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White House Conference on AIDS, Washington, D.C. 12-6-95 [2]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The Clinton Administration and HIV/AIDS

In 1992, when he ran for President of the United States, Bill Clinton said he would "provide the leadership this country needs for a loud, clear, and consistent war on AIDS." In his first three years in office, the President has translated that pledge into action, turning around more than a decade of governmental policies that were regarded as at best apathetic and at worst hostile to those living with HIV/AIDS. Following are the highlights of the Administration's HIV/AIDS-related actions taken since January 20, 1993.

AIDS Advisory Council. The President has created a 30-member Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to provide him and his Administration with expert outside advice on the ways in which the Federal government should respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Specifically, the Council is charged with making recommendations in the areas of AIDS-related research, prevention, and care.

AIDS Funding. The President has placed AIDS programs among his investment priorities. In the three budgets he has submitted to the Congress, the President has increased total government funding for AIDS research, prevention, and care by 40%, including a 108% increase for the Ryan White CARE Act programs.

Anti-Discrimination. The Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have vigorously enforced provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act that prohibit discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. The EEOC has received more than 900 charges alleging employment discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS and has resolved 789 charges, obtaining monetary benefits of over \$6.1 million. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has taken action on nearly 20 complaints of denial of care by health care facilities or providers to persons with HIV/AIDS and new efforts are being made to address discrimination in nursing homes.

Blood Safety. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held ground-breaking public meetings on the use of new technologies to reduce the risk of HIV transmission by blood product transfusion. The Administration has received the Institute of Medicine report examining the issues surrounding transmission of HIV throughout the blood supply before 1987. The Department of Health and Human Services has named the Assistant Secretary for Health to be the Department's blood safety director, with overall responsibility for ensuring the IOM's recommendations are carried out and the coordination and oversight of the Public Health Service's blood safety programs.

Consumer Protection. The FDA is working with community organizations to prevent fraudulent activities aimed at people living with HIV disease. To date, 10 FDA-funded coalitions throughout the country -- including representatives from the community, health professionals, and law enforcement agencies -- have been established to educate and protect people with HIV and AIDS from fraudulent products.

Data Gathering. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is supporting three major efforts directed at gathering and analyzing services provided to persons with HIV disease. The "AIDS Cost and Services Utilization Survey," the "HIV Cost and Services Utilization Survey," and the "Hospital Cost and Utilization Project," will provide an important data base on the cost of AIDS care and the use of health care services by people living with HIV.

Dental Care. The AIDS dental reimbursement program was expanded to address the lack of dental care available to low-income and under-insured individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The program, which reimburses accredited dental schools and post-doctoral dental training programs for uncompensated costs incurred in providing oral health care to HIV-positive individuals, includes 124 institutions in 35 states.

Disability Eligibility. The Social Security Administration published revised regulations expanding the list of health manifestations that will be considered in determining eligibility due to HIV/AIDS for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits. The agency also revised its rules to allow physicians and other health professionals to provide information to Social Security field offices, which then can make immediate disability findings.

Drug Approval. The FDA has approved or provided new labelling indications for fifteen new products to treat HIV or HIV-related conditions while dramatically reducing the time it takes for drug review and approval.

Drug Development. HHS created the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, an historic partnership between government, industry, academia, medicine, and AIDS-affected community organizations to identify and eliminate barriers to the rapid development of drugs for HIV and HIV-related conditions. The Task Force has issued 45 specific recommendations, many of which are currently being implemented.

Early Intervention. The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research issued clinical practice guidelines for health care professionals to assist in the evaluation and management of early HIV infection. The guidelines stress the importance of prevention of HIV-related opportunistic infections and the link between prevention and early diagnosis and care. A quick reference guide for physicians and consumer guides for adults, adolescents, and the parents of children with HIV infection was also made available. The U.S. Public Health Service provided support for a new campaign by the National Minority AIDS Council to promote the use of prophylactic treatment to prevent the occurrence of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in people with HIV.

Health Benefits. Federal medical assistance programs serve nearly 50% of people living with AIDS and more than 90% of children with AIDS. Medicaid is the largest single payer of direct medical services, paying an estimated 25% of the aggregate cost of AIDS-related care. Under Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act, 18 states operate health insurance continuation programs that allow low-income people with HIV to continue their private health insurance.

Home Care. AIDS-specific Medicaid home care waivers are in place in 15 states, allowing States to provide targeted home and community-based services to people with HIV/AIDS. In 1995, those programs will serve at least 21,170 individuals. HHS also is developing prototype waivers to help other States gain quick approval of future waiver applications.

Housing. In the last two years, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program has provided \$300 million to communities with a high incidence of HIV infection to provide housing assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. HUD also has established the National Office of HIV/AIDS Housing to assist low-income people with HIV/AIDS to pay for housing. President Clinton cited the proposal to cut \$30 million from HOPWA as one of the reasons for his veto of the fiscal year 1995 rescissions bill.

International Cooperation. The U.S. is actively cultivating international cooperation in HIV/AIDS prevention and care through participation in the United Nations' new Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS. Representatives of the U.S. participated in the Tenth International HIV/AIDS Conference in Yokohama, Japan, and the World AIDS Summit in Paris and is participating in regional conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa. The U.S. Agency for International Development sponsored the Third HIV/AIDS Prevention Conference in Washington DC, which allowed for an exchange of information among diverse prevention and care groups from around the world and resulted in an agenda of effective prevention measures to be pursued worldwide. Through USAID, the U.S. is the largest bilateral donor in international assistance for prevention HIV/AIDS transmission, providing more than \$120 million annually.

Mental Health. HHS awarded the first Federal grants to develop mental health services for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners. Approximately 260,000 mental health counseling sessions for people with HIV were reported during the last six months of 1994. Approximately 100,000 individuals with HIV also received mental health services under the Ryan White CARE Act.

Minority Communities. The Public Health Service convened the National Congress on the State of HIV in Racial and Ethnic Communities, bringing together individuals and organizations to develop plans to alter the course of HIV in those communities. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) added four new sites to its AIDS Clinical Trials Group at institutions that serve predominantly minority populations.

Perinatal Transmission. An NIH-sponsored clinical trial (ACTG 076) provided strong evidence that use of AZT by HIV-positive pregnant women dramatically reduced the rate of HIV transmission from mother to infant. The FDA expeditiously approved changes in labelling indications for AZT to include treatment of HIV-infected pregnant women. The U.S. Public Health Service issued guidelines in August 1994 on using AZT during pregnancy to reduce the risk of perinatal HIV transmission. In July 1995, CDC published PHS recommendations for routine HIV counseling and voluntary HIV testing for all pregnant women in the U.S.

Widespread implementation of these recommendations will enable women to seek and receive the care they need for themselves and to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to their infants by as much as two-thirds.

Policy Coordination. To provide a central focus for governmental efforts against HIV/AIDS, the President created the Office of National AIDS Policy within the White House, to advise him on AIDS policy issues and coordinate interdepartmental activities. An Interdepartmental Task Force on HIV/AIDS, chaired by National AIDS Policy Director Patricia Fleming, was created to assist in that effort.

Prevention. CDC has initiated a comprehensive community planning process for HIV prevention programs, placing control of such programs in the hands of local community organizations rather than having them dictated by the Federal government. CDC also initiated an unprecedented review of government-funded HIV/AIDS prevention activities conducted by panels of individuals from outside of the government. In January 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched the Prevention Marketing Initiative aimed at young adults (ages 18-25) to change behaviors that contribute to the transmission of HIV. The initiative features production of frank, forward-thinking public service announcements promoting both abstinence and the consistent and correct use of latex condoms.

Research Organization. The President signed the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, placing full responsibility for planning, budgeting, and evaluation of the AIDS research program at NIH in the Office of AIDS Research. Dr. William Paul, an internationally acclaimed immunologist, was appointed to head that office and has developed the first comprehensive plan and budget for AIDS research.

Ryan White CARE Act. In the three budgets he has sent to Congress, the President has increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act by 108%, fulfilling the President's promise to fully fund that program. During the last two years, the number of metropolitan areas eligible for assistance under Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act has increased from 25 to 49. Preliminary data indicate that approximately 360,000 clients were served under Title I of the Act. Eighty percent of U.S. metropolitan areas report providing new or expanded Ryan White services to people living with HIV, including HIV/AIDS drug assistance; services for women, children, and other special needs populations; and expanded rural services. All 54 states and territories are currently funded under Ryan White Title II, serving an estimated 296,000 clients with those funds. Title III(b), which pays for counseling, testing, and early intervention services, including treatment, served more than 175,000 clients, including a large number of women and minorities. Currently, 144 community-based organizations, located in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, are supported with Title III(b) funds. Title IV develops comprehensive coordinated care systems linked to clinical research in more than 80 communities, meeting the unique needs of children, youth, women, and families. Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act is a top priority for the Administration in 1995.

Treatment. The NIH Preclinical AIDS Drug Screening Program has screened 72,000 potential agents for treatment of HIV disease and approved six compounds for Phase I clinical trials. NIH clinical trials involve more than 45,000 HIV-infected individuals. Several promising HIV protease inhibitors and potent combination drug regimens are slated to begin Phase III efficacy trials in the near future. Thousands of other HIV-positive individuals are receiving promising investigational therapies through clinical trials and various expanded access programs.

Vaccines. The NIH has significantly expanded its basic research efforts to design new approaches to developing AIDS vaccines. It is now evaluating 14 vaccine candidates to identify those that might be appropriate for efficacy trials. The Department of Defense is also developing and testing several candidate HIV vaccines to protect U.S. military personnel.

Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides care to nearly 17,000 veterans with HIV-related diseases. The VA operates four specialized AIDS Clinical Units in New York City, Miami, West Los Angeles, and San Francisco medical centers. AIDS research is conducted at 85 medical centers, comprising over 800 individual research projects. Specialized AIDS Research Centers dedicated to conducting HIV research are located in New York City; Durham, NC; San Diego CA; and Atlanta. VA AIDS research is funded by about \$6 million in VA research funds and over \$24 million in extramural grants. VA also maintains a national AIDS data base to track the epidemic within the veterans' population.

Water Safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency issued guidance for vulnerable populations recommending steps to purify drinking water to protect against *Cryptosporidium*, which can be fatal to those with compromised immune systems. These agencies have also conducted research and outreach about threats of water-borne diseases to such individuals through funding and hosting several workshops and training programs.

Women and AIDS. The NIH created a Women's Interagency HIV Study to identify the nature and rate of HIV disease progression in women. NIH requires that women and members of minority groups be included in all NIH supported biomedical and behavioral research involving human subjects. NIH has initiated a major research effort to develop female-controlled barrier methods, including vaginal compounds, to prevent HIV transmission.

