

Children 4 —

Violence

V-Chip

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1996

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today I want to talk with you about our families and our future -- a future of great possibilities and strong challenges, challenges we cannot meet with government alone, but we can't meet them by letting people fend for themselves, either; we have to go forward together.

In my State of the Union Address, I outlined our seven biggest challenges for the future, challenges we must meet if we are to make the American Dream available to all our people and unite our country around our shared values.

Those seven are strengthening our families and giving our children better childhoods, providing better education for all Americans, enhancing the security of working families through access to health care, lifetime education and training and secure pensions, fighting crime and gangs and drugs until crime is the exception -- not the rule -- in America again, protecting our environment, maintaining our world leadership for peace and freedom and continuing to reform and reinvent our government so that it does a better job at less cost in helping our people to make the most of their own lives, and solve our problems together.

Our first -- and in many ways our most important -- challenge is to strengthen our families and improve childhood for all of our children. Our children are shaped by many forces; first and foremost by their parents, but also by other relatives, schools, places of worship, their peers, their communities and the larger economic and social forces of our time.

If the first years of a child's life go right, with engaged, caring parents to love and encourage them, to teach them right from wrong, it can mean the difference between a lifetime of fulfillment and a lifetime of frustration and disappointment. It can also mean the difference between an American prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and an America that is not.

These days, most parents are working harder just to make ends meet; so it's an even greater challenge to spend the time, the energy, the concentration necessary to get children off to a good start. And it's a tougher job because our children are subject to so many outside forces that can undermine their growing up.

Sadly, too many of our children are growing up without parents. Others are abused or neglected by their parents. Others have parents who simply don't know how to be strong, positive forces, the kind of forces every child needs in his or her life. Too often, these parents become shadows on the outskirts of their children's lives.

We know that when parents are absent or abusive the results can be tragic. Recently in Chicago a five-year-old boy was held 14 stories above the pavement by a 10-year-old and an 11-year-old, and dropped to his death. The boys who did the killing were essentially

parent-less, with both fathers in prison. In New York, a 6-year-old girl was beaten and tortured to death by her own mother.

We know neglect can be bad, too, and not just in physical ways. Just this week, another national study confirmed the destructive impact on children of being permitted to watch excessive violence on television for hours and hours a day, year after year after year. Beyond that, we all know of the threats to our children outside the family. We must do a better job of dealing with these challenges.

The sad fact is that while the overall crime rate is going down, crime among juveniles is still going up. While the overall drug use is going down, drug use among our children is still going up. When we lose these children, we suffer terrible individual losses and more; we lose a piece of a shared future.

I know today's parents face tough challenges. This information and technology revolution in the new global economy we're experiencing is transforming the world to a degree seldom seen in history. Many of these changes are good; but, let's face it, many of them put extra tremendous stress on American's parents -- financial and otherwise.

That's why we've worked hard to help parents in building strong families and bright futures for their children with things like the Family and Medical Leave Act so parents won't have to sacrifice their jobs when there's a baby born or family emergencies, with investments in Head Start and immunization so our children get off to a healthy start, with the earned income tax credit, which this year will cut taxes for working families with incomes of less than \$27,000 so that no families with full-time workers and children will be in poverty, with record amounts of child support collected and with successful new efforts to make our streets and schools safer --100,000 more police, things like the Brady Law , which has now kept 40,000 criminals from getting handguns.

Just this week I signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which gives the parents the V-chip so they can take greater responsibility for their children's lives and help them to kick the degrading influence of excessive television violence and other inappropriate programming out of their house.

Now we're working hard to pass bipartisan legislation to prevent insurance companies from dropping people when they switch jobs or when their family members or they have preexisting health conditions. A sick child is enough weight on your shoulders without threatening the family's insurance. We're trying to pass welfare reform which supports both work and child rearing, and we ought to raise the minimum wage. No parent can raise a child on \$4.25 a hour, though millions are trying to do just that.

Government will continue to do its part. But governments don't raise children; parents do, and no program can every replace parents teaching their children right from wrong and helping them to grow into strong, self-confident citizens. We can give you the V-chip, but you have to use it. We can make dads send checks to support their children, but a check is no substitute for a parent's love and guidance.

We can continue to improve our schools, but what happens in the classroom depends in part on what happens at home, before and after school. We can pass laws to help families, but families must help themselves with parents respecting each other, keeping violence out of the home, challenging each other to work harder to stay together. Divorce may be easier than staying together for parents, but usually it's tougher for the kids.

So to every parent I say: Turn off the TV more. Get to know your child's teacher. Spend time together. Read and learn together. Above all, teach your child right from wrong. If parents do their job and the rest of us, including government, do our part, America's future will be assured because we work together.

The Bible asks: If your child asks for bread, would you give him a stone? If he asks for fish, would you give him a serpent? If he asks for an egg, would you give him a scorpion? Our children are what we give them, what we teach them. We dare not forget that basic truth. Their lives and our common future depend upon it. Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 1, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW STUDY TO EXAMINE  
THE MARKETING OF VIOLENT MEDIA TO CHILDREN

June 1, 1999

Today the President, as part of his continuing efforts to reduce youth violence, will announce that the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice will conduct a joint study of the marketing practices of entertainment industries to determine whether these industries are marketing to children violent and other material that is rated for adults. Also today, the President, joined by the First Lady, will challenge retailers to enforce age restrictions on adult-oriented media, so that inappropriate material is kept out of the hands of children.

**Helping Parents to Make the Right Choices for Their Children.** Numerous studies have shown that violent programming increases children's aggression toward others and desensitizes them to violence. If, and to the extent that, the video game, movie, and recording industries market to children violent and other materials that are rated for adults, they undermine current content-based ratings systems. This would also make it harder for parents to control the movies, music and games their children see, and would increase the likelihood of children being exposed to inappropriate materials. The study will examine: whether and how the video game, motion picture, and recording industries market to children violent and other material rated for adults; whether sectors of these industries advertise violent material rated for adults in media outlets in which children comprise a substantial percentage of the audience; whether they otherwise use marketing practices designed to attract children to violent material; whether these industries have adopted procedures restricting the sale of products rated for adults to children; and the extent to which these procedures are effective in ensuring that children do not have access to adult-oriented material.

**Challenging Entertainment Industry Distributors to Enforce Ratings.** A key to shielding children from exposure to excessively violent media is to halt their access to these products at the point of sale. Too many children can purchase or rent violent video games and films intended for adults from retailers who do not check identifications. In fact, according to a study conducted last year, only nine percent of retail stores that rent video games refused to rent to minors games that are rated as suitable only for adults. As part of an effort to address this issue, the Washington State Retail Association and the Interactive Digital Software Association are working together to create a point-of-sale system that will notify and remind clerks to ask for identification from buyers. Today, the President will challenge the nation's retailers today to follow the lead of those in Washington State and enforce the ratings systems when they sell or rent any adult-rated material to children.

**Advancing an Agenda to Address Youth Violence.** The President is launching a national campaign on youth violence to comprehensively address the causes. This effort will involve community and religious leaders, the gun and entertainment industries, educators, parents, and young people. As the President announced at last month's White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility, this campaign will be modeled on the highly successful Welfare to Work

Partnership and the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. The campaign will call on all sectors of society to take responsibility for reducing youth violence and will disseminate efforts that are working throughout the nation.

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**President and Mrs. Clinton's Remarks on Children, Violence and Marketing****THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary**

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For Immediate Release

June 1, 1999

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON  
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND MARKETING**

The Rose Garden

11:46 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Good morning, and please be seated, and thank you for joining us today in the Rose Garden as we continue a national conversation about how to address the problems of youth violence in our communities and schools.

