

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FIRST LADY

FROM: CAROL H. RASCO 
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Subject: Child Welfare

I continue to be seriously concerned about the state of our child welfare programs across the nation. While it would not be wise to announce major initiatives about some pieces of the problem during an election year, I am over the next several months going to be working with appropriate persons inside and outside government on a potential package for early 1997. Certainly, however, proposals concerning foster care and adoption might emerge which could be discussed publicly in the coming months.

I will be convening a number of small group discussions starting with HHS personnel, progressing to a group of individuals from other departments such as Education, Justice, etc. which deal with the "fallout" from the systems' failures. I hope to then visit with Foundation officers where major, innovative projects have been carried out, as well as individuals in national organizations focusing on this issue. Finally I will also visit with individuals from local/state programs showing promise as well as representatives from those programs under siege and/or court order. All of these sessions will be information gathering in nature.

If you have individuals or organizations you feel I should contact please do let me know. I of course welcome the opportunity to visit with you at any time on this matter.

Thank you.