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To: George, Don, Terry

From: Dick Morris

Re: AIDS speech

I think that the current draft of a speech to the AIDS conference does not go far enough in a number of areas of vital concern to the AIDS community.

I suggest the following language be included:

ONE -- AIDS is not somebody else's problem. AIDS is a problem for all of us. As fathers and mothers, we must recognize that AIDS is our problem. As husbands and wives, it is our problem. As human beings, each of us must stand up and say "AIDS is my problem and I will do whatever I can to fight this deadly killer. We must break through the shame, guilt, fear, and silence that surrounds the disease. The unreasonable social stigma stops communication and support between families and friends, between doctors and patients, between children and their parents, between teachers and their students, between clergy and their congregation. We must have honest, direct dialogue and discussion about AIDS in our homes, in our places of worship and in our doctor's offices. This dialogue must contain our personal commitment of care and responsibility that is so important to self esteem and a healthy family and community. I stand up before you today as President and affirm that AIDS is America's problem, it our society's problem, our government's problem, and, as President I am making it my problem. *it is my*

OK
mitz

TWO -- We must be direct and explicit in explaining to people how to avoid becoming HIV positive. In explaining the need for abstinence and in explaining the ways of ensuring safer sex, we must not mince words. We must be clear and we must be direct. Lives are at stake. I will direct all government agencies to follow these guidelines to be clear and to be direct in warning people about this disease and in educating them about how to avoid it.

X

THREE -- I will not permit care for people with AIDS and HIV to be compromised or dismantled by Congress in its efforts to cut the medicaid program. We must fight and we must protect the right, the absolute right, of any AIDS patient to the best care we can give. The best care we know of. I will battle as hard as I can to stop any proposal for block grants from whittling away this basic guarantee of care. Its not an AIDS issue, its a human values issue.

OK

(We should not issue a specific veto commitment to a final deal, but should make entitlements for AIDS a key priority and a key area of our battle)

FOUR -- We are the nation that landed a man on the moon. We are the nation that leads the world. We are the inspiration of humanity. We are a can do country. America must make one of its central national priorities, commanding its resources and its energies the battle to cure AIDS. If it can be done this year, if it can be done next year, if it can be done before the end of the decade, I will make sure it will be done. ...Therefore I am asking VP Gore..

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Pop

I want to lay out
what my plan

FIVE -- Our basic sense of compassion must guide us in our immigration policy. Where family members of Americans live abroad with AIDS, we must do our utmost to waive whatever regulations stand in the way of reuniting families in their crucial time of need. We must suspend deportation when it would mean sending people to countries where their illness cannot and will not be treated with compassion and care. We must do all we can to sensitize the INS and the other agencies of our government to the special problems of people living with AIDS. X

SIX -- I battled hard to fight for housing for people with AIDS by preserving HOPWA -- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS. I want to assure that HUD's newly created National HIV/AIDS office of Housing has the authority to intervene at the local level to stop discrimination against people living with AIDS and to continue to provide housing opportunities. X

SEVEN -- for close --

AIDS is the compassion issue of our decade. It is the test of our ability to overcome stigmas and heal the sick in the way that Jesus would have done. It is the test of our willingness to speak up for our fellow men and fellow women and provide help and love and caring. It is a test that neither I nor my country will fail. X

- Jeremy Ben-Ami -

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 6, 1995**

[Acknowledgements: Patsy Fleming; Secretary Shalala; Secretary Cisneros; Drug Czar Lee Brown; Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell; Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke; Scott Hitt; distinguished guests.]

Let me first welcome each of you to this historic, first-ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. I welcome you and I thank you, not only for your participation here today but for the work you do every day to improve the lives of the people of our nation and around the world.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Hitt and the members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS for their work on this critical issue and for suggesting that we convene this meeting.

And I want to express my appreciation to the two extraordinary Americans who have just shared the stories of their lives with all of us. It is the passion, the commitment, and, yes, the anger of people like Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman that remind us all of the extraordinary courage it takes to hold on to hope as we continue to even the odds in this struggle.

Their stories also remind us that AIDS is not somebody else's problem. AIDS is a problem for all of us. As human beings, each of us must stand up and say, "AIDS is my problem and I will do whatever I can to fight this deadly killer."

We must break through the shame, guilt, fear and silence that surrounds this disease. The unreasonable social stigma stops communication and support between families and friends, between doctors and patients, between children and their parents, between teachers and their students, between clergy and their congregations. We must talk honestly and openly about AIDS in our homes, in our places of worship and in our doctor's offices. We must make a personal commitment of care and responsibility. I stand before you today as President and affirm that AIDS is America's problem. And as President, I'm here to tell you it is my problem too.

My daughter and her friends are growing up in the shadow of something most of us in this room could never have imagined in our own childhoods. They are coming of age in a world where AIDS is a very stark reality.

That reality has already changed the lives of all of us and millions of people around the world. It has taken from us too many friends and too many loved ones much too soon. It has

shaken our faith in the future. But it has also brought us together and inspired a community spirit that strengthens our values as a nation.

It is our responsibility to rise to this challenge and change the future for ourselves, for our children, and for our grandchildren. We can do this. In fact, we must do this.

Twelve days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that our nation has reached another sad milestone in the AIDS epidemic. Half a million Americans have now been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women, and children have already died of the disease.

As we meet today, 120 more Americans will lose their lives to AIDS, another 160 people will be diagnosed with the disease and nearly 140 people in this country will become infected with HIV. And that will happen again tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that. It will continue to happen until we succeed in our efforts to defeat this epidemic.

That is why this meeting is so important. It is an opportunity for us to re-focus and re-energize our national commitment to ending this epidemic. It is a time to rally our troops for the fight ahead, and arm them with the weapons they need to win this battle. You and I have some important work to do.

We have a common goal -- a cure for all those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect everyone from this deadly virus. Let's be very clear on that. A cure and a vaccine are our number one priority.

We can and we will conquer this disease. We are the nation that landed a man on the moon. In my own lifetime, we have eliminated smallpox from our planet. We have eliminated polio from our hemisphere. And we are within striking distance of controlling measles. We are a can-do country. Now, we must -- we must -- find a way to rid our planet of the threat of HIV. It if can be done next year, if it can be done before the end of the decade, I will make sure it will be done.

Today, I want to share with you our comprehensive battle plan in the fight against AIDS. It encompasses five critical areas: research, treatment and services, prevention, human rights, and our global commitment.

We all know that a commitment to research is critical in this effort. When I ran for President I promised a "Manhattan Project" in the search for a cure. I said that I would do everything in my power to pull together the necessary resources, coordination and leadership to win this battle. While such an

effort won't be complete until we do find a cure, we are keeping that promise.

We have increased funding for AIDS research by more than 20 percent. We have dramatically strengthened the Office of AIDS Research, making one person responsible for all AIDS research at NIH. Let me be clear: I will oppose any effort to dismantle or weaken the Office of AIDS Research.

This investment in science has already paid tremendous dividends. Today, people with AIDS live twice as long as they did just ten years ago, especially those who seek early treatment. AIDS-related conditions that often meant a quick and many times painful death for people living with HIV can now be treated and even prevented.

And, we have reason to believe that there will be more progress in the near future. New classes of AIDS drugs are being approved in record time for use by the FDA that will help to restore the damaged immune systems of people with HIV. Combination drug therapies are showing great promise as a means for controlling the virus in the human body.

Just last year we were able to show that the use of drug therapy could actually block HIV transmission from mother to child. Our scientists tell me that it is within our grasp to virtually eliminate pediatric AIDS by the end of this decade. This is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. It can be accomplished by offering all pregnant women HIV counseling and testing, and guaranteeing that they have access to the treatment they need to protect their unborn children. If we do this, we can have a generation of Americans born without HIV. We can do this -- and we will.

These advances have resulted in longer and fuller lives for people living with HIV, but are they enough? Absolutely not! We must do more.

That's why today, I am announcing three steps that I believe will move the search for a cure forward at a faster pace.

First, I am asking the Vice President to convene a meeting of scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and microbicides that can protect people from HIV and the infections it causes. There are no guarantees in science, but the collective will of government and industry can overcome huge obstacles.

Second, let me say that I am pleased with our achievement at NIH where Dr. William Paul has done extraordinary work coordinating, for the first time, the research effort within NIH. Now I want

to extend this effort government-wide. That's why I am asking Patsy Fleming to convene an interdepartmental working group, chaired by Dr. Paul, to develop a coordinated plan for AIDS research across every department of government, including a coordinated research budget. I will expect their report within 90 days.

Third, I want to make clear my personal commitment to make every feasible effort to find a cure and an effective vaccine. We can't afford to miss any new opportunities. We can't afford any unnecessary delays. No President can promise success in such an effort but I can promise that I will do everything I can to remove any obstacles that prevent the scientists from accomplishing this goal.

In addition to our work in research, we must continue to do everything we can to assure that those who are living with HIV and AIDS get the treatment and the care they need.

For people with AIDS, the current discussions over a balanced federal budget are not some distant political debate. Let me talk for a few minutes about a subject that is very important to me -- the future of Medicaid.

For people with AIDS, Medicaid is a lifeline of support. Medicaid provides health care for nearly half of the 190,000 Americans who are living with AIDS including 90 percent of the children. It provides access to doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and home care that allows people with HIV and AIDS to live their lives more fully. Medicaid pays for the drugs that keep HIV under control for longer and longer periods of time. And it pays for the drugs that prevent the infections that often end the lives of those with AIDS. Medicaid pays for the care that makes it possible for families to stay together.

Yet today, Medicaid is under attack by the Republican leaders in Congress who want to slash its spending and eliminate the thirty-year common ground commitment we have made to the poor, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

I will not permit care for people with AIDS and HIV to be compromised or dismantled by those in Congress who are determined to cut the Medicaid program. We must fight and we must protect the right, the absolute right, of any AIDS patient to get the best care we can give. I will battle as hard as I can to stop any proposal for block grants from destroying this basic guarantee of care. It is not an AIDS issue, it is a human values issue.

Medicaid cannot do the job alone. That's why we created the Ryan White CARE Act to plug the holes in our health care system that

left many people with HIV and AIDS out in the cold. More than 360,000 Americans have received care under the Ryan White Act.

In the three budgets I have submitted to Congress, funding for the CARE Act has increased by 108 percent. The number of cities receiving funds has more than doubled and every state in the country receives critically needed assistance.

The CARE Act must be extended for another five years. Both houses of Congress have approved legislation to accomplish this but final legislation remains stalled. That's why I sent a letter last Friday, World AIDS Day, to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, asking them to make every effort to get me a final bill by the end of this month so that I can sign it, and we can get on with the work ahead.

I am also fighting for the FY '96 funding increases that I have requested for the CARE Act as well as housing programs for people with AIDS and our AIDS prevention programs at CDC. Prevention is the third critical component of our plan.

