, \$842,771,000, of which \$2,015,000 for endowment activities under part C of title III and \$15,673,000 for interest subsidies under title VII of HEA shall remain available until expended: Provided, That funds available for part C of title III of HEA shall be available only for awards to recipients that are title III, part B institutions, as defined in section 322(2): Provided further, That funds available for Part D of title IX of HEA shall be available to fund noncompeting continuation awards for academic year 1997-98 for fellowships awarded originally under parts B and C of title IX of HEA, under the terms and conditions of parts B and C, respectively.

Note.—A regular 1996 appropriation for this account had not been enacted at the time this budget was prepared. The 1996 amounts included in this budget are based on the

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Fiscal Year 1996 Budget



**SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND
INFORMATION**

Number of Student Aid Awards
(in thousands)

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996 Request</u>
Pell Grants: Degree Students	2,654 ¹	2,682 ¹	2,829
Federal Family Education Loans	6,352	4,884	2,495
Federal Direct Loans	225	1,694	4,613
Work-Study	713	713	713
Supplemental Grants	991	991	991
Perkins Loans	724	744	764
State Student Incentive Grants ²	<u>241</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>105</u>
Total awards, Education	11,900	11,919	12,510

LABOR DEPARTMENT

Skill Grants for dislocated workers	—	—	277
Skill Grants for the disadvantaged	<u>1,165³</u>	<u>1,176³</u>	<u>1,784⁴</u>
Total awards, Labor	1,165 ³	1,165 ³	2,061
Total awards, Education and Labor	13,065	13,095	14,571

Number of Students Aided

Unduplicated count, Education	6,470	6,376	6,611
Unduplicated count, Education and Labor	7,020	6,952	8,170

¹ Adjusted by reductions of 1,165 thousand in 1994 and 1,176 thousand in 1995 for comparability to the President's 1996 proposal limiting Pell Grants to degree-seeking students. The total number of students receiving Pell Grants was 3,819 thousand in 1994 and 3,858 thousand in 1995.

² Reflects the SSIG program's statutory dollar-for-dollar State matching requirement.

³ Adjusted for comparability with 1996 policy. Amounts represent estimated Pell Grants to non-degree students in 1994 and 1995.

⁴ Includes 1,242 thousand for Skill Grant recipients eligible for Pell Grants under current law, and 542 thousand eligible for JTPA assistance under current law.

Student Aid Overview

The Administration's 1996 request for the student aid programs would substantially increase the Pell Grant maximum award; would restructure and improve the delivery of grant aid to non-degree recipients through the President's GI Bill for America's Workers; and would strengthen the institutional gatekeeping process. In addition, the Department

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 4, 1996

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Map Room

10:06 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week was another good week for America. We learned that growth is up and unemployment is down. That's good for American jobs and good for America's families. We also had more good news on America's families today involving the Family and Medical Leave Act, which I was proud to sign in 1993. This week the bipartisan panel Congress created to study it reported that the law has helped more than one in six American employees take time off because of a serious family health problem, without any danger of losing their jobs. And almost 90 percent of the businesses found that complying with Family and Medical Leave cost them little or nothing. This is making America's families stronger, promoting work and family.

That's what we have to do with welfare reform, too. Our job is to fix a welfare system that too often pulls families apart and turns it into one that helps families pull together, to fix a system that traps too many people in a cycle of dependency that ends up snaring their children as well, and, instead, to create one that promotes jobs and independence.

For the last three years, we have been working hard to turn the welfare system around. All across America, the welfare rolls are down, food stamp rolls are down, teen pregnancy rates are down, compared to four years ago. And compared to four years ago, more and more people on welfare today are working as a condition of receiving welfare.

A lot of this has happened because our administration has

worked very hard to free states from federal rules and regulations which have built up over the years and which contribute to the flaws in the present system. We have slashed this red tape to 37 states, covering 75 percent of all the people on welfare in America, so that they can take steps to fix the broken system.

State by state, we are building a welfare system that demands work, requires responsibility, and protects our children.