I want to thank everyone for coming this morning, and I'd like to acknowledge Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Mayor Deedee Corradini, Mayor Timothy Kaine, and County Executives Wayne Curry and Charles Ruppertsburger. In addition to the Chairman of the FTC, whom you will hear from in a minute, Robert Pitofsky, we also have Commissioner Sheila Anthony and Commissioner Mozelle Thompson. I'm also pleased that Pamela Eakes, who led the very innovative group, Mothers Against Violence in America, has worked with us on this event as she has on past events that are also part of our efforts to try to create ways in which every American can take his or her part in doing whatever we can against youth violence.

As a nation, we've reacted to the shootings at Columbine High School like almost no other event I can remember in recent memory. It has literally pierced the heart of America. Yet, in my conversations with young people and parents over the past few weeks, I've heard less talk about people feeling helpless or hopeless and more about a growing consensus that finger-pointing doesn't lead to solutions and that we have to move forward together to take steps to end the violence, not only in our schools, but in our broader community. And that it is time -- some might say past time -- that we all play a role in making a positive difference in the lives of our children.

I want to thank the Attorney General and the Chair of the FTC for joining us today, as well as the many parents, educators, religious leaders, members of the media and students who are here as well. I'm pleased that we will be hearing from a 4th grader this morning who will tell us how he became part of the solution in his home state of Washington.

I think all of us recognize that there is no single answer or solution to the problem of violence in our society, but that we must move on many fronts -- from passing common-sense gun control efforts to helping parents understand better how to exercise authority over the media that their children are exposed to, and enabling more parents to spend more time with their own children.

We've come together to talk about some of the ways we can begin to reverse the culture of violence that is engulfing American children every day, particularly the role that the media plays in shaping the lives

and values of our children and young people.

In 1972, a Surgeon General report said, and I quote: "We know that children imitate and learn from everything they see -- parents, fellow children, school, the media. It would be extraordinary, indeed, if they did not imitate and learn from what they see on television."

The report went on to say that violence on television causes children either to mimic directly the actions they see or to act generally in a more aggressive way. Yet, today, more than 25 years after this report was written, our culture is even more saturated with TV programs, movies and songs that romanticize and glorify violence. What kind of values are we promoting when a child can walk into a store and find video games where you win based on how many people you can kill or how many places you can blow up.

We can no longer ignore the well-documented connection between violence in the media and the effects that it has on children's behavior. One study has found, for example, that if an actor is rewarded for violent behavior, children are more likely to imitate it. Another tells us that media violence has a particularly negative effect on children who already have a tendency toward aggressive or antisocial behavior.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, viewers of violence not only become desensitized and fearful, they begin to identify with an aggressive solution to their own personal problems. America's culture of violence is having a profound effect on our children, and we have to resolve to do all we can to change that culture.

One of the ways we can do that is to give parents the tools they need to control what their own children are exposed to. And we've already moved forward in that direction. Today's announcement is another important step in the fight against violence. We know there is a lot of work to be done. But I'm encouraged that so many leaders and citizens are coming together and talking honestly not only about the challenges we face, but what we have to do, together, to meet those challenges.

I'm particularly heartened that as a result of the meeting the President convened at the White House a few weeks ago, there was general agreement from a broad cross-section of Americans that we would launch a national grass roots campaign to prevent youth violence. We would model the campaign on successful national efforts like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which showed us that we can change the culture when enough people from all walks of life say enough is enough. So I look forward to seeing everyone working together on this new nationwide effort to prevent youth violence.

Now, I'd like to introduce someone who cares deeply about the future of our children and who has fought tirelessly to create safe schools and communities. Our Attorney General, Janet Reno. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: Give him another hand. He was great. Bravo. (Applause.) Thank you.

When I was listening to Arthur speak, I didn't know whether to offer him a job as a White House speechwriter -- (laughter) -- or just wait for the opportunity to vote for him someday. Let me say -- (applause) -- thank you very much. Thank you.

And we thank your mother for bringing you here, and congratulations. (Applause.) And Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, thank you; and Pam Eakes, founder of Mothers Against Violence in America, thank you.

I thank the Attorney General, and Chairman Pitofsky, for their remarks and their commitment. I thank Mayor Corradini, Mayor Kaine, County Executive Curry and County Executive Dutch Ruppersburger for the interest that our local government leaders have. I thank Representative Sheila Jackson Lee for her passionate commitment to this issue. And, all of you, welcome to the White House.



And most of all, I want to say again how much I appreciate Arthur Sawe for coming here, and for sharing a child's perspective. We have other children in this audience today, and we are really here about them, and their future.

As Hillary said, the tragedy at Littleton had a profound effect on America. It certainly had a profound effect on us, and on our family -- particularly after we had the chance to go to Colorado and visit with the families of the children who were killed, and many of the young children who are still grievously wounded -- and the kids at the school with them, who are hurting still, and the teachers.

I do think that what Hillary said is right: we sense a determination, not only in that community but throughout our country, not just to grieve about this, but to do something about it. The national grassroots campaign against violence against children is rooted in our faith that we can do better.

We know we can prevent more youth violence if we work together, across all the lines that divide us. We know we can do it if we're all willing to assume responsibility, and stop trying to assign blame. Of course, the responsibility begins at home. It must be reinforced and supported at schools and houses of worship in the community as a whole. Those of us in public service must also do our part. There is broad and growing consensus for us to do more.

Let me say I am also very grateful that the gun manufacturers came here last month and voiced their support for common-sense restrictions to make it more difficult for guns to get into the hands of children and criminals. I'm encouraged that the Senate acted to close the deadly gun show loophole, to require safety locks to be sold with every handgun, to ban the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips, and ban violent juveniles from owning guns as adults. I hope the House of Representatives will pass these common-sense measures as soon as they return from the Memorial Day recess. (Applause.) We have a lot to do this year, but this should be put at the top of the agenda, and not put on hold.

As you have already heard, members of the entertainment industry must also do their part. They, and the rest of us, cannot kid ourselves. Our children are being fed a dependable daily dose of violence -- and it sells. Now, 30 years of studies have shown that this desensitizes our children to violence, and to the consequences of it.

We now know that by the time the typical American child reaches the age of 18, he or she has seen 200,000 dramatized acts of violence, and 40,000 dramatized murders. Kids become attracted to it, and more numb to its consequences. As their exposure to violence grows, so, in some deeply troubling cases of particularly vulnerable children, does the taste for it. We should not be surprised that half the video games a typical seventh-grader plays are violent.

Anyone who doubts the impact of the cultural assault can look at what now, over 30 years, amounts to somewhere over 300 studies, all of whom show that there is a link between sustained exposure, hour after hour, day after day, week after week, year after year, to violent entertainment and violent behavior.

What the studies say, quite simply, is that the boundary between fantasy and reality violence, which is a clear line for most adults, can become very blurred for vulnerable children. Kids steeped in the culture of violence do become desensitized to it and more capable of committing it themselves.

That is why I have strongly urged people in the entertainment industry to consider the consequences of what they create and how they advertise it. One can value the First Amendment right to free speech and at the same time care for and act with restraint. Our administration has worked to give parents more tools to protect their kids, to block violent programming from entering their living room with the V-chip and the rating system. We've made progress on parental screening for Internet and ratings for Internet game sites.

Still, when violent entertainment made for adults is marketed to children, it undermines the rating system designed to protect them. And if you look at some of these ads, it's hard to argue with a straight face that the games were made for adults in the first place. Like the one Arthur mentioned.