I am concerned by the continued rate of new infections in this country. In the 1980s, we made important progress in reducing the number of new infections by nearly 50 percent. But for the last five years, the estimated number of infections has hovered between 40,000 and 60,000 per year. We also know that one quarter of those infections occur among people under the age of 22. Any new infection is an unnecessary infection. AIDS prevention must be a high priority. Let us set a goal today of reducing the number of new infections in the United States each and every year until there are no new infections.

We must start by taking personal responsibility to inform ourselves and protect ourselves against HIV infection.

Until we have a cure and a vaccine, education and prevention are our best hope. For prevention to work it must be targeted and it must be sustained. We saw that at work in the gay community in the 1980s, when activists overcame the inertia of their government to protect their lives.

We must pay particular attention to two populations who are at the center of this epidemic -- young people and those who abuse drugs. I was pleased to see the new public service announcements released last week by Secretary Shalala. They point young people toward the tools they need to protect themselves.

We also need to recognize that substance abuse treatment is a form of HIV prevention. We must ensure that those who are receiving drug treatment also receive AIDS prevention services at the same time. We have increased the amount of federal resources dedicated to drug treatment in this country and I am working to

convince the Congress to approve our requests for money to bring that total even higher.

I have also asked the CDC to convene a meeting of state and local health officials and their counterparts on substance abuse to develop an action plan to assure the integration of HIV prevention and substance abuse prevention.

Research, treatment and prevention are all important. But, there is another aspect of this epidemic that requires just as much attention. I'm talking about our commitment to protect the basic human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The stories of AIDS related discrimination break the hearts of all Americans of conscience.

Five years ago, our nation took a huge step forward toward a more just society when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. It offers more than 40 million Americans who are living with physical or mental disabilities -- including those who are living with HIV and AIDS -- protection against discrimination.

The Justice Department, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services have been vigorously enforcing the A.D.A. And we are about to launch a new effort to ensure that health care facilities are providing equal access to people with HIV or AIDS.

We must continue to examine our societal attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and others for whom the fear of AIDS becomes a convenient excuse for discrimination. We cannot let our fear outweigh our common sense or our compassion. If we do, all of us will lose.

As I have said before, we must remember that people with AIDS, and those who are living with HIV, are part of our American family. Whether they are gay or lesbian or straight, black, white, Native American, Latino or Asian American, they are our sons and daughters; our brothers and sisters; our aunts and uncles; our mothers and fathers; our grandmothers and grandfathers. They are Americans one and all. They need our compassion. They deserve our respect.

Finally, let me say that the fight against AIDS is international in scope. HIV knows no geographic boundaries. It is found on every continent and virtually every country. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 18 million men, women, and children are living with HIV around the world. The United States is and will remain a full partner in the international effort to fight this pandemic.

As a world leader, we have a moral and a national responsibility to help developing nations with prevention programs, medical

care, and other vital services. We also have much to learn from them. And when we do find the cure and the vaccine that we seek, it will not only be a victory for America, it will be a victory for the world.

When this country was in the throes of another sickness that threatened to tear us apart -- the sickness of slavery -- Frederick Douglas, the great American abolitionist, wrote:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire. It is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened. The conscience of the nation must be roused. The propriety of the nation must be startled."

Each of you has been the thunder and the lightening. Each of you is helping to awaken the conscience of our nation. Our challenge is to draw more of our citizens into our circle of hope. Together, I am certain, we can change our future for the better.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HIV AND AIDS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 6, 1995**

[Acknowledgements: Patsy Fleming; Secretary Shalala; Secretary Cisneros; Drug Czar Lee Brown; Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell; Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke; Scott Hitt; distinguished guests.]

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I'd also like to thank Dr. Hitt and the members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS for their work on this critical issue and for suggesting that we convene this meeting.

And I want to express my appreciation to the two extraordinary Americans who have just shared the stories of their lives with all of us. It is the passion, the commitment, and, yes, the anger of people like Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman that remind us all of the extraordinary courage it takes to hold on to hope as we continue to even the odds in this struggle.

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We must break through the shame, guilt, fear and silence that surrounds this disease. The unreasonable social stigma stops communication and support between families and friends, between doctors and patients, between children and their parents, between teachers and their students, between clergy and their congregations.

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That reality has already changed the lives of all of us and millions of people around the world. It has taken from us too many friends and too many loved ones much too soon. It has shaken our faith in the future. But it has also brought us together and inspired a community spirit that strengthens our values as a nation.

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You and I have some important work to do.

We have a common goal -- a cure for all those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect everyone from this deadly virus. Let's be very clear on that. A cure and a vaccine are our number one priority.

We can and we will conquer this disease. We are the nation that landed a man on the moon.

In my own lifetime, we have eliminated smallpox from our planet. We have eliminated polio from our hemisphere. And we are within striking distance of controlling measles. We are a can do country. Now, we must -- we must -- find a way to rid our planet of the threat of HIV. It if can be done next year, if it can be done before the end of the decade, I will make sure it will be done.

Today, I want to share with you our comprehensive battle plan in the fight against AIDS. It encompasses five critical areas: research, treatment and services, prevention, human rights, and our global commitment.

We all know that a commitment to research is critical in this effort. When I ran for President I promised a "Manhattan Project" in the search for a cure. I said that I would do everything in my power to pull together the necessary resources, coordination and leadership to win this battle. While such an effort won't be complete until we do find a cure, we are keeping that promise.

We have increased funding for AIDS research by more than 20 percent. We have dramatically strengthened the Office of AIDS Research, making one person responsible for all AIDS research at NIH. Let me be clear: I will oppose any effort to dismantle or weaken the Office of AIDS Research.

This investment in science has already paid tremendous dividends. Today, people with AIDS live twice as long as they did just ten years ago, especially those who seek early treatment. AIDS-related conditions that often meant a quick and many times painful death for people living with HIV can now be treated and even prevented.

And, we have reason to believe that there will be more progress in the near future. New classes of AIDS drugs are being approved in record time for use by the FDA that will help to restore the damaged immune systems of people with HIV. Combination drug therapies are showing great promise as a means for controlling the virus in the human body.

Just last year we were able to show that the use of drug therapy could actually block HIV transmission from mother to child. Our scientists tell me that it is within our grasp to virtually eliminate pediatric AIDS by the end of this decade. This is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. It can be accomplished by offering all pregnant women HIV counseling and testing, and guaranteeing that they have access to the treatment they need to protect their unborn children. If we do this, we can have a generation of Americans born without HIV. We can do this -- and we will.

These advances have resulted in longer and fuller lives for people living with HIV, but are they enough?

Absolutely not! We must do more.

That's why today, I am announcing three steps that I believe will move the search for a cure forward at a faster pace.

First, I am asking the Vice President to convene a meeting of scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and microbicides that can protect people from HIV and the infections it causes.

There are no guarantees in science, but the collective will of government and industry can overcome huge obstacles.

Second, let me say that I am pleased with our achievement at NIH where Dr. William Paul has done extraordinary work coordinating, for the first time, the research effort within NIH. Now I want to extend this effort government-wide. That's why I am asking Patsy Fleming to convene an interdepartmental working group, chaired by Dr. Paul, to develop a coordinated plan for AIDS research across every department of government, including a coordinated research budget. I will expect their report within 90 days.

Third, I want to make clear my personal commitment to make every feasible effort to find a cure and an effective vaccine. We can't afford to miss any new opportunities. We can't afford any unnecessary delays. No President can promise success in such an effort but I can promise that I will do everything I can to remove any obstacles that prevent the scientists from accomplishing this goal.

In addition to our work in research, we must continue to do everything we can to assure that those who are living with HIV and AIDS get the treatment and the care they need.

For people with AIDS, the current discussions over a balanced federal budget are not some distant political debate. Let me talk for a few minutes about a subject that is very important to me -- the future of Medicaid.

For people with AIDS, Medicaid is a lifeline of support. Medicaid provides health care for nearly half of the 190,000 Americans who are living with AIDS including 90 percent of the children. It provides access to doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and home care that allows people with HIV and AIDS to live their lives more fully. Medicaid pays for the drugs that keep HIV under control for longer and longer periods of time.

And it pays for the drugs that prevent the infections that often end the lives of those with AIDS. Medicaid pays for the care that makes it possible for families to stay together.

Yet today, Medicaid is under attack by the Republican leaders in Congress who want to slash its spending and eliminate the thirty-year common ground commitment we have made to the poor, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

I will not permit care for people with AIDS and HIV to be compromised or dismantled by those in Congress who are determined to cut the Medicaid program.

We must fight and we must protect the right, the absolute right, of any AIDS patient to get the best care we can give. I will battle as hard as I can to stop any proposal for block grants from destroying this basic guarantee of care. It is not an AIDS issue, it is a human values issue.

Medicaid cannot do the job alone. That's why we created the Ryan White CARE Act to plug the holes in our health care system that left many people with HIV and AIDS out in the cold. More than 360,000 Americans have received care under the Ryan White Act.

In the three budgets I have submitted to Congress, funding for the CARE Act has increased by 108 percent. The number of cities receiving funds has more than doubled and every state in the country receives critically needed assistance.

The CARE Act must be extended for another five years. Both houses of Congress have approved legislation to accomplish this but final legislation remains stalled.

That's why I sent a letter last Friday, World AIDS Day, to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, asking them to make every effort to get me a final bill by the end of this month so that I can sign it, and we can get on with the work ahead.

I am also fighting for the FY '96 funding increases that I have requested for the CARE Act as well as housing programs for people with AIDS and our AIDS prevention programs at CDC. Prevention is the third critical component of our plan.

I am concerned by the continued rate of new infections in this country.

In the 1980s, we made important progress in reducing the number of new infections by nearly 50 percent. But for the last five years, the estimated number of infections has hovered between 40,000 and 60,000 per year. We also know that one quarter of those infections occur among people under the age of 22. Any new infection is an unnecessary infection. AIDS prevention must be a high priority. Let us set a goal today of reducing the number of new infections in the United States each and every year until there are no new infections.

We must start by taking personal responsibility to inform ourselves and protect ourselves against HIV infection.

Until we have a cure and a vaccine, education and prevention are our best hope. For prevention to work it must be targeted and it must be sustained. We saw that at work in the gay community in the 1980s, when activists overcame the inertia of their government to protect their lives.

We must pay particular attention to two populations who are at the center of this epidemic -- young people and those who abuse drugs.

I was pleased to see the new public service announcements released last week by Secretary Shalala. They point young people toward the tools they need to protect themselves.

We also need to recognize that substance abuse treatment is a form of HIV prevention. We must ensure that those who are receiving drug treatment also receive AIDS prevention services at the same time. We have increased the amount of federal resources dedicated to drug treatment in this country and I am working to convince the Congress to approve our requests for money to bring that total even higher.