But more needs to be done. The American people need a welfare system that honors American values: work, family, and personal responsibility. In 1994, and again this year, I sent Congress a sweeping welfare reform plan that would impose strict time limits on how long people can stay on welfare and strict work requirements for people when they are on welfare. My plan would also provide more funding for child care, so single parents can go to work. And it would crack down on parents who skip out on their responsibility to pay child support.

If Congress sends me a welfare reform bill that is tough on work instead of tough on children and weak on work, I will gladly and proudly sign it. Meanwhile, I am going to keep moving ahead to fix the welfare system by promoting work and looking out for our children.

Today, I'm acting to help teen mothers break free from the cycle of dependency for good. The only way for teen mothers to escape the welfare trap is to live at home, stay in school, and get the education they need to get a good job. We must make sure the welfare system demands that teen mothers follow the responsible path to independence.

Ohio has used freedom from federal rules to implement a terrific program they call LEAP -- Learning, Education, and Parenting. LEAP cuts welfare checks when teen mothers don't go to school, and rewards them when they do. And it works. A report released just this week by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation shows that for an important group of teens LEAP significantly increased the number of teen mothers who finished school, got jobs, and got off welfare. Every state should follow this example.

That's why, today, I'm announcing that every state must put in place a plan to keep teen mothers on welfare in school. We are going to audit the progress of every state and make the results public.

Second, we are going to make teen mothers who drop out of school go back to school and sign contracts that spell out exactly how they are going to take responsibility for their own lives.

And third, we are giving states immediate authority to provide bonuses to teen mothers who go to school and graduate, and to cut back the

checks of those who don't.

Finally, I'm challenging every state in the country to use its power to keep children who have children at home where they belong. There should be no incentive to leave home for a bigger welfare check.

Unfortunately, even though they can, most states don't require teen mothers to live at home. That's wrong. Of course, if there is an abusive situation at home, children should be living in another safe, responsible setting.

But we have to make it clear that a baby doesn't give you a right, and won't give you the money, to leave home and drop out of school. Today, we are moving to make responsibility a way of life, not an option.

These commonsense steps have bipartisan support. They will help teen parents escape the cycle of dependency and start down the path to a successful future for themselves and their children. Now Congress needs to do its job and pass welfare reform. I'm glad that a group of bipartisan lawmakers is working on welfare reform. If Congress sends me a clean welfare reform plan that demands work, demands responsibility, protects children, and helps families stay together -- I will sign it. Until then, I'll keep working to do everything in my power to reform welfare, step by step and state by state.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:12 A.M. EDT

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

2100 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 500, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

BOARD MEMBERS

(As of February 22, 1996)

Chairman

Thomas Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and President, Drew University

President

Isabel V. Sawhill, Senior Fellow, Arjay Miller Chair, Urban Institute

Charlotte L. Beers, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ogilvy and Mather

William Galston, School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland

Katherine Graham, Chairman of the Executive Committee, The Washington Post Company

Whoopi Goldberg, actress

Dr. David Hamburg, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Irving B. Harris, Chairman, The Harris Foundation

Barbara Huberman, Director of Training, Advocates for Youth

Nancy Kassebaum, U.S. Senator

Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General

Judy McGrath, President, MTV

Jody Miller, Senior Vice President for Operations, Americast

Kristin Moore, Executive Director, Child Trends

Hugh Price, President, National Urban League, Incorporated

Warren B. Rudman, former U.S. Senator, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Andrew J. Young, former Ambassador to the U.N. and Co-Chairman, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games

Campaign Director

Sarah Brown, former Senior Study Director, Institute of Medicine

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 29, 1996

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF
DR. HENRY FOSTER AS SENIOR ADVISOR ON TEEN PREGNANCY**

The President today announced the appointment of Dr. Henry Foster as Senior Advisor to the President on Teen Pregnancy and Youth Issues. Dr. Foster will also be serving as an Expert Advisor to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The announcement follows the President's State of the Union address in which he challenged Americans to strengthen families and do everything possible to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy. While pregnancy rates are beginning to come down among teenagers, one million teenage girls still become pregnant every year.

In the State of the Union, the President announced that a group of prominent Americans will launch a National Campaign to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy, designed to support grass roots community efforts in this area. A dozen people have already agreed to be a part of this effort, including C. Everett Koop, David Hamburg of the Carnegie Corporation, Urban League President Hugh Price, Whoopi Goldberg, former Senator Warren Rudman, former Governor Tom Kean, Ogilvy and Mather CEO Charlotte Beers, and MTV President Judy McGrath.