Advertisements have a particular role here. They have the power to egg children on and lure them in. Every parent knows what response a commercial for sugar cereal or the latest Star Wars toy will get from their children. People advertise because it works. They want that product and, one way or the other, they're determined to get it. So we ought to think twice about the impact of ads for so-called "first person shooter video games," like the recent ad for a game that invites players to -- and I quote -- "get in touch with your gun-toting, cold-blooded murdering side."

I was given -- today, Arthur brought me the magazine with the ad that he mentioned, and he was kind enough to mark it for me. There really is a gun here. It says: More fun than shooting your neighbor's cat. I was given another ad that says: What kind of psycho drives a school bus into a war zone? And here's a school bus, heavily armed. This came out right after the incident in Springfield, Oregon.

Here's an ad that turns the argument I just made on its head: Psychiatrists say it's important to feel something when you kill. And then it goes on to say, you ought to get this technology because it bumps and you feel it. It says: Every sensation, every vibration, every mutilation, nine programmable weapons buttons. Customizable feedback software. Push the stick that pushes back and feel your pain. And here's one that's the most unbelievable of all. It says: Kill your friends guilt-free.

Now, obviously, Arthur has the inner strength and the good upbringing to reject that kind of violent appeal. Most of our children do. But not all of our children do. We cannot be surprised when this kind of thing has an impact on our most vulnerable children. Is it 100 percent to blame? No. It's easier to get guns in this society. Parents on average spend 22 hours a week less with their children than they did 30 years ago because of the demands of work and commuting, the busyness of daily life.

But when you put it all together, there are bound to be explosive negative consequences. That's why today I am asking the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to study the extent to which the video game, music and movie markets do actually market violence to children, and whether those industries are abiding by their own voluntary systems of regulations.

To any company that sells violent products, I say, children are more than consumers. I understand nobody made anybody buy any of this stuff. But every day, a responsible society declines to do some things for short-term gain that it can do. And that is what we have to think about. These children are our future, our most precious resource. Raising them is any society's most important job.

Don't make young people want what your own rating systems say they shouldn't have. I might say again, as has already been acknowledged, they shouldn't have. I might say again, as has already been acknowledged, many, many people in the entertainment industry have worked with us on this -- on the ratings system, on the V-chip, on the screening technology for the Internet.

I noticed one network executive, a few days ago, actually cancelled a program because its violent content was inappropriate, and I applaud that. But I also read with concern the news that some of the new programming coming up for this fall on some networks will be even more violent than last year's. The time has come to show some restraint, even if it has a short-term impact on the bottom line.

I also want to challenge the owners of movie theaters and video stores, distributors -- anyone at any point of sale -- enforce the rating systems on the products that you sell. Check the IDs, draw the line. If underage children are buying violent video games or getting into R-rated movies, the rating system should be enforced to put a stop to it. (Applause.)

And if, as many of us suspect, there is still too much gratuitous violence in PG-13-rated movies, the rating systems themselves should be re-evaluated.

I want to thank Senators Brownback, Lieberman, Hatch and Kohl, for the bipartisan work they have done on this issue. Again, I want to commend State Representative Mary Lou Dickerson from Washington, who read about young Arthur, helped to create a task force on video game violence, and thanks to her work with Pam and the Mothers Against Violence in America and the Washington Retailers' Association -- who are all represented here today -- video game retailers in Washington state

now voluntarily sign a pledge to parents, committing themselves to check IDs and block sales of violent games to minors. That's something that ought to happen in every state in the United States of America. (Applause.)

Again I say, we can do something about this. It will take a grass roots campaign. It will take everybody doing his or her part. This is a problem we face together, a problem America can solve together. There is no more urgent task for our future.

You were all looking at this young man speaking today, thinking, what a wonderful thing that a person that young could speak so clearly, so confidently, about things that are so right. You look around at the other young people here today who are involved in this effort in some way or another, and you thank God that we have this legacy of children.

A lot of those kids that haven't made it through all these school violence incidents were just as good, just as fine, had just as much to give the world. We've got to quit fooling around with this. We've got a chance. Our hearts are open, our ears are open, are heads are thinking.

I know this stuff sells. But that doesn't make it right.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

12:16 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 10, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON THE EQUAL PAY ACT

Room 450  
Old Executive Office Building

3:29 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. We gather here to recognize and reaffirm the historic commitment of this nation to equal opportunity.

Before I get into my remarks, I hope you will understand if I don't let the moment pass without making a brief comment about the shocking and outrageous murder of James Byrd, Jr., in Jasper, Texas. Federal law enforcement officials are on the ground there, assisting local law enforcement officials. Because it's an ongoing investigation can't comment on the facts of the case, but I can tell you this. We are determined that the investigation will be thorough, will be fair, and that the guilty will be brought to justice.

I ask for your thoughts and your prayers to be with the family of Mr. Byrd today, and with the people of that community, because in the face of this tragedy, they must join together across racial lines to demonstrate that an act of evil like this is not what this country is all about. I think we've all been touched by it. I can only imagine that virtually everyone who lives there is in agony at this moment. But they must reaffirm -- and so must we -- that we will not tolerate this.

Now, let me just say, I've had a wonderful time here today, and everything that needs to be said has been said. (Laughter.) I thank Hillary and Al and Tipper. We care a lot about these issues. We spent hours in 1992 -- hours -- talking about how we had to change the framework of American life so that people could succeed at work and at home; how we had to make it possible for everyone who was able-bodied to work, but how the most important work of any society was taking good care of our children. And we went through this whole long litany of things -- of which unequal pay is clearly a big one -- that are barriers to building strong families, strong communities, and the strongest possible economy.

I thank Senator Kennedy, Senator Boxer, and Congresswoman DeLauro, and Delegate Norton, and all the members of the House who are here -- and my special friend, Dorothy Height, for a lifetime of commitment to all this.

I'm here because, like Rosa DeLauro, I'm the son of a working mother, I had a working grandmother, I have a hard working wife, and we have done everything we could to make sure that our daughter never faced any barriers to her dreams. That's what I want for every American young person.

Although, I must say -- you remember when Senator Kennedy said that he talked about how much we'd closed the inequality gap in the last three

or four years and if that pace of progress had been kept for the last 35 years, then women would be earning \$1.71 for every dollar of men. And that's about the ratio of my earnings and Hillary's before I became President. (Laughter and applause.) And I liked it quite well. (Laughter.) First thing you know, the people that don't agree with us on anything will be accusing me of some strategy to make men lazy. (Laughter.)

We have indeed come a long way since Dorothy Height and Congresswoman Edna Kelly and others were here 35 years ago. President Kennedy said that the Equal Pay Act was basic to democracy, giving women the same rights in the workplace they have enjoyed at the polling place. You've already heard that we have moved in that 35 years from a period when, on average, women earned 58 cents for every dollar men earned, to a report released by the Council of Economic Advisors -- and Dr. Yellen is here -- saying that women now earn more than 75 cents on the dollar. But that's just three-quarters of the way home.

And to people who think it isn't very much, I ask you if you had the choice, would you rather have 100 cents on the dollar or 75, you would think it was quite a lot after you had taken a few of those 75-cent dollars.

Here's something that's interesting that no one else has pointed out. The CEA study shows that the gender gap is persistent, though narrowing, despite women's gains in education and experience, and even accounting for the difficulties of balancing family and work so that there are more women in part time jobs. When you take account of every conceivable variable explainable by something other than plain old discrimination in equal pay for equal work, there is still this 25 percent gap.

And the Labor Department today -- and I thank Deputy Secretary Higgins for being here -- is releasing a report which shows a history of women's employment. It shows what the obstacles were, which ones have faded away, which ones still remain. To those of you who have been involved in this for a long time, I urge you to look at the Council of Economic Advisors report and the Labor Department report, and I think you will be persuaded that there is no explanation for the gap that is complete without acknowledging the continued existence of discrimination.