I have also asked the CDC to convene a meeting of state and local health officials and their counterparts on substance abuse to develop an action plan to assure the integration of HIV prevention and substance abuse prevention.

Research, treatment and prevention are all important. But, there is another aspect of this epidemic that requires just as much attention. I'm talking about our commitment to protect the basic human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The stories of AIDS related discrimination break the hearts of all Americans of conscience.

Five years ago, our nation took a huge step forward toward a more just society when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. It offers more than 40 million Americans who are living with physical or mental disabilities -- including those who are living with HIV and AIDS -- protection against discrimination.

The Justice Department, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services have been vigorously enforcing the A.D.A. And we are about to launch a new effort to ensure that health care facilities are providing equal access to people with HIV or AIDS.

We must continue to examine our societal attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and others for whom the fear of AIDS becomes a convenient excuse for discrimination. We cannot let our fear outweigh our common sense or our compassion. If we do, all of us will lose.

As I have said before, we must remember that people with AIDS, and those who are living with HIV, are part of our American family.

Whether they are gay or lesbian or straight, black, white, Native American, Latino or Asian American, they are our sons and daughters; our brothers and sisters; our aunts and uncles; our mothers and fathers; our grandmothers and grandfathers. They are Americans one and all. They need our compassion. They deserve our respect.

Finally, let me say that the fight against AIDS is international in scope. HIV knows no geographic boundaries. It is found on every continent and virtually every country. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 18 million men, women, and children are living with HIV around the world.

The United States is and will remain a full partner in the international effort to fight this pandemic.

As a world leader, we have a moral and a national responsibility to help developing nations with prevention programs, medical care, and other vital services. We also have much to learn from them. And when we do find the cure and the vaccine that we seek, it will not only be a victory for America, it will be a victory for the world.

When this country was in the throes of another sickness
that threatened to tear us apart -- the sickness of slavery
-- Frederick Douglas, the great American
abolitionist, wrote:

*"It is not light that is needed, but fire. It is
not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need
the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.
The feeling of the nation must be quickened.
The conscience of the nation must be roused.
The propriety of the nation must be startled."*

Each of you has been the thunder and the lightening.

Each of you is helping to awaken the conscience of our nation. Our challenge is to draw more of our citizens into our circle of hope. Together, I am certain, we can change our future for the better.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1995
FINAL**

tba

MORNING RUN9:00 am-
9:15 am**MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Leon Panetta**9:15 am-
9:30 am**COMBINED BRIEFING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Tony Lake**9:30 am-
9:45 am**BRIEFING FOR EVENT
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Tony Lake**9:45 am-
10:05 am**DROP-BY BRIEFING WITH COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP IN BOSNIA
CABINET ROOM
Remarks: Vinca Showalter
Staff Contact: Tony Lake
Event Coordinator: Paula Thomasson
POOL PRESS (During remarks)**

- The President enters the Cabinet Room and proceeds to the toast lectern.
- The President makes remarks.
- The President takes questions from participants.
- The President departs.

10:15 am-
11:45 am**PHONE/OFFICE TIME
OVAL OFFICE**11:45 am-
11:50 am**MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Stephanie Streeter, Anne Walley**11:50 am-
12:20 pm**BRIEFING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Carol Rasco**

12:25 pm

THE PRESIDENT proceeds on foot to the Cash Room

Greeter: Robert Rubin, Secretary, Department of Treasury

12:30 pm-

2:30 pm

**WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS
CASH ROOM**

Remarks: Terry Edmonds, Richard Sorian

Staff Contact: Carol Rasco

Event Coordinator: Nicole Elkon

POOL PRESS

- Off-stage announcement of the President, accompanied by Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman, board member, Mother's Voices.
- Patricia Fleming, Director, Office of National Aids Policy, makes welcoming remarks and introduces Donna Shalala, Secretary, Health and Human Services.
- Donna Shalala makes remarks and introduces Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman.
- Sean Sasser makes remarks.
- Eileen Mitzman makes remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks and takes his seat at the table.
- The President holds a roundtable discussion.
- Patricia Fleming closes the roundtable discussion.
- The President shakes hands and departs.

2:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT proceeds on foot to the Oval Office

2:35 pm-

3:25 pm

BRIEFING FOR BUDGET EVENT**OVAL OFFICE DINING ROOM**

Staff Contact: Gene Sperling

3:30 pm-
4:00 pm

BUDGET EVENT
OVAL OFFICE
Remarks: Michael Waldman
Staff Contact: Gene Sperling
Event Coordinator: Nicole Elkon
POOL PRESS

- The President enters the Oval Office, accompanied by the families.
- The President takes a seat at his desk.
- The President makes a statement and signs the document.
- The President shakes hands with the families and departs.

4:00 pm-
4:45 pm

PHONE/OFFICE TIME
OVAL OFFICE

NOTE: The First Lady will attend the Reception for the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS from 4:10 pm - 4:30 pm.

OPTION:
(Between
3:30 pm-
4:30 pm)

DROP-BY RECEPTION FOR THE WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS
RENWICK GALLERY
Staff Contact: Carol Rasco
CLOSED PRESS

4:50 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart the White House via motorcade en route the Ellipse
[drive time: 5 minutes]

4:55 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive the Ellipse

5:00 pm-
6:00 pm

**PAGEANT OF PEACE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
ELLIPSE**

Remarks: Tony Blinken, David Shipley

Staff Contact: Melinda Bates

Event Coordinator: Nicole Elkon

OPEN PRESS

- The President and the First Lady are announced to "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "Hail to the Chief."
- John J. Betchkal makes welcoming remarks and introduces Reverend Tavlarides.
- Reverend Tavlarides recites "The Christmas Prayer."
- John J. Betchkal introduces the Sherando High School Choir.
- Musical performance by the Sherando High School Choir.
- Santa Claus introduces a Girl Scout and a Boy Scout.
- The Girl Scout and Boy Scout greet the audience.
- Dance performance by the Washington Ballet.
- Musical performance by Jack Jones.
- Jack Jones introduces Kathie Lee Gifford.
- Musical performance by Kathie Lee Gifford.
- John J. Betchkal introduces the President.
- The President makes brief remarks.
- Upon conclusion of remarks, the President and the First Lady light the National Christmas Tree.
- Musical performance by the United States Navy Band.
- The President and the First Lady greet performers and depart.

6:00 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart the Ellipse via motorcade en route the White House
[drive time: 5 minutes]

6:05 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive the White House

6:05 pm-
6:30 pm

**DOWN TIME
RESIDENCE**

6:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady proceed to the Blue Room

6:30 pm-
9:30 pm

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

STATE FLOOR

Staff Contact: Ann Stock

Event Coordinator: Sarah Farnsworth

CLOSED PRESS

Note: This is a two-tiered reception.
The first tier is a reception for "Pageant of Peace"
guests.

6:30 pm

- The President and the First Lady do a photo line in the Blue Room. [Approximately 300 guests]
- Upon conclusion of the photo line, the President and the First Lady return to the Residence.

8:30 pm

- The President and the First Lady return to the Diplomatic Reception Room for a photo line. [Approximately 400 guests]
- Upon conclusion of the photo line, the President and the First Lady depart.

BC AND HRC RON

THE WHITE HOUSE

White House Conference on HIV and AIDS

Featured Speakers

Sean F. Sasser of Atlanta tested positive for HIV in 1988 at the age of 19. His involvement with Bay Area Young Positives in San Francisco led him to be an AIDS educator and speaker. As it became clear that more young people were testing positive for HIV, Sean's work as an activist accelerated. As Leadership Development Coordinator for San Francisco's Health Initiatives for Youth, Sean trained HIV-affected young people to be powerful, visible, and vocal advocates for themselves and their peers. He also served on the San Francisco Health Services Planning Council, the San Francisco Adolescent HIV Coalition, the Mayor's Joint Task Force on the HIV Epidemic, and the Board of Supervisors' HIV Youth Advisory Committee. In 1994, Sean and his partner Pedro Zamora gave the world a glimpse of their life together on MTV's "The Real World," as two gay men of color who provided millions of people with a true portrait of a couple dealing with life, love, and death in the age of AIDS. Pedro Zamora died in November of 1994. As a board member of the AIDS Policy Center for Children, Youth & Families and a frequent public speaker on HIV and AIDS, Sean continues his activism from his new home in Atlanta.

Eileen Mitzman of New York lost her 26-year-old daughter Marni to AIDS in 1991 and has dedicated her life to HIV and AIDS prevention and to rallying support for the research needed to design better prevention programs, to produce better HIV and AIDS treatments, and to develop a cure. Formerly an interior designer, now an AIDS activist, her capacity to love now gives her unbounded energy to devote her time to trying to save other families from the devastation of AIDS. Eileen serves on the Boards of Directors of Mothers' Voices and Concerned Parents for AIDS Research. With her keen sense of irony and sharp wit, Eileen is a frequent public speaker, including appearances at the 1992 Republican National Convention. Eileen is the recipient of Mothers' Voices 1993 Extraordinary Voice Award, the 1994 Michael Hirsch Award, and a 1995 honoree of Concerned Parents for AIDS Research.

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White House Conference on HIV and AIDS

Roundtable Discussion Participants

Virginia Apuzzo of New York serves on the New York State AIDS Advisory Council and is former Deputy Executive Director of the New York State Housing Department. From 1982 to 1986, she was Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force at the beginning of the epidemic. (Housing)

Martina Clark of California is an HIV-positive woman who is the U.S. representative to the International Community of Women Living with AIDS. She also serves on the board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (International)

Deborah Cotton of Massachusetts is a clinician and researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Much of her work focuses on women and HIV. (Biomedical Research: Therapeutics)

Gregg Gonsalves of New York is an HIV-positive treatment activist. He is Policy Director of the Treatment Action Group, a leading organization of community activists who focus on research, drug development, and treatment. (Biomedical Research: Prevention)

Michael T. Isbell of New York is Associate Executive Director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, one of the nation's largest direct AIDS service providers. He is the former director of the AIDS Project of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. (Discrimination)

Edward Morse of Louisiana is a sociologist who conducts research in behavioral medicine with an emphasis on substance abuse, clinical trials compliance, and HIV-positive women. He is associated with both Tulane Medical School and the Louisiana State University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. (Substance Abuse)

Demetri Moshoyannis of Washington DC, is a 24-year-old gay man living with HIV and founder of Youth Positive, a peer support and peer education program for young people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. (Prevention)

Renslow Sherer of Illinois is a clinician and researcher who is director of the AIDS clinic at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. (Primary Care and Benefits)

Phill Wilson of California is Director of Public Policy at AIDS Project Los Angeles, one of the nation's largest direct AIDS service providers. He has been living with HIV for 15 years. (Services)

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REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 6, 1995

[Acknowledgements: Patsy Fleming; Secretary Shalala; Secretary Cisneros; Drug Czar Lee Brown; Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell; Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke; Scott Hitt; distinguished guests.]