Today, the President will meet with people working at the state and local level to reduce teen pregnancy and ask Dr. Foster to serve as his liaison to the National Campaign. Dr. Foster will also be working to bring national attention to the issue, to galvanize activity at the local level and will be advising the Administration on policies related to teen pregnancy. He will be meeting with leaders in business, media and other fields to mobilize and intensify their interest and efforts in this area.

"I am pleased that Dr. Foster has agreed to work with us in our efforts to reduce teen pregnancy and promote hope and opportunity for our youth," the President said. "Teen pregnancy is one of our most pressing social problems. All of us must work together to send a clear message to our young people that staying in school, postponing sexual activity, and preparing to work are the right things to do."

Dr. Foster is presently a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He has in the past been the Dean of the School of Medicine at Meharry and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The appointment of Dr. Foster is effective immediately.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
STATEMENT ON TEEN PREGNANCY
ROOSEVELT ROOM
JANUARY 29, 1996**

[Acknowledgements: Secretary Shalala; Senators Pell, Murray and Chafee; Representatives Clement, Schroeder, Stokes, Clayton and Watt]

I'm pleased to report to all of you today about the progress being made toward launching a national effort to address the issue of teen pregnancy.

As I said in my State of the Union, we are living in an age of enormous possibility. More Americans, from all walks of life, will have more chances to build the future of their dreams than ever before. Of course, any time of great change brings its share of great challenges as well.

The first challenge I issued last Tuesday night was to cherish our children and strengthen America's families. And it was no accident that this was the first challenge I mentioned. Family is the foundation of American life. And if we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America.

Teen pregnancy is a moral problem that can quickly become an economic problem. The epidemic rates of teen pregnancy in our country mean that too many children are born into poverty and never escape it. And teen parents can't escape it either because too often they don't have the education and child care they need to participate in the work force. When children have children, it can create a destructive cycle that tears at our very notions of family and community.

That is why we must do all we can to make sure that every child who comes into this world has two loving parents who are ready to support and care for their child. Although the teen pregnancy rate is down, over one million young women become pregnant every year. And 80% of the babies born to unwed teen mothers who dropped out of high school will live in poverty.

We must all work together to solve this problem. Last year, in my State of the Union address, I called on Americans across the country to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy. Since then, members of my administration have been meeting with citizens from all sectors of our society to determine how a new national organization might support and expand upon existing community-based efforts.

That's why today, I'm pleased to announce that a group of prominent Americans has responded and will launch a full-scale National Campaign to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy. A dozen people are ready to begin this effort, including leaders in the field of helping our young people, such as C. Everett Koop and David

Hamburg of the Carnegie Corporation. Others who have agreed to play a role include Drew University president Tom Kean; former senator Warren Rudman; Ogilvy and Mather chair Charlotte Beers; entertainer Whoopi Goldberg; Atlanta Olympic co-chair Andrew Young; and MTV President Judy McGrath. I'd also like to especially thank Dr. Isabel Sawhill, of the Urban Institute, for her work in spearheading this effort.

This is a serious, bi-partisan effort to address a difficult problem in a substantive manner. Many of them will be meeting tomorrow in New York, and in the next month, this group will be up and running. And when the National Campaign to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy holds its first board meeting, I'd like to invite them to the White House to discuss how we further their commitment to this important work.

Government must do its part in this effort. That's why today I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Henry Foster has agreed to serve as my senior advisor on this issue, and will be my liaison to the National Campaign. In his career as a physician and through his "I Have A Future" program in Nashville, Dr. Foster has dedicated his energies to the complex problem of teen pregnancy. In his new role, he will work in partnership with community-based organizations across our country to give our young people the tools they need to build responsible and productive lives.

Ultimately, what is needed to stop teen pregnancy is a revolution of the heart. We must all work to instill in every young man and woman a sense of personal responsibility. Having a child is the greatest responsibility any person can assume. It is not the right choice for a teen to make.