Now, this should not be a partisan political issue. In a funny way, it shouldn't even be a gender issue. More fundamentally, it is a civil rights issue; more fundamentally than that, it is a family issue -- or I can testify that young boys eat at the table where the bread is earned by their mothers as well. And it is a matter of American principle. It's a question of what kind of America we want our children and our grandchildren to live in in the 21st century.

That's why I strongly support the Equal Pay Act that Senator Daschle and Congresswoman DeLauro introduced. Wage discrimination based on gender is just as wrong as wage discrimination based on race or any other artificial category.

This legislation will help us to close the last part of the gap. It will strengthen enforcement of the Equal Pay Act. It will toughen penalties for violations. And it will boost compensation for working women. It is tough, it is fair. Congress should pass it. And I join Congresswoman DeLauro in asking that it be scheduled for a vote. Let's give everybody in Congress the chance to vote on something good and the chance to do something good for the people back home. (Applause.)

We're coming up on the first anniversary of the President's Initiative on Race, so I've been thinking a lot about what it means to

have a society with equal opportunity, where people are bound together celebrating their differences, but understanding there are things we have in common that are more fundamental.

There have been a lot of people who have written some interesting books and some that I didn't quite agree with over the last several years, talking about the inherent differences between men and women -- Venus, Mars, Uranus, Pluto, whatever -- (laughter) -- and others on a more -- with a more political overtone. But I believe that whatever your views on that are, surely all of us believe that the citizenship we share is unitary, and that the guarantees of the Constitution are sweeping enough to embrace us all without regard to our gender. Therefore, it is ludicrous to say that 75 percent equality is enough.

You wouldn't tolerate getting to vote in three out of every four elections. (Laughter.) You wouldn't like it if someone said you could only pick up three out of every four paychecks. But that is, in effect, what we have said to the women of America. Show up every month, show up every day -- show up every day -- but only three out of four paydays. It's not good enough.

The 21st century, as I have been pounding the podium about for the last five and a half years, will be the time of greatest opportunity in all human history, especially for our country. We cannot let it be known also for the opportunities that were lost and the people who were left behind. With your help, we will prevail.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:37 P.M. EDT

Accomps / Stats

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## Clinton Administration Accomplishments for Supporting Women and Families

### PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

#### *Supporting Women and Families*

##### *Expanding Economic Opportunity*

**Moving From Record Deficits to Record Surplus.** In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. In 2000, we have a projected budget surplus of \$167 billion -- the largest dollar surplus on record (even after adjusting for inflation) and the largest as a share of our economy since 1951. This is the first time we have had three surpluses in a row in more than a half century.

**Tax Cuts for Working Families.** 15 million additional working families received additional tax relief because of the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. In 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people out of poverty - double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. This year, the President proposed expanding the EITC to provide tax relief to an additional 6.8 million hard-pressed working families.

**Helping Parents Balance Work and Family.** The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Since its enactment, millions of Americans have benefited from FMLA, and the President has expanded leave options for Federal employees. President Clinton has called for extending this benefit to 12 million more working families and expanding the law to allow workers to take leave for family obligations such as doctors appointments and parent-teacher conferences. Additionally, in his FY 2001 budget, the President is proposing new grants to enable states and regions to develop innovative paid leave options for working parents.

**Fighting for Fair Pay.** The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to ensure fair pay for women and close the wage gap. The average woman who works full-time now earns about 75 cents for each dollar that an average man earns. The President and Vice President have called on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. This year, the President has proposed a \$27 million initiative to help the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission and the Labor Department fight wage discrimination.

**Increased the Minimum Wage.** The minimum wage has risen from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, increasing wages for six million women. The President and Vice President have called for an additional increase to \$6.15.

**Highest Homeownership Rate in History.** There are 7.8 million new homeowners since the President took office. Women's homeownership has increased 14% with 1.9 million new women homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.

**Providing Incentives to Save.** President Clinton signed legislation creating Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low-income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, a key part of his 1992 community empowerment agenda. In FY 1999, \$10 million was awarded to establish savings accounts for over 10,000 low-income workers in 40 communities, and an additional \$10 million will be awarded in FY 2000. The President's budget provides \$25 million for IDAs in FY 2001 and proposes to allow low-income working families to use IDAs to save for a car that will allow them to get or keep a job.

**Increasing Pension Security.** President Clinton proposed and signed the Retirement Protection Act of 1994, protecting the benefits of more than 40 million American workers and retirees. The President also signed the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provided a tax credit to small business that adopt pension plans; created a simplified and better defined contribution plan for small businesses; and



promoted portability.

**Saving Social Security.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have coupled fiscal discipline with a commitment to preserve and protect Social Security. President Clinton has proposed extending the program's solvency to 2050 by paying down the national debt and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security. This would be a down payment on truly saving Social Security. President Clinton has also called for a bipartisan effort to save Social Security for 75 years. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the life of the Social Security trust fund has been extended until 2037.

**Social Security Reform Critical to Women.** Women live an average of six years longer than men, and because they live longer they become increasingly dependent on Social Security benefits as they age. Women represent 60 percent of all Social Security recipients at age 65, and by age 85, 71 percent of recipients are women. Social Security provides 90 percent of income for 41 percent of all older women; 25 percent have no other source of income. The poverty rate among elderly women is twice the poverty rate among seniors as a whole. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to reforming Social Security in a manner that will ensure fairness and reduce the poverty rate of single elderly women.

**Tripled the Number of Small Business Loans to Women Entrepreneurs.** Between FY 1992 and FY 1999 the SBA approved nearly 73,000 loans, amounting to more than \$11 billion, to women entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In FY 1999 alone, the Small Business Administration granted 10,244 loans, worth \$1.85 billion, to women small business owners, triple the number of loans granted in 1992; in FY 2000 to date the SBA has approved 3,612 loans worth \$711 million dollars. [as of 2/00]

**Women Are Starting Businesses at Twice the Rate of All Businesses.** Women own nearly 40 percent of all firms in the United States, and the number of women-owned small businesses have grown by 103 percent since 1987. These nine million women-owned firms employ more than 27.5 million employees and contribute \$3.6 trillion to the economy. The Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership is working to foster this growth.

**Expanded Small Business Opportunities for Women.** The Clinton-Gore Administration won \$9 million in FY 2000 for Women's Business Centers, which provide resources to foster increased entrepreneurship among women. In his FY 2001 budget, President Clinton has proposed to expand the Women's Business Center network budget to \$12 million, an increase of 33 percent. Today this network includes more than 80 women's business centers, including an Online Women's Business Center. Of those, 59 centers are currently funded by SBA grants; 22 have graduated from funding and are operating independently.

**Highest Median Family Income in History.** Since the President launched his economic plan in 1993, median family income is the highest it has ever been. The typical family's income is up over \$5,000. In 1998, median household income is up 3.5 percent to a new high of \$38,885.

**Creating New Tools to Help Families Move from Welfare to Work.** Since enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law, millions of families have moved from welfare to work. With the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and low-income non-custodial fathers into jobs. To fully implement this initiative, the President's FY 2001 budget allows grantees an additional two years to spend Welfare-to-Work funds. It also proposes \$255 million for Fathers Work/Families Win grants to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families. The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to hire long-term welfare recipients. The President's Access to Jobs initiative helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work, and this year the President is proposing \$150 million for this initiative, double last year's level. President Clinton has secured 110,000 new housing vouchers in the last two years to help welfare recipients and hard-pressed working families move closer to job opportunities, and this year he is proposing \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers.