Let me first welcome each of you to this historic, first-ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. I welcome you and I thank you, not only for your participation here today but for the work you do every day to improve the lives of the people of our nation and around the world.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Hitt and the members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS for their work on this critical issue and for suggesting that we convene this meeting.

And I want to express my appreciation to the two extraordinary Americans who have just shared the stories of their lives with all of us. It is the passion, the commitment, and, yes, the anger of people like Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman that remind us all of the extraordinary courage it takes to hold on to hope as we continue to even the odds in this struggle.

We can and we will conquer this disease. In my own lifetime, we have eliminated smallpox from our planet. We have eliminated polio from our hemisphere. And we are within striking distance of controlling measles. Now, we must -- we must -- find a way to rid our planet of the threat of HIV.

My daughter and her friends are growing up in the shadow of something we could never have imagined. They are coming of age in a world in which AIDS is a very sobering reality.

That reality has already changed the lives of all of us in this room and millions of people around the world. It has taken from us too many friends and too many loved ones much too soon. It has shaken our faith in the future. But it has also brought us together and inspired a community spirit that strengthens our values as a nation.

It is our responsibility to rise to this challenge and change the future for ourselves, for our children, and for their children. We can do this. In fact, we must do this.

I want to share with you the story of just one of the people who is here today. It's the story of a young man who grew up in a typical American suburb as part of a typical American family. He attended college and became politically active. His quick mind

and active spirit marked him as a "rising star," and after graduating he joined the Corporation for National Service to help start AmeriCorps. It was while he was working for AmeriCorps that he found out he was HIV-positive. He was 23 years old.

Demetri Moshoyannis took that news as a challenge. A challenge to use his communication skills, his organizational skills, and his leadership skills to educate and support his peers and help them escape the threat of this deadly epidemic.

It's that combination of heartbreak and hope that makes this epidemic ~~so~~ unique. And it is what challenges all of us to channel our energy and our talent into the fight to make AIDS a thing of the past.

Twelve days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that our nation has reached another sad milestone in the AIDS epidemic. Half a million Americans have now been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women, and children have already died of AIDS.

As we meet, on this day, 120 more Americans will lose their lives to AIDS, another 160 people will be diagnosed with the disease and nearly 140 people in this country will become infected with HIV. And that will happen again tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that. It will continue to happen until we succeed in our efforts to defeat this epidemic.

That is why this meeting is so important. It is an opportunity for us to refocus and reenergize our national commitment to ending this epidemic. It is a time to rally our troops for the fight ahead and arm them with the weapons they need to win this battle. You and I have some important work to do.

We have a common goal -- a cure for all those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect ~~all of us~~ ^{everyone} from this deadly virus. Let's be very clear on that. A cure and a vaccine are our number one priority. ~~overall plan~~ ^{Research}

When I ran for President I promised a Manhattan Project on AIDS. I said that I would do everything in my power to pull together the necessary resources, coordination and leadership to win this battle. ~~By every measure, we have kept our promise.~~ ^{while such an effort was + be complete until we find a cure, we are keeping that promise}

We have increased funding for AIDS research by more than 20 percent. We have dramatically strengthened the Office of AIDS Research. For the first time since the beginning of the epidemic there is one person in charge of the nation's entire AIDS research program -- Dr. William Paul. Let me clear: We must protect the Office of AIDS Research. I will oppose any effort to dismantle or weaken this vital command center.

This investment in science has already paid tremendous dividends. Today, people with AIDS live twice as long as they did just ten years ago, especially those who seek early treatment. AIDS-related conditions that often meant a quick and many times painful death for people living with HIV can now be treated and even prevented.

And we have reason to believe that there will more progress in the near future. New classes of AIDS drugs are being approved in record time for use by the FDA that will help to restore the damaged immune systems of people with HIV. Combination drug therapies are showing great promise as a means for controlling the virus in the human body.

And just last year we were able to show that the use of drug therapy could actually block HIV transmission from mother to child. Our scientists tell me that it is within our grasp to virtually eliminate pediatric AIDS by the end of this decade. This is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. It can be accomplished by offering all pregnant women HIV counseling and testing and guaranteeing that they have access to the treatment they need to protect their unborn children. If we do this, we can have a generation of Americans born without HIV. We can do this -- and we will.

These advances have resulted in longer and fuller lives for people living with HIV, but are they enough? Absolutely not! We must do more.

That's why today, I am announcing three steps that I believe will move the search for a cure forward at a faster pace.

First, I am asking the Vice President to convene a meeting of scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and microbicides that can protect people from HIV and the infections it causes. There are no guarantees in science, but the collective will of government and industry can overcome huge obstacles.

Second, I am asking Patsy Fleming to convene an interdepartmental working group, chaired by Dr. William Paul, to develop a coordinated plan for AIDS research, including a coordinated research budget. I will expect their report within 90 days.

Third, I want to make clear my personal commitment to make every feasible effort to find a cure and an effective vaccine. We can't afford to miss any new opportunities. We can't afford any unnecessary delays. No President can promise success in such an effort but I can promise that I will do everything I can to remove any obstacles that prevent the scientists from accomplishing this goal.

very pleased w/ the work that Bill Paul has done at NIH - new

I want to take this govt wide

Covering our research effort

within HHS -

now I want to see him to do this government-wide research - and have it be a national effort

Treatment

In addition to our work in research, we must continue to do everything we can to assure that those who are living with HIV and AIDS get the care they need.

debate.

For people with AIDS, the current discussions over a balanced federal budget are not some distant political ~~firefight~~. Let me talk for a few minutes about a subject that is very important to me -- the future of Medicaid.

For people with AIDS, Medicaid is a lifeline of support. Medicaid provides health care for nearly half of the 190,000 Americans who are living with AIDS including 90 percent of the children. It provides access to doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and home care that allows people with HIV and AIDS to live their lives more fully. Medicaid pays for the drugs that keep HIV under control for longer and longer periods of time and it pays for the drugs that prevent the infections that often end the lives of those with AIDS. Medicaid pays for the care that ~~allows~~ families to stay together.

possible for

makes it

Yet today, Medicaid is under attack by the Republican leaders in Congress who want to slash its spending and eliminate the thirty-year common ground commitment we have made to the poor, the elderly, and those with disabilities. We cannot, we must not, and I will not allow us to destroy this vital lifeline.

Medicaid cannot do the job alone. That's why we created the Ryan White CARE Act to plug the holes in our health care system that left many people with HIV and AIDS out in the cold. More than 360,000 Americans have received care under the Ryan White Act.

In the three budgets I have submitted to Congress, funding for the CARE Act has increased by 108 percent. The number of cities receiving funds has more than doubled and every state in the country receives critically needed assistance.

The CARE Act must be extended for another five years. Both houses of Congress have approved legislation to accomplish this but final legislation remains stalled. That's why on last Friday, World AIDS Day, I sent a letter to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, asking them to make every effort to get me a final bill by the end of this month so that I can sign it and we can get on with the work ahead.

I am also fighting for the FY '96 funding increases that I have requested for the CARE Act as well as housing programs for people with AIDS and our AIDS prevention programs at CDC.

Prevention

I am concerned by the continued rate of new infections in this country. In the 1980s, we made important progress in reducing the number of new infections by nearly 50 percent. But for the last five years, the estimated number of infections has hovered

between 40,000 and 60,000 per year. We also know that one quarter of those infections occur among people under the age of 22. Any new infection is an unnecessary infection. AIDS prevention must be a high priority. Let us set a goal today of reducing the number of new infections in the United States each and every year until there are no new infections.

We must start by taking personal responsibility to inform ourselves and protect ourselves against HIV infection.

Until we have a cure and a vaccine, education and prevention are our best hope. For prevention to work it must be targeted and it must be sustained. We saw that at work in the gay community in the 1980s, when activists overcame the inertia of their government to protect their lives.

We must pay particular attention to two populations who are at the center of this epidemic -- young people and those who abuse drugs. I was pleased to see the new public service announcements released last week by Secretary Shalala. They point young people toward the tools they need to protect themselves.

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I have also asked the CDC to convene a meeting of state and local health officials and their counterparts on substance abuse to develop an action plan to assure the integration of HIV prevention and substance abuse prevention.

Human Rights

We also cannot forget the basic human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The stories of AIDS related discrimination break the hearts of all Americans of conscience.

Five years ago, our nation took a huge step forward toward a more just society when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. It offers more than 40 million Americans who are living with physical or mental disabilities -- including those who are living with HIV and AIDS -- protection against discrimination.

The Justice Department, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services have been vigorously enforcing the A.D.A. And we are about to launch a new effort to ensure that health care facilities are providing equal access to people with HIV or AIDS.

We must continue to examine our societal attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and others for whom fear of AIDS becomes a convenient excuse for discrimination. We cannot let our fear outweigh our common sense or our compassion. If we do, all of us will lose.

As I have said before, the thing we have to remember is that people with AIDS and those who are living with HIV are part of our American family. Whether they are gay or lesbian or straight, black, white, Native American, Latino or Asian American, they are our sons and daughters; our brothers and sisters; our aunts and uncles; our mothers and fathers; our grandmothers and grandfathers. They are Americans one and all. They need our compassion. They deserve our respect.

International
Finally, let me say that the fight against AIDS is international in scope. HIV knows no geographic boundaries. It is found on every continent and virtually every country. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 18 million men, women, and children are living with HIV around the world. The United States is and will remain a full partner in the international effort to fight the pandemic.

As a world leader, we have a moral and a national responsibility to help developing nations with prevention programs, medical care, and other vital services. We also have much to learn from them. And when we do find the cure and the vaccine that we seek, it will not only be a victory for America, it will be a victory for the world.

When this country was in the throes of another sickness that threatened to tear us apart -- the sickness of slavery -- Frederick Douglas, the great American abolitionist, wrote:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire. It is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened. The conscience of the nation must be roused. The propriety of the nation must be startled."

has
Each of you ~~have~~ been the thunder and the lightening. Each of you is helping to awaken the conscience of our nation. Our challenge is to draw more of our citizens into our circle of hope. Together, I am certain, we can change our future for the better.

Thank you and God bless you all.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF SPEECHWRITING

PHONE: (202) 456-2777
FAX: (202) 456-5709

TO: Jeff Levi

FROM: Terry Edmonds

RECEIVER FAX: 632-1096

RECEIVER PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 3

COMMENTS: Please share with Patsy and
Richard & let's talk ASAP.
Jeremy also has a copy.
Thanks,
Terry

WARNING

Unauthorized use of these materials is subject to federal prosecution

The World According to Student Bloopers

Richard Lederer
St. Paul's School

One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level. Read carefully, and you will learn a lot.