This message to our children must be constantly reinforced. One of the best ways to do this is through community organizations, like the ones I just met with. These groups, whether they are social clubs, mentoring programs or school-based classes, bear the primary responsibility of carrying this message to teenagers.

And each of us as has a role to play. I'd like to thank Colin Sears, who is here with me today, for demonstrating what an enormous contribution one person can make. Colin has worked at Baltimore's Young People's Health Connection since he was in middle school, teaching other young people to make the right decisions and take responsibility for their lives.

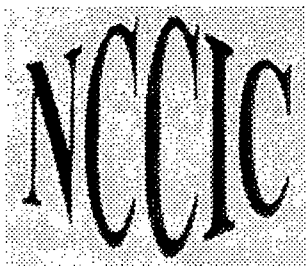
All of us must say to every teen: Do not become pregnant or father a baby before you are married, have finished with school and are ready to support your child.

This is the way we need to meet our challenges -- by working

together -- on national and local levels, in families and in communities, and in the public and the private sectors.

The era of big government is over, but we can't go back to the era where we simply tell people to fend for themselves. We have to move forward to the era of all Americans working to meet our challenges together.

I'd like to thank all of you for being here today. If we all work together to solve the problem of teen pregnancy, we will make a difference.



The National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC)

has been established to complement, enhance and promote child care linkages and to serve as a mechanism for supporting quality, comprehensive services for children and families.

NCCIC activities include:

- ☐ *Dissemination of child care information* in response to requests from States, Territories and Tribes, policymakers, parents, programs, organizations, providers and the public.
- ☐ *Outreach* to ACF grantees and the broader child care community via a toll-free "800" number, and by fax, mail and electronically to provide the following information and connections:
 - ☐ electronic networks and databases
 - ☐ clearinghouses and national organizations
 - ☐ ACF Issuances
 - ☐ State and Territorial program activities
 - ☐ Tribal program activities
 - ☐ promising practices
 - ☐ other child care resources
- ☐ *Publication of the Child Care Bulletin*, distributed 6 times a year to Federal administrators, ACF child care grantees, national child care organizations and others interested in child care issues.
- ☐ *Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse for Child Care*. Information and resources are available on-line through the Internet.

For more information, please contact the National Child Care Information Center at 1-800-616-2242 or email Anne Goldstein, Director, at agoldstein@acf.dhhs.gov

Return to the NCCIC Home Page.

June 24, 1996.

Send comments about site content or questions about child care to NCCIC Director.

Send technical questions to NCCIC Webmaster.

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 24, 1996

Jeff Lancashire, 301-436-7551
Sandra Smith, 301-436-7551

TEEN BIRTHS DROP FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

Birth rates for teenagers in the U.S. declined in 1994 for the third straight year, according to the latest natality statistics released today by HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala.

"The Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, United States: 1994," prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics, a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows the birth rate for teenagers 15-19 years of age dropped from 59.6 births per 1,000 population in 1993 to 58.9 per 1,000 in 1994.

"This is another piece of good news in the battle against teen pregnancy, but we still have a long way to go," Secretary Shalala said. "Every day the tragedy of teen pregnancy hurts our children, our communities and our country. The President understands that teen pregnancy is one of the greatest problems facing our nation, and he has demonstrated leadership and taken action to help solve it."

To continue this progress, the administration has proposed a new \$30 million Teen Pregnancy Initiative, to support community prevention efforts in cities with high teen pregnancy rates. In the past year, HHS also funded 15 demonstration programs through the Adolescent Family Life program aimed at preventing early teen sexual activity and pregnancy, as well as 13 grants through the Centers for Disease Control to help communities build coalitions to reduce teen pregnancy. (See HHS Fact Sheet: "Preventing Teenage Pregnancy.")

The 1994 birth rate among teens ages 15-19 was five percent lower than the recent high of 62.1 in 1991. The decline from 1993 to 1994 in teen births was 1 percent for teens age 15-17 (to 37.6 per 1,000 women) and 1 percent for teens age 18-19 (to 31.5 births per 1,000 women). Recent declines in abortion rates and birth rates for teenagers indicate that the teenage pregnancy rate has also fallen in the 1990's.

Despite this recent decline, the 1994 rate was still higher than in any year during the period from 1974 to 1989.