**Nearly Doubled Child Support Collections.** President Clinton signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history. Federal and state child support programs broke new records in 1999, collecting \$15.5 billion -- nearly double the amount collected in 1992. The number of paternities established rose to nearly 1.5 million in 1998 - more than triple the number from 516,000 in 1992. The number of child support cases with collections rose 59 percent, from 2.8 million 1992 to 4.5 million in 1998.

**Signed the Landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act.** Americans with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work, forcing a choice between health care and employment. The Work Incentives Improvement Act keeps people with disabilities from losing their Medicare or Medicaid health coverage when they go to work. It also includes a \$250 million demonstration, which the President insisted on fully funding, that allows people with disabilities who are still working and are not yet sufficiently disabled to qualify for Medicaid to buy into the program.

### *Caring For Our Children*

**Largest Five-Year Drop in Child Poverty Rate Since the '60s.** Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, child poverty has declined from 22.7 percent in 1993 to 18.9 percent in 1998 -- the biggest five-year drop in nearly 30 years.

**Fought For and Won \$500 Child Tax Credit for 27 Million Families with 45 Million Children under Age 17.** Twelve million children from families with income below \$30,000 will receive the child tax credit as a result of the President's efforts.

**Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).** President Clinton won over \$4 billion for nutrition assistance to millions of women, infants, and children through the WIC program, an increase of \$108 million over FY 1999. The additional funds will allow the program to provide a monthly package of nourishing supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to 7.3 million low-income women, infants and children who are at nutritional risk -- 1.4 million more people than in 1993. Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth.

**Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families.** President Clinton created the President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies. The Clinton-Gore Administration has implemented a new science-based inspection system -- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points -- and reduced the prevalence of salmonella in raw meat and poultry by as much as 50 percent. The Administration formed national computer network of public health laboratories, called PulseNet, to help rapidly identify and stop outbreaks of foodborne illness by performing DNA "fingerprinting" on foodborne pathogens. The President signed the Food Quality Protection Act, which included special safeguards for kids and strengthened laws governing pesticides and food safety. The Administration also issued new rules to prevent foodborne illness caused by pathogens such as E. coli.

**Held First-Ever White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning and the White House Conference on Child Care.** In April 1997, the President and First Lady held the White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning to highlight the benefits of early nurturing by parents. And in October 1997, the White House Conference on Child Care began a dialogue on the child care challenges facing parents today -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.

**Improved Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care.** Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, federal funding for child care has more than doubled, helping parents pay for the care of about 1.5 million children in 1998. And the 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years to provide child care assistance to families moving from welfare to work.

**Signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act.** The Adoption and Safe Families Act, which was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton-Gore Administration's Adoption 2002 report, made sweeping changes in adoption law so that thousands of children in foster care move more quickly into

safe and permanent homes. In 1998, 36,000 children in foster care were adopted, up from 28,000 in 1996. This is the first significant increase in adoption since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

**Using the Internet to Increase Adoptions.** In November 1998 the President directed the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to link children in foster care more quickly with possible adoptive families. HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001 to break down geographic barriers to adoption.

**Enacted the Foster Care Independence Act.** Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. The Foster Care Independence Act will ensure that those young people will get the tools they need to make the most of their lives by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other services.

**Raised Child Immunization Rates to All Time High.** Childhood immunization coverage rates in 1998 were the highest ever recorded. 90 percent of toddlers in 1996, 1997 and 1998 received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines, surpassing the President's 1993 goal.

**Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965.** The five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) will provide health care coverage for up to five million children. Two million children have already been enrolled, and in October 1999 President Clinton announced new outreach initiatives to enroll millions more uninsured, eligible children. Last year, the President launched a nationwide "Insure Kids Now" campaign that will bring together major TV and radio networks, healthcare organizations, religious groups and other community-based organizations to help enroll more children in the Children's Health Insurance Program, with the goal of enrolling 5 million of the estimated 10 million children eligible for health insurance under CHIP within 5 years. This year, the budget includes several of Vice President Gore's proposals to accelerate enrollment of children in CHIP. The President is also proposing a new FamilyCare program, which would give States the option to cover parents in the same plan as their children.

**Issued Regulation that Drug Companies Provide Adequate Testing for Children.** President Clinton directed an important Food and Drug Administration regulation requiring manufacturers to do studies on pediatric populations for new prescription drugs -- and those currently on the market -- to ensure that prescription drugs have been adequately tested for the unique needs of children.

**Breaking the Cycle of Dependency.** The teen birth rate has fallen seven years in a row, by 18 percent from 1991 to 1998. The teen pregnancy rate is now the lowest rate on record.

**Standing Up to the Tobacco Industry.** The President and Vice President developed and implemented the first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco, including: proposing to hold the tobacco industry accountable by charging the tobacco industry an assessment for every underage smoker and increasing the price of cigarettes by 25 cents a pack; urging Congress to grant FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products, prohibit advertising aimed at children and curb minors' access to tobacco products; pursuing the suit filed against the tobacco industry by the Justice Department to recover the federal costs of smoking-related illnesses; advocating that states use tobacco settlement money for tobacco prevention and control; and helping people to quit by proposing a smoking cessation program for Medicaid.

### ***Investing in Education***

**Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years.** Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, President Clinton enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

**Providing Early Education to Nearly 900,000 Children with Head Start.** The President and Vice President have expanded Head Start funding by 90 percent since 1993. Head Start will reach

approximately 880,000 low-income children in FY 2000 and, with the President's proposed increase for the program, will be on the way to reaching the President's goal of serving one million children and their families by the year 2002. The Administration also created Early Head Start, bringing Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three, and set high quality standards for both programs.

**More High-Quality Teachers with Smaller Class Sizes.** The Clinton-Gore Administration won a second installment of \$1.3 billion for the President's plan to hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, when children learn to read and master the basic skills. Already, 29,000 teachers have been hired through this initiative. This year's budget provides \$1.75 billion, a \$450 million increase -- enough to fund nearly 49,000 teachers.

**Turning Around Failing Schools.** 13 million low-income students now benefit from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards through Title I-Aid to Disadvantaged Students. The FY 2000 budget provides a \$134 million accountability fund to help turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results through such measures as overhauling curriculum, improving staffing, or even closing schools and reopening them as charter schools. This year, the President is proposing to double funding for this fund to turn around the nation's failing schools to ensure all children receive a quality education.

**Protecting Title IX.** The Clinton-Gore Administration firmly supports and enforces Title IX, which has enabled young women to participate fully in high school and college athletics. When Title IX was passed more than 25 years ago, only 300,000 girls participated in high school sports. In 1999, well over two million participated.

**Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade.** The President challenged Americans to unite to be sure that every child can read well and independently by the third grade. In response to his America Reads challenge, more than 1,100 colleges have committed Work Study students to tutor children in reading, and more than two million children have been taught, tutored or mentored by national service programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Foster Grandparents. In addition, colleges and universities that participate in the Federal work-study program must include at least one tutoring or family literacy project as part of its community service activities, giving priority to the employment of work-study students as reading tutors in schools participating in reading reform efforts. Grants are awarded through the Reading Excellence Act to high-poverty schools to improve the teaching and learning of reading.

**Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public Schools.** The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to expand public school choice and support the growth of public charter schools, which have increased from one public charter school in the nation when the President was first elected to more than 1,600 as of September 1999. More than 250,000 students nationwide are now enrolled in charter schools in 30 states and the District of Columbia. The President won \$145 million in FY 2000 -- and has proposed \$175 million in his FY01 budget -- to continue working toward his goal of establishing 3,000 quality charter schools by 2002.

**Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore created and expanded GEAR-UP, a nationwide mentoring initiative, to help over 750,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college. GEAR-UP will expand mentoring efforts by states and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare over 750,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college. The President's FY 2001 budget would expand services to 1.4 million students with a 63 percent increase.

**Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for 850,000 Students Each Year.** The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program will provide enriching after-school and summer school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities in FY 2000. Extended learning time has not only been shown to increase achievement in reading and math, but to decrease youth violence and drug use. Funding for this program more than doubled from FY 1999 to FY 2000. For FY 2001, the President's budget calls on Congress to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Program

and to ensure that all children in failing schools have access to quality after-school and summer school opportunities. This proposal will double funding and nearly triple the number of students served to 2.5 million.

**Expanding Access to Technology.** With the Vice President's leadership, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made increasing access to technology a top priority. The President and Vice President created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. They increased overall investments in educational technology from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY 2000, and tripled funding for Community Technology Centers to reach at least 120 low-income communities. Through the E-rate program, they secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, benefiting more than 80 percent of America's public schools. They also increased investment in education research to ensure all children benefit from educational technology. In 1999, 95 percent of public schools were connected to the Internet -- up from just 35 percent in 1994.

**Paying for College Through Community Service.** In just five years, AmeriCorps has allowed 150,000 young people to serve in their communities while earning money for college or skills training.

**Opening the Doors of College to All Americans.** In 1997, President Clinton proposed and passed the HOPE Scholarships and Lifetime Learning tax credits to provide tax relief to nearly 13 million Americans each year who are struggling to pay for college. The Hope Scholarship helps make the first two years of college universally available to about 5.6 million students annually by providing a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for tuition and fees for the first two years of college. The Lifetime Learning tax credit provides a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees for students beyond the first two years of college, or those taking classes part-time (in 2003, this increases to \$10,000 of tuition and fees). In his FY 2001 budget, the President has proposed to expand the Lifetime Learning tax credit with a 10-year, \$30 billion College Opportunity tax cut, which will give families the option of taking a tax deduction or claiming a 28 percent credit for the first \$5,000 of college tuition and fees until 2002, and \$10,000 thereafter.

**Expanding Work Study and Pell Grants.** One million students will be able to work their way through college because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program, and nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,300, the largest maximum award ever. The maximum award has increased 43 percent under the Clinton-Gore Administration. This year President Clinton proposed a \$77 million increase in Work Study to continue to support one million awards, and a \$200 increase in the Pell Grant maximum award, to raise it to \$3,500.

### *Improving Our Nation's Health*

**Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting 22 Million American Women Enrollees.** In the 1997 Balanced Budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration protected, modernized and extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care. New preventive benefits passed include coverage of annual mammograms, cervical cancer screening, and tests to help detect osteoporosis. The President proposed a plan to reform and modernize Medicare's benefits, including an optional prescription drug benefit that is affordable and available to all beneficiaries. The President has also proposed a reserve fund to help Medicare beneficiaries with extremely high prescription drug costs. In March 1999, the Medicare Trustees reported that the life of the Medicare Trust Fund has been extended until 2023. In 1993, Medicare was expected to run out of money in 1999.

**Increased Funding for Breast Cancer Research.** Since President Clinton and Vice President took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has more than doubled. This year, the Administration's budget will provide \$27 million in funding -- a 56 percent increase -- to learn more about environmental causes of diseases like breast cancer. In addition, the President has implemented the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure the quality of mammograms. Women can now find a

certified mammography facility by calling 1-800-4-CANCER.

**Created Office of Cancer Survivorship.** President Clinton unveiled the new Office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute. The Office will support research covering the range of issues facing survivors of cancer.

**Providing Protection with the Patients' Bill of Rights.** The President and Vice President have called on Congress to pass Federally enforceable consumer health care protections that include: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists including direct access to an OB-GYN; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to ensure that patients' care will not abruptly change if their provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process for consumers to resolve their differences with their health plans; a limit on financial incentives to doctors to limit care and assurances that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options. Women are particularly vulnerable without these health care protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs that are directly addressed by a patients' bill of rights. Leading by example, the President directed all federal agencies to ensure that their employees and beneficiaries have the benefits and rights guaranteed under the proposed Patients' Bill of Rights.

**Preventing Discrimination Based on Genetic Information Both by Health Plans and Employers.** The Clinton-Gore Administration has urged Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to prohibit health plans from inappropriately using genetic screening information to deny coverage, set premiums, or to distribute confidential information. The President also has supported legislation that ensures that employers do not use genetic information to discriminate against employees. President Clinton signed an executive order banning the use of genetic information in federal hiring and promotion actions and strengthening privacy protections of federal employees' genetic information.

**Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform.** The President signed into law the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which helps individuals keep health insurance when they change jobs, guarantees renewability of coverage, and ensures access to health insurance for small businesses. As many as 25 million people will benefit from this law. The bill also eliminated the discriminatory tax treatment of the approximately 10 million Americans who are self-employed; strengthened efforts to combat health care fraud, waste and abuse by creating a stable source of funding; and provided consumer protections and tax incentives for private long-term care insurance.

**Released Strong New Protections for the Privacy of Electronic Medical Records.** The Clinton-Gore Administration released a new regulation to protect the privacy of electronic medical records held by health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers. This rule would limit the use and release of private health information without consent; restrict the disclosure of protected health information to the minimum amount of information necessary; establish new requirements for disclosure of information to researchers and others seeking access to health records; and establish new administrative and criminal sanctions for the improper use or disclosure of private information.

**Endorsed Legislation That Would Ban Drive-Through Mastectomies.** President Clinton endorsed the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, which would allow women to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours following a mastectomy.

**Ended Drive-Through Deliveries.** President Clinton proposed and signed into law legislation requiring insurers to cover at least 48 hours of a post-natal hospital stay (72 hours for a Cesarean).

### ***Promoting Reproductive Health Services for Women***

**Expanding Family Planning Services.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have taken strong steps to promote safe reproductive health services for women. They won a nearly \$25 million increase for Title X family planning, the largest increase since 1993, bringing the program to almost \$240 million in FY 2000. This year, the President's budget includes a \$274 million investment -- a 15 percent increase

-- to prevent unintended pregnancy and ensure access to safe, high quality family planning services. This investment will help fund clinics and community-based health services that reach more than 5 million women and families. In 1998 and 1999, the Clinton-Gore Administration successfully defeated parental consent restrictions on contraceptive services for minors.

**Provided Contraceptive Coverage to More than a Million Women.** The FY 1999 and FY 2000 budgets require the 300 Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans (FEHBP) to cover contraceptive drugs and devices, providing coverage to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age.

**Protected FDA's Role in Testing RU-486.** In 1993, President Clinton reversed the ban on the importation of Mifepristone or RU-486. In 1998 and 1999, the President and Vice President successfully fought for removal of a provision that would prohibit the FDA from testing, developing or approving RU-486, thereby usurping the Agency's role in making scientific determinations about the effect of drugs on the safety and health of the American people.

**Signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.** President Clinton signed into law the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, establishing a safety-zone around women's health clinics. Throughout the Administration, the President and Vice President have worked hard to protect a woman's right to choose.

**Reversed the "Gag Rule."** President Clinton reversed the "Gag Rule," which limited the information federally funded family planning clinics could give to women.

### ***Making Our Communities Safer***

**Lowest Crime Rate in 25 Years.** Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, America has experienced the longest continuous drop in crime on record. The violent crime rate fell 7 percent in 1998 and 27 percent since 1993. The murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point since 1967. The overall crime rate is the lowest in 25 years. The rate of forcible rape is down 12 percent since 1994.

**Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets.** In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration met its commitment to fund an additional 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase community policing in high-crime and underserved neighborhoods. To help keep crime at record lows, the President won funding for the first installment toward his goal to hire up to 50,000 more officers by 2005. This year, the Clinton-Gore budget includes over \$1 billion to continue the successful COPS initiative to hire more officers, hire new community prosecutors, give police the tools they need to fight crime, and to fund community-wide crime fighting efforts.