The inhabitants of Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked "Am I my brother's son?" God asked Abraham to sacrifice Issac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Issac, stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a partiarch who brought up his twelve sons to be partiarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

Without the Greeks, we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Styx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in "The Illiad", by Homer. Homer also wrote the "Oddity", in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athen was democratic because the people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbors were doing. When they fought the Parisians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Geeks. History call people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlic in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March killed him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harlod mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings, Joan of Arc was cannonized by George Bernard Shaw, and the victims of the Black Death grew boobs on their necks. Finally, the Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense.

In midevil times most of the people were alliterate. The greatest writer of the time was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verse and also wrote literature. Another tale tells of William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull. It was the painter Donatello's interest in the female nude that made him the father of the Renaissance. It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented the Bible. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

The government of England was a limited mockery. Henry VIII found walking difficult because he had an abcess on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted "hurrah." Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespear. Shakespear never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived in Windsor with his merry wives, writing tragedies, comedies and errors. In one of Shakespear's famous plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. In another, Lady Macbeth tries to convince Macbeth to kill the King by attacking his manhood. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couplet. Writing at the same time as Shakespear was Miquel Cervantes. He wrote "Donkey Hote". The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote "Paradise Lost." Then his wife died and he wrote "Paradise Regained."

During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe. Later the Pilgrims crossed the Ocean, and the was called the Pilgrim's Progress. When they landed at Plymouth Rock, they were greeted by Indians, who came down the hill rolling their was hoops before them. The Indian squabs carried porpoises on their back. Many of the Indian heroes were killed, along with their cabooses, which proved very fatal to them. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary Wars was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their pacels through the post without stamps. During the War, Red Coats and Paul Revere was throwing balls over stone walls. The dogs were barking and the peacocks crowing. Finally, the colonists wo

Delegates from the original thirteen states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electricity by rubbing cats backwards and declared "a horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

George Washington married Matha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country. Them the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. When Lincoln was President, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength." Abraham Lincoln write the Gettysburg address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He also signed the Emasculation Proclamation, and the Fourteenth Amendment gave the ex-Negroes citizenship. But the Clue Clux Clan would torcher and lynch the ex-Negroes and other innocent victims. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltare

invented electricity and also wrote a book called "Candy". Gravity was invented by Issac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the Autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. The Marseillaise was the theme song of the French Revolution, and it catapulted into Napoleon. During the Napoleonic Wars, the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes. Then the Spanish gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks. Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear him any children.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. Her reclining years and finally the end of her life were exemplary of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thoughts. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick Raper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code for telepathy. Louis Pastuer discovered a cure for rabbis. Charles Darwin was a naturailst who wrote the "Organ of the Species". Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.

The First World War, cause by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by a surf, ushered in a new error in the anals of human history.

draft 12/4/95

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 6, 1995

[Acknowledgements: Patsy Fleming, Secretary Shalala [other Cabinet members?], Scott Hitt, distinguished guests.]

Let me first welcome each of you to this historic White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. ~~(You are the frontline faces and voices of our national commitment to conquer the devastating disease known as AIDS.)~~ I welcome you and I thank you, not only for your participation here today but for the work you do every day to improve the lives of the people of our nation and around the world.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Hitt and the members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS for their work on this critical issue and for suggesting that we convene this meeting.

And I want to express my appreciation to the two extraordinary Americans who have just shared the stories of their lives with all of us. It is the passion, the commitment, and, yes, the anger of people like Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman that remind us all of the extraordinary courage it takes to hold on to hope as we continue to even the odds in this struggle.

Each generation of Americans has faced an important challenge that has, in many ways, defined their time here on earth. For the generation of my daughter and all of those in her age group, the epidemic of HIV and AIDS may well be that defining challenge.

My daughter and her friends are growing up in the shadow of something we could never have imagined. They are coming of age in a world in which AIDS is a very sobering reality.

That reality has already changed the lives of all of us in this room and millions of people around the world. It has taken from us too many friends and too many loved ones ~~much too soon~~. It has shaken our faith in the future. But it has also brought us together and inspired a community spirit that strengthens our values as a nation.

It is our ~~collective~~ responsibility to rise to this challenge and change the future for ourselves, for our children, and for their children. We can do this. In fact, we must do this.

I want to share with you the story of just one of the people who is here today. ~~Just one of the human faces and human voices of AIDS.~~

496 - 5035

It's the story of a young man who grew up in a typical American suburb as part of a typical American family. He attended college and became politically active. His quick mind and active spirit marked him as a "rising star," and after graduating he joined the Corporation for National Service to help start AmeriCorps. It was while he was working for AmeriCorps that he found out he was HIV-positive. He was 23 years old.

Demetri Moshoyannis took that news as a challenge. A challenge to use his communication skills, his organizational skills, and his leadership skills to educate and support his peers and help them escape the threat of this deadly epidemic.

It's that combination of heartbreak and hope that makes this epidemic so unique. And it is what challenges all of us to channel our energy and our talent into the fight to make AIDS a thing of the past.

Twelve days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that our nation has reached another sad milestone in the AIDS epidemic. Half a million Americans have now been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women, and children have already died of AIDS.

As we meet, on this day, 120 more Americans will lose their lives to AIDS, another 160 people will be diagnosed with the disease and nearly 140 people in this country will become infected with HIV. And that will happen again tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that. It will continue to happen until we succeed in our efforts to defeat this epidemic.

That is why this meeting is so important. It is an opportunity for us to refocus and reenergize our national commitment to ending this epidemic. It is a time to rally our troops for the fight ahead and arm them with the weapons they need to win this battle. You and I have some important work to do.

We have a common goal -- a cure for all those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect all of us from this deadly virus. Let's be very clear on that. A cure and a vaccine are our number one priority.

In my own lifetime, we have eliminated smallpox from our planet. We have eliminated polio from our hemisphere. And we are within striking distance of controlling measles. We must -- we must -- find a way to rid our planet of the threat of HIV.

When I ran for President I promised a Manhattan Project on AIDS. I said that I would do everything in my power to pull together the necessary resources, coordination and leadership to win this battle. By every measure, we have kept our promise.

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? We have increased funding for AIDS research by more than 20 percent. We have dramatically strengthened the Office of AIDS Research. For the first time since the beginning of the epidemic there is one person in charge of the nation's entire AIDS research program -- Dr. William Paul. Let me clear: We must protect the Office of AIDS Research. I will veto any bill which dismantles or weakens this vital command center.

? This investment in science has already paid tremendous dividends. Today, people with AIDS live twice as long as they did just ten years ago, especially those who seek early treatment. AIDS-related conditions that often meant a quick and many times painful death for people living with HIV can now be treated and even prevented.

And we have reason to believe that there will more progress in the near future. New classes of AIDS drugs are being approved in record time for use by the FDA that will help to restore the damaged immune systems of people with HIV. Combination drug therapies are showing great promise as a means for controlling the virus in the human body.

And just last year we were able to show that the use of drug therapy could actually block HIV transmission from mother to child. Our scientists tell me that it is within our grasp to virtually eliminate pediatric AIDS by the end of this decade. This is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. It can be accomplished by offering all pregnant women HIV counseling and testing and guaranteeing that they have access to the treatment they need to protect their unborn children. If we do this, we can have a generation of Americans born without HIV. We can do this -- and we will.

These advances have resulted in longer and fuller lives for people living with HIV, but are they enough? Absolutely not! We must do more.

That's why today, I am announcing three steps that I believe will move the search for a cure forward at a faster pace.

First, I am asking the Vice President to convene a meeting of scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and microbicides that can protect people from HIV and the infections it causes. There are no guarantees in science, but the collective will of government and industry can overcome ~~even the biggest~~ ^{huge} obstacles.

Second, I am asking Patsy Fleming to convene an interdepartmental working group, chaired by Dr. William Paul, to develop a coordinated plan for AIDS research, including a coordinated research budget. I will expect their report within 90 days.

Third, I want to ~~make clear my personal commitment to make every feasible effort to find a cure and an effective vaccine.~~ We can't afford to miss any new opportunities. We can't afford any unnecessary delays. No President can promise success in such an effort but I can promise that I will personally intervene to remove any obstacles that prevent the scientists from accomplishing this goal. //

In addition to our work in research, we must continue to do everything we can to assure that those who are living with HIV and AIDS get the care they need.

For people with AIDS, the current discussions over a balanced federal budget are not some distant political firefight. Let me talk for a few minutes about a subject that is very important to me -- the future of Medicaid.

For people with AIDS, Medicaid is a lifeline of support. Medicaid provides health care for nearly half of the 190,000 Americans who are living with AIDS including 90 percent of the children. It provides access to doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and home care that allows people with HIV and AIDS to live their lives more fully. Medicaid pays for the drugs that keep HIV under control for longer and longer periods of time and it pays for the drugs that prevent the infections that often end the lives of those with AIDS. Medicaid pays for the care that allows families to stay together.

Yet today, Medicaid is under attack by the Republican leaders in Congress who want to slash its spending and eliminate the thirty-year common ground commitment we have made to the poor, the elderly, and those with disabilities. We cannot, we must not, and I will not allow us to destroy this vital lifeline.

Medicaid cannot do the job alone. That's why we created the Ryan White CARE Act to plug the holes in our health care system that left many people with HIV and AIDS out in the cold. More than 360,000 Americans have received care under the Ryan White Act.

In the three budgets I have submitted to Congress, funding for the CARE Act has increased by 108 percent. The number of cities receiving funds has more than doubled and every state in the country receives critically needed assistance.

The CARE Act must be extended for another five years. Both houses of Congress have approved legislation to accomplish this but final legislation remains stalled. That's why on last Friday, World AIDS Day, I sent a letter to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, asking them to make every effort to get me a final bill by the end of this month so that I can sign it and we can get on with the work ahead.

I am also fighting for the FY '96 funding increases that I have requested for the CARE Act as well as housing programs for people with AIDS and our AIDS prevention programs at CDC.

I am concerned by the continued rate of new infections in this country. In the 1980s, we made important progress in reducing the number of new infections by nearly 50 percent. But for the last five years, the estimated number of infections has hovered between 40,000 and 60,000 per year. We also know that one quarter of those infections occur among people under the age of 22. Any new infection is an unnecessary infection. AIDS prevention must be a high priority. I am establishing a goal today of reducing the number of new infections in the United States each and every year until there are no new infections.

Until we have a cure and a vaccine, education and prevention are our best hope. For prevention to work it must be targeted and it must be sustained. We saw that at work in the gay community in the 1980s, when activists overcame the inertia of their government to protect their lives.

We must pay particular attention to two populations who are at the center of this epidemic -- young people and those who abuse drugs. I was pleased to see the new public service announcements released last week by Secretary Shalala. They point young people toward the tools they need to protect themselves.