- 2 -

Today's report covers broad natality statistics. Overall, births in the U.S. declined for the fourth straight year in 1994 to 3,952,767. The birth rate fell 2 percent to 15.2 births per 1,000 total population; the lowest rate since 1978.

Among women of different race and ethnic groups, fertility rates were highest for Hispanic women, especially Mexican women, and for black women. Successively lower rates were reported for American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, and white women. Rates for teenaged women were highest among Mexican, Puerto Rican, and black women.

Meanwhile, the birth rate among unmarried women increased four percent in 1994, although the increases over the past five years have been much slower than that of the period 1984-1989. In 1994, nearly one out of three births were to unmarried women.

The multiple birth ratio rose to 26 per 1,000, an increase of two percent from 1993, and 33 percent since 1980. The higher-order multiple birth ratio (primarily triplet births) jumped 12 percent, doubling since 1987 and tripling since the early 1980's.

The report also provides a great deal of information on maternal health and behavioral characteristics, and improvements were reported in early prenatal care and reduced cigarette smoking:

--Eighty percent of mothers began prenatal care within the first trimester of pregnancy, the third consecutive year of increase. Meanwhile the proportion of mothers with late or no care continued to decline, dropping to four percent.

--Cigarette smoking during pregnancy declined again in 1994, for the fifth consecutive year, to 14.6 percent of mothers. Over 12 percent of births to smokers were low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) compared with almost 7 percent of births to non-smokers.

--The incidence of low birthweight continued to climb, rising from 7.2 to 7.3 percent. Low birthweight improved among black mothers, but rose among white mothers. There was no change in low birthweight among American Indian or Hispanic mothers, but levels increased among Asian or Pacific Islander infants.

The report is available from National Center for Health Statistics, 6525 Delcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD, 20782; or by e-mail at: paquery@nch10a.em.cdc.gov. The report is also found on the Internet at <http://www.CDC.gov/nchswww/nchshome.htm>.

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HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EMBARGOED FOR 4 P.M. EDT
Thursday, Sept. 21, 1995

Contact: CDC (404) 639-3286

CDC RELEASES NATALITY AND TEEN PREGNANCY REPORTS

Teen births are down nationwide and teen pregnancy declined in a majority of states, according to two new studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released today. CDC also reports that the rate of unmarried childbearing among women of all ages may have stabilized, and the agency released new findings on maternal and infant health.

Although the 1993 teen birth rate is still higher than 20 years ago, the birth rate for those 15-19 declined 4 percent from 1991 to 1993, according to the Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1993, the annual report on birth patterns in America from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Teen pregnancy rates (including both births and abortions) were down in a majority of states as reported in "State-Specific Pregnancy and Birth Rates Among Teenagers--United States, 1991-1992," in the Sept. 22 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, also being released today.

"Although these findings are encouraging, we clearly still need to do more to reduce teen pregnancy," said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala.

After increasing steadily between 1986 and 1991, the birth rate for teenagers 15-17 years declined 2 percent from 1991 to 1992 and was unchanged in 1993 at 37.8 births per 1,000. The birth rate for

- 2 -

older teens aged 18-19 was down 3 percent in 1993, to 92.1 per 1,000.

Pregnancy rates for teens declined in 30 of 41 reporting states and in the District of Columbia from 1991 to 1992. Decreases in teen pregnancy are reflected in a decline in both abortion and birth rates, with greater declines noted in the abortion rates. There were a wide range in pregnancy rates by state, from 53.7 per 1,000 women 15-19 in Wyoming to 106.9 for Georgia. Rates increased significantly in only two states.

In 1993, there were over a half-million births to teenagers -- over 200,000 to those not even 18. The teenage population is growing and if teen birth rates do not continue to decline, there will be a rise in the number of teen births over the next few years.

The 1993 annual natality report also documents that the rate of nonmarital childbearing has been essentially unchanged for three consecutive years, at 45.3 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44 in 1993. Prior to this period, there had been a 50-year rise in childbearing by unmarried women, and from 1980 to 1991 the rate increased 54 percent. Nonmarital births totaled just over 1.2 million in 1993 and accounted for 31 percent of all births that year.