**More than 500,000 Felons, Fugitives and Domestic Abusers Denied Guns.** Since the President signed the Brady Bill into law, more than 500,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers have been prevented from purchasing guns. And the historic 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, keeping assault weapons off our streets. The homicide rate dropped 7 percent in 1998 - almost entirely due to a decrease in homicides committed with guns. Since 1993, there has been a more than 35 percent drop in gun-related crime and a 57 percent decrease in juvenile gun homicide offenders.

**Held the First-Ever White House Conference on School Safety.** On October 15, 1998, the President hosted the White House Conference on School Safety. The participants explored solutions to this national challenge: how do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school in America.

**National Campaign Against Youth Violence.** In August 1999, President Clinton announced the formation of an independent, national campaign to address the problem of youth violence. The Campaign plans to launch anti-violence activities including a major media campaign, concerts, town hall meetings, in- and after-school programs. The Campaign will also highlight effective youth violence

initiatives in cities across the country.

**New Tools in the Fight Against Domestic Violence.** President Clinton championed and signed into law the Violence Against Women Act, bolstering local law enforcement, prosecution, and victims' services to better address these crimes. The Clinton-Gore Administration more than quadrupled funding to domestic violence shelters and signed the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act, making it a Federal crime to cross state lines intending to injure or harass another person. And the Administration established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.

**Protecting Children from Sex Offenders.** President Clinton signed Megan's Law and the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, requiring states to set up sex offender registration systems and require community notification when sex offenders are released from prison.

### *Fighting for Equal Opportunity*

**Appointed More Women Than Any Other President.** Women make up 44 percent of Clinton Administration appointees, and 29 percent of the positions requiring Senate confirmation are held by women. Additionally, 30 percent of the President's judicial nominees are women, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman in history to serve on the Supreme Court.

**Appointed the First Women Ever to Serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno; and Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.** Other women who serve in the Clinton Cabinet include Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the Small Business Association; Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative and Janice LaChance, Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

**Working to Expand Civil Rights Enforcement.** In FY 2000, the President won a six percent increase in funding for federal civil rights enforcement agencies including \$82 million for the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, a 19 percent increase. And this year, President Clinton has proposed \$698 million for civil rights enforcement -- a 13 percent increase -- to prosecute criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct), enforce the American with Disabilities Act, pursue Equal Employment Opportunity Commission employment actions and prevent housing discrimination, and other civil rights enforcement efforts.

**Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs.** The President 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 educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit African Americans, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

4/00

A Nation Transformed

Progress By the Numbers

Supporting African Americans



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## **Working Families**

### **Helping Americans Balance Work and Family**

#### **Tax Cuts for Working Families**

- 15 million additional working families receive additional tax relief because of the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- In 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people out of poverty -- double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993.
- Middle income Americans -- and the bottom 60 percent of families as a whole -- have a lower effective Federal tax rate today than in any year of the Reagan Administration, and the lowest rate since data was first recorded in 1977.

[source: Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98; Treasury Department; Congressional Budget Office]

#### **Helping Parents Balance Work and Family**

- The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for seriously ill family members, new born or adoptive children, or their own serious health problems without fear of losing their jobs. Nearly 91 million workers (71% of the labor force) are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act and millions of workers have benefited from FMLA since its enactment.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration developed and implemented first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco and end tobacco marketing targeted to young people.
- President Clinton fought for the installation of V-chips in all new televisions, giving parents more control over what their children watch on television.

[source: Five Years of Success: Report on FMLA, Department of Labor, 8/98 (updated 7/99); Presidential Statement, 8/23/96; FCC Report No. GN 98-3, 3/12/98]

#### **Largest Five-Year Drop in Child Poverty Rate Since the '60s**

- Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, child poverty has declined from 22.7 percent in 1993 to 18.9 percent in 1998 -- the biggest five-year drop in nearly 30 years.
- The poverty rate for African-American children has fallen from 46.1 percent in 1993 to 36.7 percent in 1998 -- a level that is still too high, but is the lowest level on record and the biggest five-year drop on record.

[source: Poverty In the United States: 1998, Census Bureau, 9/30/99]

#### **Increased the Minimum Wage**

- The minimum wage has risen from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, increasing wages for 10 million workers.
- The President and Vice President have proposed an additional increase to \$6.15.

[source: Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

#### **Signed the Landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act**

- The Work Incentives Improvement Act keeps people with disabilities from losing their Medicare or Medicaid health coverage when they go to work.
- The new law also includes a \$250 million demonstration, which the President insisted on fully funding, that allows people with disabilities who are still working and are not yet sufficiently disabled to qualify for Medicaid to buy into the program.

[source: White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/17/99]

### **Working to Increase Adoption**

- President Clinton signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton-Gore Administration's Adoption 2002 report, and made sweeping changes in adoption law so that thousands of children in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.
- Thirty-six thousand foster care children were adopted in fiscal year 1998, an increase from 31,000 in 1997 and 28,000 in 1996. This is the first significant increase in adoption since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago. These numbers indicate that we are on the way to meeting the President's goal of doubling the number of children adopted from foster care by the year 2002.
- President Clinton signed the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation will help ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives.

[source: Dept. of Health & Human Services, 12/31/99]

### **Creating New Community Service Opportunities**

- In just five years, AmeriCorps has allowed 150,000 young people to serve in their communities while earning money for college or skills training.

[source: Corporation for National Service Press Release, 10/16/99]

### **Building One America**

- Established the President's Initiative on Race to lead the nation towards becoming One America in the 21st Century.
- Won significant budget increases in funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.
- Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and White House staff in history.

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## Background on 1999 SOTU:

### Giving Greater Tax Relief for Child Care to Three Million Working Families

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides tax relief to taxpayers who pay for the care of a child under 13 or a disabled dependent or spouse in order to work. The credit is equal to a percentage of the taxpayer's employment-related expenditures for child or dependent care, with the amount of the credit depending on the taxpayer's income. The President's proposal increases the credit for families earning under \$60,000, providing an additional average tax cut of \$354 for these families and eliminating income tax liability for almost all families with incomes below 200% of poverty (\$35,000 for a family of four) that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. The President's budget will include \$5 billion over five years to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for nearly three million working families paying for child care. The President's plan also includes a new tax credit to businesses that provide child care services for their employees.

### Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home

The President believes that we should support parents in whatever choice they make for the care of their children. He therefore is proposing to enable parents who stay at home with children under one year old to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. The President's budget proposal will provide an average tax credit of \$178, at a cost of \$1.3 billion over five years, which will benefit 1.7 million families.

### FMLA Expansion

The President is proposing again to extend the benefits of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law -- to ten million more American workers. Today, workers are eligible for up to 12 weeks of FMLA-protected leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse -- if they work at a business with 50 or more employees. By covering workers in businesses with 25 or more workers, 10 million more American workers will be covered by the FMLA. The President is also calling for expanding the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers to take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet

specified family obligations. Leave could be taken to: (1) participate in school activities, such as parent-teacher conferences; (2) accompany one's child to routine dental or medical appointments; and (3) accompany an elderly relative to routine medical appointments or other professional services.

### Prohibiting Discrimination Against Parents

The President proposed new federal legislation to protect parents from discrimination in the workplace. Building on laws in Alaska, Michigan, New Jersey and other states, this legislation would protect workers from unfair assumptions about their commitment to their job that can affect hiring, advancement, and other employment decisions. This law would not prohibit employers from making hiring and promotion decisions on the basis of job performance, but would ensure that workers are not unfairly discriminated against simply because they are parents.