We also need to recognize that substance abuse treatment is a form of HIV prevention. We must ensure that those who are receiving drug treatment also receive AIDS prevention services at the same time. We have increased the amount of federal resources dedicated to drug treatment in this country and I am working to convince the Congress to approve our requests for money to bring that total even higher.

I have also asked the CDC to convene a meeting of state and local health officials and their counterparts on substance abuse to develop an action plan to assure the integration of HIV prevention and substance abuse prevention.

We also cannot forget the basic human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The stories of AIDS related discrimination break the hearts of all Americans of conscience.

Five years ago, our nation took a huge step forward toward a more just society when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. It offers more than 40 million Americans who are living with physical or mental disabilities -- including those who are living with HIV and AIDS -- protection against discrimination.

The Justice Department, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services have

been vigorously enforcing the A.D.A. And we are about to launch a new effort to ensure that health care facilities are providing equal access to people with HIV or AIDS.

Still, all of us can do more. We can start by cleaning our own house. HIV testing is an important tool to help people protect their health and seek early treatment. However, we oppose needless mandatory HIV testing. Therefore, I'm asking Patsy Fleming to conduct an immediate 60-day review of all civilian government programs that require HIV testing as a condition of participation in government service and government programs. Those that do not have a strong public health rationale, must be amended or they must be ended.

We must continue to examine our societal attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and others for whom fear of AIDS becomes a convenient excuse for discrimination. We cannot let our fear outweigh our common sense or our compassion. If we do, all of us will lose.

As I have said before, the thing we have to remember is that people with AIDS and those who are living with HIV are part of our American family. ~~Whether they are gay and lesbian or straight, black, white, Native American, Latino or Asian American, they are our sons and daughters; our brothers and sisters; our aunts and uncles; our mothers and fathers; our grandmothers and grandfathers. They are Americans one and all.~~ They need our compassion. They deserve our respect.

Finally, let me say that the fight against AIDS is international in scope. HIV knows no geographic boundaries. It is found on every continent and virtually every country. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 18 million men, women, and children are living with HIV around the world. The United States is and will remain a full partner in the international effort to fight the pandemic.

As a world leader, we have a moral and a national responsibility to help developing nations with prevention programs, medical care, and other vital services. We also have much to learn from them. And when we do find the cure and the vaccine that we seek, it will not only be a victory for America, it will be a victory for the world.

When this country was in the throes of another sickness that threatened to tear us apart -- the sickness of slavery -- Frederick Douglas, the great American abolitionist, wrote:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire. It is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened. The conscience of the nation

must be roused. The propriety of the nation must be startled."

Each of you have been the thunder and the lightening. Each of you is helping to awaken the conscience of our nation. Our challenge is to draw more of our citizens into our circle of hope. Together, I am certain, we can change our future for the better.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Terry

Some intentional
edits suggested by
Helen Howell, our
new recruit. I
agree with unless
otherwise noted. But
I leave final decisions to
you. The thing I felt

most strongly
about was
the "defining
challenge" stuff.
Thanks.

Mike

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 1995 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: DECEMBER 4 9:00am

SUBJECT: REMARKS TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☐
PANETTA	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ICKES	☒	☐	QUINN	☐	☐
BOWLES	☐	☐	RASCO	☒	☐
RIVLIN	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BAER	☒	☐	STEPHANOPOULOS	☒	☐
CURRY	☐	☐	STIGLITZ	☐	☐
EMANUEL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	TYSON	☐	☐
GRIFFIN	☐	☐	WALLEY	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	WILLIAMS	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	<u>M. Scott</u>	☒	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LAKE	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS: PLEASE REVIEW AND SEND COMMENTS TO TERRY EDMONDS BY 9:00AM MONDAY. THANK YOU.

RESPONSE:

12/1/95
12:30 pm

Here is a draft of the President's remarks to the White House
Conference on HIV and AIDS. Please review and send comments to
Terry Edmonds by 9:00 Monday.

cc: George Stephanopoulos
Carol Rasco
Harold Ickes
Doug Sosnik
Don Baer

95 DEC 11 12:56

draft 12/1/95

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HIV AND AIDS
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 6, 1995

95 DEC 1 P/2: 56

[Acknowledgements: Patsy Fleming, Secretary Shalala [other Cabinet members?], Scott Hitt, distinguished guests.] *upstet stat (?)*

Let me first welcome each of you to this historic White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. You are the frontline faces and voices of our national commitment to conquer the devastating disease known as AIDS. I welcome you and I thank you, not only for your participation here today but for the work you do every day to improve the lives of the people of our nation and around the world.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Hitt and the members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS for their work on this critical issue and for suggesting that we convene this meeting.

And I want to express my appreciation to the two extraordinary Americans who have just shared the stories of their lives with all of us. It is the passion, the commitment, and, yes, the anger of people like Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman that remind us all of the extraordinary courage it takes to hold on to hope as we continue to even the odds in this struggle.

Each generation of Americans has ^{II} faced an important challenge that has, in many ways, defined their time here on earth. For my parents' generation, World War ^{Two} was that defining moment, unifying a nation against a common foe. For my ^{own} generation, the civil rights movement provided the focus and the drive of our lives. But ~~for the generation of my own child and all of those in her age group the epidemic of HIV and AIDS may well be that defining challenge.~~ *my daughter's* *daughter* *the*

My daughter and her friends are growing up in the shadow of something we could never have imagined. They are coming of age in ^a world ^{where} AIDS is a very sobering reality.

That reality has already changed the lives of all of us in this room. It has taken from us too many friends and ~~too many~~ loved ones much too soon. It has shaken our faith in the future. But it has also brought us together and inspired a community spirit that strengthens our values as a nation.

It is our collective responsibility to rise to this challenge and change the future for our ourselves, ~~for~~ our children, and ~~for~~ *our* ~~their~~ children. We can do this. In fact, we must do this.

our children
grand.

I want to share with you the story of just one of the people who is here today -- ~~just~~ one of the human faces and human voices of AIDS.

It's the story of a young man who grew up in a typical American suburb as part of a typical American family. He attended college and became politically active. His quick mind and active spirit marked him as a "comer," and after graduating he joined the Corporation for National Service to help start AmeriCorps. It was while he was working for AmeriCorps that he found out he ~~was~~ ^{is} HIV-positive. He was 23 years old.

Demetri Moshoyannis took that news as a challenge ^{-- a} challenge to use his communication ~~skills~~, his organizational ~~skills~~, and his leadership skills to educate and support his peers and help them escape the fate ~~that had been~~ visited upon him.

It's that combination of heartbreak and hope that makes this epidemic so unique. ~~And it is what~~ challenges all of us to channel our energy and our talent into the fight to ~~make AIDS a thing of the past~~ ^{eliminate AIDS}.

Ten days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that our nation has reached another sad milestone in the AIDS epidemic. Half a million Americans have now been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women, and children have already died of AIDS. ~~the disease~~.

As we meet ^{today} ~~on this day~~, 120 more Americans will lose their lives to AIDS, another 220 people will be diagnosed with the disease, and nearly 140 people in this country will become infected with HIV. And that will happen again tomorrow and the day after that ~~and the day after that~~. It will continue to happen until we succeed in our efforts to defeat this epidemic.

That is why this meeting is so important. It is an opportunity for us to refocus and reenergize our national commitment to ending this epidemic. It is a time to rally our troops for the fight ahead and arm them with the weapons they need to win this battle. You and I have some important work to do.

We have a common goal -- ~~set a goal~~ a cure for all those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect ~~all of us~~ from this deadly virus. Let's be very clear on that. A cure and a vaccine are our number one priority.

In my own lifetime, we have eliminated smallpox from our planet. We have eliminated polio from our hemisphere. And we are within striking distance of controlling measles. We must -- we must -- find a way to rid our planet of the threat of HIV.

I am proud of the work we have done in these last three years to infuse new resources, new focus, and new leadership into our AIDS research effort. We have increased funding for AIDS research by more than 25 percent. We have dramatically strengthened the Office of AIDS Research, and we have focused our work on basic science and applied research so that we can ~~concurrently~~ ^{to} unlock the mysteries of HIV while we pursue treatment opportunities that extend and improve the quality of ~~the lives of~~ ^{1 life for} people living with HIV.

This investment in science has already paid tremendous dividends. Today, people with HIV live twice as long as they did just ten years ago. AIDS-related conditions that often meant a quick and many times painful death for people living with HIV can now be treated and even prevented.

And we have reason to believe that there will ^{be} more progress in the near future. New classes of AIDS drugs, ~~are~~ ^{are} being approved for use by the FDA, ~~that~~ ^{that} will help to restore the damaged immune systems of people with HIV. Combination drug therapies are showing great promise as a means for controlling the virus in the human body.

And ^{just} last year we were able to show that the use of drug therapy could actually block HIV transmission from mother to child. Our scientists tell me that it is within our grasp to virtually eliminate pediatric AIDS by the end of this decade. This is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. It can be accomplished by offering all pregnant women HIV counseling and testing, ^{and} guaranteeing that they have access to the treatment they need to protect their unborn children. If we do this, we can have a generation of Americans born without HIV. We can do this -- and we will.

These advances have resulted in longer and fuller lives for people living with HIV, but are they enough? Absolutely not! We must do more.

I am taking three steps today that I believe will move us forward at a faster pace.

First, I am asking the Vice President to convene a meeting of scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and microbicides that can protect people from HIV and the infections it causes. There are no guarantees in science, but the collective will of government and industry can overcome even the biggest obstacles.

Second, I am asking Patsy Fleming to convene an interdepartmental task force working group to develop a coordinated plan for AIDS

research, including a coordinated research budget. I will expect their report within 90 days.

Third, I want to ~~make clear~~ ^{clarify} my personal commitment to make every feasible effort to find a cure and an effective vaccine or vaccines. To that end, I am intensifying my relationship with the Office of National AIDS Policy. We can't afford to miss any new opportunities. We can't afford any unnecessary delays. That's why I am asking Patsy Fleming to provide me even more regular updates on the emerging opportunities and obstacles in this struggle. No President can promise success in such an effort but I need to know what needs to be done to move ~~this~~ ^{us} forward. ~~along~~

Of course our work does not end in the laboratories of our great research institutions. It continues in the clinics and the hospitals and the doctors' offices around the country where people with HIV and AIDS go for the care they need to survive, ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~maintain their health,~~ and to preserve their dignity. When we make advances in science we must match those strides with improvements in our delivery of health care. Step

For people with AIDS, the current discussions over a balanced federal budget are not some distant political firefight. Let me talk for a few minutes about a subject that is very important to me -- the future of Medicaid.

For people with AIDS, Medicaid is a lifeline of support. Medicaid provides health care for nearly half of the 200,000 Americans who are living with AIDS including 90 percent of the children. It provides access to doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and home care that allows people with HIV and AIDS to live their lives more fully. Medicaid pays for ~~the~~ drugs that keep HIV under control for longer and longer periods of time, and it pays for ~~the~~ drugs that prevent ~~the~~ infections that often end the lives of those with AIDS. Medicaid pays for the care that allows families to stay together.