The birth rate for unmarried teens leveled off between 1991 and 1993, showing the same pattern as that for all unmarried women. The vast majority of teen births are nonmarital (72 percent) but teen unmarried births account for only 30 percent of all nonmarital births.

- More -

- 3 -

Overall, births in the United States declined in 1993 for the third consecutive year, to just over 4 million. The birth rate per 1,000 total population declined to 15.5, its lowest point in 15 years. Birth rates for women in their twenties, the peak childbearing ages, declined in 1993 by 2 percent.

After rising steadily for almost two decades, birth rates for women in their thirties appear to have stabilized, recording just modest increases for the past few years. Still, there were more than 900,000 births to women in their early thirties, and the number of births to women aged 35-39, 357,000, was higher than in any year since 1960.

More than 100,000 babies were born in multiple deliveries in 1993, the highest number ever reported. Live births in twin delivery increased 1 percent while the number of triplet and higher-order plural births rose 7 percent.

The report documents maternal medical and lifestyle risk factors during pregnancy and their impact on the health of the infant:

-- **Cigarette smoking** during pregnancy declined to 15.8 percent, down from 19.5 percent in 1989, the first year that information on smoking was recorded on the birth certificate. Smoking during pregnancy declined in all age groups; still almost a quarter of young white and American Indian women, aged 15-24, smoked during pregnancy. Smoking is a key risk factor for low birth weight and infant mortality.

-- The most frequently-reported **medical risk factors** continued to be anemia, diabetes, and pregnancy-related hypertension.

-- **Prenatal care utilization** improved in 1993, following more than a decade of little change, with 79 percent of mothers receiving care in the first trimester. Fewer than 5 percent of mothers had late or no care, the lowest level since 1969.

- More -

- 4 -

-- The **cesarean delivery rate** declined again in 1993, to 21.8 percent of all births, continuing the downward trend noted in recent years following a rapid and steady increase through the late 1980s. The vaginal birth after cesarean delivery (VBAC) rate increased 8 percent in 1993.

Other measures of maternal and infant health were not so positive, the annual report shows.

-- **Preterm births** (prior to 37 completed weeks) increased 3 percent in 1993 to 11 percent of all births and almost one in five black infants.

-- **Low birthweight** increased from 7.1 to 7.2 percent the highest level reported since 1976. Most of the rise occurred among white births (6.0 percent), but low birthweight is still much higher among black infants (13.3). Low birthweight contributes to three-quarters of all infant deaths.

Data in Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1993, are based on the birth certificates filed in state vital statistics offices and reported to the National Center for Health Statistics through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. "State-Specific Pregnancy and Birth Rates Among Teenagers--United States, 1991-1992," is based on birth certificate data as well as abortions reported to the Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Both centers are part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Public Health Service, within HHS.

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Note: For further information regarding these individual reports, please contact: "State-Specific Pregnancy and Birth Rates Among Teenagers--United States, 1991-1992," MMWR, Rachel Kaufmann or Lisa Koonin at 404-488-5200. Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1993, Stephanie Ventura at 301-436-8954 or Sandy Smith at 301-436-7551.

cc: CHR
Bixie
LW H
Return to OSA

6/19

NOTE TO LORRIE MCHUGH --

FYI, data to be released by the CDC indicate that birth rates for teenagers in the U.S. declined for the third straight year in 1994, down 2 percent to 58.9 births per 1,000 teens aged 15-19. Altogether, the birth rate for 15-19 year olds has fallen 5 percent since 1991. Birth rates for 15-17 year olds and for 18-19 year olds both fell by nearly 1 percent in 1994, and have declined by 3 percent since 1991.

This new data on teen birth rates confirm what President Clinton has been saying, that the teen pregnancy rate has been going down in the 1990s but that it is still far too high.

We have some flexibility in timing the release of this good news. The CDC needs to decide in the next couple days when to release the data, and they would like the release date to be on or before June 28th. If there is interest in working with us on this release, please let me know how you would like to proceed. Although this may not merit the scheduling of another White House event, we could time this release to coincide with a Presidential announcement of the data in a speech.

We also need to discuss a Surgeon General's report on physical activity and immunization when you get a minute.

Thank you.

Melissa Skolfield

cc: Jeremy Ben-Ami
Rahm Emanuel