## **DPC Children and Families Team**

### **Clinton Administration Major Accomplishments**

1. **Family and Medical Leave Act** – bill signed 2/5/93, since bill signing over 20,000 workers have benefited from FMLA (should have better number in November)
2. **Raised awareness about the need for Paid Leave and Provided Tools to States to use their Unemployment Compensation System to provide Paid leave to new parents**
  - Proposed in Grambling University Speech (6/99)
  - Baby-UI Rule announced 11/30/99
  - Budget proposal made to provide funding to states to explore paid leave options 2/12/2000
  - Baby UI Rule finalized 6/10/2000
3. **Passed the Violence Against Women Act** (8/24/94) and reauthorized it (10/11/00) – hundreds of thousands of battered and abused women benefit from these services
4. **Improved access, affordability and quality of child care**
  - President announced Child Care initiative (SOTU 1/98)
  - More than doubled funding for child care subsidies
  - Nearly doubled funding for Head Start (will be more than doubled after this budget)
  - Passed an Early Learning fund to improve quality of child care (still working on this piece)
5. **Provided afterschool opportunities for over 2 million children**
  - Passed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (part of Improving America's Schools Act – passed 10/20/94)
  - Increased funding from \$1 million to \$1 billion (not done yet)
6. **Dramatically increased the number of children adopted from foster care and increased support for children transitioning from foster care to adult independence**
  - Passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act (11/19/97)
  - Passed the Foster Care Independence Act 12/14/99
7. **Improved Reproductive rights**
  - Reproductive rights
  - 5 key actions on 1/22/93 (reversed gag rule, repealed Mexico City policy, lifted ban on importation of RU-486 (leading the way for FDA approval), lifted ban on federal funding of fetal tissue research, and lifted ban on abortions at overseas military hospitals)
  - Contraceptive coverage for federal employees (FY 1999)
  - Signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) (5/26/94)

Historic increases in family planning
8. **Provided tools to parents to monitor the media to which their children are exposed**
  - Passed legislation to require all new televisions to include a V-Chip
  - Worked with television industry to create television rating system (7/96)
  - Called on FCC to enforce 3-hour rule to require all television broadcasters to provide 3 hours of educational programming for children (7/96)
  - Challenged entertainment industry to provide one-stop information for parents on the various media rating systems – [parentalresource.org](http://parentalresource.org) website designed and announced (6/00)

- Commissioned FTC report on Media Violence (6/99 and released on 9/11/00)

**9. Worked to End Parental Discrimination in the Federal Workplace**

- First announced: SOTU 1999
- EO 5/2/2000

**10. Helped Hundreds of Thousands of Americans Serve their Communities**

- Signed National Service Trust Act of 1993 which created the Corporation for National Service and established Americorps.
- Enabled over 200,000 since 1994 serve their communities through building public housing, offering disaster relief, and providing social and environmental support in exchange for education awards that can be used to pay back student loans or for current educational experiences.
- Helped ensure literacy though thousands of college students volunteering for the America Reads program.



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Families & Communities

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## Families and Communities

### **Families and Communities: Strengthening America's Working Families**

**Tax Cuts for Working Families.** 15 million additional working families received additional tax relief because of the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. In 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people out of poverty – double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. This year, the President proposed expanding the EITC to provide tax relief to an additional 6.8 million hard-pressed working families. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98; Treasury Department]

**Helping Parents Balance Work and Family.** The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for seriously ill family members, new born or adoptive children, or their own serious health problems without fear of losing their jobs. Nearly 91 million workers (71% of the labor force) are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act and millions of workers have benefited from FMLA since its enactment. President Clinton has proposed expanding FMLA to allow workers to take up to 24 unpaid hours off each year for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical care, and caring for an elderly relative. [Five Years of Success: Report on FMLA, Department of Labor, 8/98 (updated number provided 7/99)]

**Improved Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care and Early Childhood Programs.** Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, federal funding for child care has more than doubled, helping parents pay for the care of about 1.5 million children in 1998, and the 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years to provide child care assistance to families moving from welfare to work. Since 1993, the Clinton-Gore Administration has increased funding for the Head Start program by 90 percent, and in FY 2000, the program will serve approximately 880,000 children – over 160,000 more children than in 1993.

**Increased the Minimum Wage.** The minimum wage has risen from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, increasing wages for 10 million workers. The President and Vice President have called for an additional increase to \$6.15. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

**Enacted the Workforce Investment Act.** The Workforce Investment Act reformed the nation's employment and training system so that it works better for today's workers. The WIA empowered individuals by giving adults more control and choice over their training or retraining and providing universal access to core labor market services; streamlined job training services by consolidating a tangle of individual programs into a simple system and creating a nationwide network of One-Stop Career Centers; enhanced accountability through tough performance standards for states, localities, and training providers; and increased flexibility so that states can innovate and experiment with new ways to train America's workers better. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 8/7/98]

**Signed the Landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act.** Americans with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work, forcing a choice between health care and employment. The Work Incentives Improvement Act keeps people with disabilities from losing their Medicare or Medicaid health coverage when they go to work. It also includes a \$250 million demonstration, which the President insisted on fully funding, that allows people with disabilities who are still working and are not yet sufficiently disabled to qualify for Medicaid to buy into the program. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/17/99]

**Signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act.** The Adoption and Safe Families Act, which was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton-Gore Administration's Adoption 2002 report, made sweeping changes in adoption law so that thousands of children in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes. In 1998, 36,000 children in foster care were adopted, up from 28,000 in 1996. This is the first significant increase in adoption since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/19/97]

**Enacted the Foster Care Independence Act.** Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. The Foster Care Independence Act will ensure that those young people will get the tools they need to make the most of their lives by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other services. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 12/14/99]

**Putting Families First.** The President and Vice President developed and implemented first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco and end tobacco marketing targeted to young people. They also required the installation of V-chips in all new televisions, and encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to deter school violence and promote discipline. [Presidential Statement, 8/23/96; FCC Report No. GN 98-3, 3/12/98; Presidential Memorandum, 2/23/96]

**Supporting Community Service.** In just five years, AmeriCorps has allowed 150,000 young people to serve in their communities while earning money for college or skills training. [Corporation for National Service Press Release, 10/16/99]

**President's One America Initiative.** President Clinton has led the nation in an effort to become One America: a place where we respect others' differences and embrace the common values that unite us. The President has been actively involved in public outreach efforts to engage Americans in this historic effort, and followed up on the work of the Initiative on Race by appointing Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the new White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America. The office is working to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country, and build the One America we want for all of our nation's children. The President's FY 2001 budget includes \$5 million for One America dialogues to promote and facilitate discussions on racial diversity and understanding. President Clinton has appointed the most diverse Cabinet and White House staff in history, presiding over an Administration that looks like America. [White House Fact Sheet, 6/12/97; The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 2/5/99]

**Welcoming New Americans.** Since 1993, the United States has welcomed 4.4 million new American citizens. Faced with this unprecedented number of applications, the Administration undertook an initiative that has significantly reduced the backlog of citizenship applications and is restoring timely processing. Furthermore, the Administration's *English as a Second Language/Civics Education Initiative* will provide limited English speaking adults with instruction in both English literacy and critical life skills necessary for effective citizenship and civic participation.

**Providing Fairness for Legal Immigrants.** The President believes that legal immigrants should have the same economic opportunity and bear the same responsibility as other members of society. In 1997 and 1998, the President fought for and succeeded in restoring disability, health and nutritional benefits for certain legal immigrants, and he will continue to press for additional restorations.

## Accomplishments by Issue

### Crime and Drugs

### Economy

### Education

### Environment

### **Families and Communities**

### Foreign Policy