Yet today, Medicaid is under attack by the Republican leaders in Congress who want to slash ~~its~~ spending and eliminate the thirty-year ~~common ground~~ commitment we have made to the poor, the elderly, and those with disabilities. We cannot, we must not, and I will not allow us to destroy this vital lifeline.

Medicaid cannot do the job alone. That's why we created the Ryan White CARE Act to plug the holes in our health care system that left many people with HIV and AIDS out in the cold. Last year, more than 360,000 Americans received care under the Ryan White Act.

When I ran for President, I promised to fully fund the CARE Act and we have. Funding has increased by 108 percent, more than

doubling the number of cities receiving funds and enabling every state in the country to receive some level of assistance.

The CARE Act must be extended for another five years. Both houses of Congress have approved legislation to accomplish this but final legislation remains stalled. That's why ~~on last~~ *I sent a letter* ^{last} Friday, World AIDS Day, ~~I sent a letter~~ to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, asking them to make every effort to get me a final bill by the end of this month so that I can sign it and we can get on with the work ahead.

I am also fighting for ~~the~~ *g* funding increases that *I have* requested for the CARE Act as well as housing programs for people with AIDS and our AIDS prevention programs at CDC.

I am concerned by the continued rate of new infections in this country. In the 1980s, we made important progress in reducing the number of new infections by nearly 50 percent. But for the last five years, the estimated number of infections has hovered between 40,000 and 60,000 per year. We also know that as many as half of those infections occur among people under the age of 25 and half are among teenagers. Any new infection is an unnecessary infection. I am setting a goal, today, of reducing the number of new infections in the United States by half in the next five years and to zero within the next decade.

Until we have a cure and a vaccine, education and prevention are our best hope. For prevention to work it must be targeted and it must be sustained. We saw that at work in the gay community in the 1980s, when activists overcame the inertia of ~~their~~ government to protect ~~their~~ lives.

We must pay particular attention to two populations who are at the center of this epidemic -- young people and those who abuse drugs. I was pleased to see the new public service announcements released last week by Secretary Shalala. They point young people toward the tools they need to protect themselves.

We also need to recognize that substance abuse treatment is a form of HIV prevention. We must ensure that those who are receiving drug treatment also receive AIDS prevention services at the same time. We have increased the number of drug treatment slots available in this country and I am working to convince the Congress to approve our requests for money to bring that number even higher ~~to even more~~ *to fund even more*.

I have also asked the CDC to convene a meeting of state and local health officials and their counterparts on substance abuse to develop an action plan to assure the integration of HIV prevention and substance abuse prevention.

We cannot afford to freeze prevention funding -- as the Republicans in Congress have proposed -- because the epidemic cannot be frozen. It will just grow and grow and grow.

We also cannot forget the basic human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The stories of AIDS related discrimination break the hearts of all Americans of conscience.

Five years ago, our nation took a huge step forward toward a more just society when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. It offers more than 40 million Americans who are living with physical or mental disabilities -- including those who are living with HIV and AIDS -- protection against discrimination.

The Justice Department, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services have been vigorously enforcing the A.D.A. And we are about to launch a new effort to ensure that health care facilities -- nursing homes in particular -- are providing equal access to people with HIV or AIDS.

Still, all of us can do more. We can start by cleaning our own house. I am asking Patsy Fleming to conduct an immediate 60-day review of all government programs that require HIV testing as a condition of participation in government service and government programs. Those that do not have a strong public health rationale must be amended or they must be ended.

We must continue to examine our societal attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and others for whom the fear of AIDS becomes a convenient excuse for discrimination. We cannot let our fear outweigh our common sense or our compassion. If we do, all of us will lose.

As I have said before, ~~the thing we have to remember is~~ ^{we must remember} that people with AIDS and those who are living with HIV are part of our American family. Whether they are gay or straight, black, white, Native American, Latino or Asian American, they are our sons and daughters; our brothers and sisters; ~~our aunts and uncles; and our mothers and fathers; our grandmothers and grandfathers~~. They are Americans one and all. They need our compassion. They deserve our respect.

Finally, let me say that the fight against AIDS is international in scope. HIV knows no geographic boundaries. It is found on every continent and virtually every country. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 18 million men, women, and children are living with HIV around the world. The United States is and will remain a full partner in the international effort to fight the pandemic.

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As a world leader, we have a moral and a national responsibility to help developing nations with prevention programs, medical care, and other vital services. We also have much to learn from them. And when we do find the cure and the vaccine that we seek, it will not only be a victory for America, it will be a victory for the world.

When this country was in the throes of another sickness that threatened to tear us apart -- the sickness of slavery -- Frederick Douglas, the great American abolitionist, wrote:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire. It is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened. The conscience of the nation must be roused. The propriety of the nation must be startled."

Each of you have been the thunder and the lightening. Each of you is helping to awaken the conscience of our nation. Our challenge is to draw more of our citizens into our circle of hope. Together, I am certain, we can change our future for the better.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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FROM: Richard Sarban

DATE: 11/29/95

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 15

COMMENTS:

Remarks

President William J. Clinton

at

The White House Conference on HIV and AIDS

December 6, 1995

GOOD AFTERNOON:

Acknowledgements: Patsy Fleming, Secretary Shalala [other Cabinet members?], Scott Hitt, distinguished guests.

Let me first welcome each of you to this historic White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. Each of you here today is one of the human faces and human voices that represent our national commitment to fighting the relentless killer known as AIDS. I welcome you and I thank you, not only for your participation here today but for the work you do every day to improve the lives of the people of our nation and around the world.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Hitt and the members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS for their work on this critical issue and for suggesting that we convene this meeting.

And I want to express my appreciation to the two extraordinary Americans who have just shared the stories of their lives with me and with you. It is the passion, the commitment, and, yes, the anger of people like Sean Sasser and Eileen Mitzman that remind us all of the importance of the fight against AIDS that we all are waging.

Each generation of Americans has faced an important challenge that has, in many ways, defined their time here on earth. For my parents' generation, World War Two was that defining moment, unifying a nation against a common foe. For my own generation, the civil rights movement provided the focus and the drive of our lives. But for the generation of my own child and all of those in her age group, the epidemic of HIV and AIDS may well be that defining challenge.

My daughter and her friends were born after the shadow of AIDS was among us. Many other young people have come of age in a world in which AIDS is a very sobering reality.

That reality has already changed the lives of all of us in this room today. It has taken from us too many friends and too many loved ones much too soon. It has shaken our faith in the future. But it has also brought us together and inspired a community spirit that strengthens our values as a nation.

It is our collective responsibility to rise to this challenge and change the future for our ourselves, for our children, and for their children. We can do this. In fact, we must do this.

I want to share with you the story on just one of the people who is here today. Just one of the human faces and human voices of AIDS.

It's the story of a young man who grew up in a typical American suburb as part of a typical American family. He attended college and became politically active. His quick mind and active spirit marked him as a "comer," and after graduating he joined the Corporation for National Service to help start AmeriCorps. It was while he was working for AmeriCorps that he found out he was HIV-positive. He was 23 years old.

Demetri Moshoyannis took that news as a challenge. A challenge to use his communication skills, his organizational skills, and his leadership skills to educate and support his peers and help them protect themselves.

It's that combination of heartbreak and hope that makes this epidemic so unique. And it is what challenges all of us to channel our energy and our talent into the fight to make AIDS a thing of the past.

Ten days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that our nation has reached another sad milestone in the AIDS epidemic. Half a million Americans have now been diagnosed

with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women, and children have already died of AIDS.

As we meet, on this day, 120 more Americans will lose their lives to AIDS, another 220 people will be diagnosed with AIDS and nearly 140 people in this country will become infected with HIV. And that will happen again tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that. It will continue to happen until we succeed in our efforts to defeat this epidemic.

That is why this meeting is so important. It is an opportunity for us to refocus and reenergize our national commitment to ending this epidemic. It is a time to rally our troops for the fight ahead and arm them with the weapons they need to win this battle. You and I have some important work to do.

I know that you have all been very busy this morning discussing the very critical issues before us and I am looking forward to our discussion in just a few minutes. But first I would like to share with you my thoughts on our national battle against AIDS. Let me start with our common goal -- a cure for all those who are living with HIV and a vaccine to protect all of us from this deadly virus.

Let's be very clear on that. A cure and a vaccine are our number one priority, first and foremost.

In my own lifetime, we have eliminated smallpox from our planet. We have eliminated polio from our hemisphere. And we are within striking distance of controlling measles. We must -- we must -- find a way to rid our planet of the threat of HIV.

I am proud of the work we have done in these last three years to infuse new resources, new focus, and new leadership into our AIDS research effort. We have increased funding for AIDS research by more than 25 percent, resulting in a larger number of research grants awarded to scientists here and around the world. We have dramatically strengthened the Office of AIDS Research and we have focused our work on basic science and applied research so that we can concurrently unlock the mysteries of HIV while we pursue treatment opportunities that extend and improve the quality of the lives of people living with HIV.

This investment in science has already paid tremendous dividends. Today, people with HIV live twice as long as they did just ten years ago. AIDS-related conditions that often meant a quick and many times painful death for people living with HIV can now be treated and even prevented.

And we have reason to believe that there will more progress in the near future. New classes of AIDS drugs are being approved for use by the FDA that will help to restore the damaged immune systems of people with HIV. Combination drug therapies are showing great promise as a means for controlling the virus in the human body.

And just last year we were able to show that the use of drug therapy could actually block HIV transmission from mother to child. Our scientists tell me that it is within our grasp to virtually eliminate pediatric AIDS by the end of this decade. This is neither science fiction nor a distant dream. It can be accomplished by offering all pregnant women HIV counseling and testing and guaranteeing that they have access to the treatment they need to protect their unborn children. If we do this, we can have a generation of Americans born without HIV. We can do this, we must do this.

These advances have resulted in longer and fuller lives for people living with HIV, but are they enough? Absolutely not! We must do more. We will do more.

I am taking three steps today that I believe will move us forward at a faster pace.

First, I am asking the Vice President to convene a meeting of scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry to identify ways to accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and microbicides that can protect people from HIV and the infections it causes. There are no guarantees in science, but the collective will of government and industry can overcome even the biggest obstacles.

Second, I am asking Dr. William Paul, director of the Office of AIDS Research at NIH, to convene a permanent working group of scientists from all parts of government to assure a coordinated plan for AIDS research, including a coordinated research budget.

Third, I am asking AIDS Director Patsy Fleming to provide me with quarterly reports on our progress on our search for a cure and an effective vaccine or vaccines. No President can promise success in such an effort but I need to know what needs to be done to move this along.

Of course our work does not end in the laboratories of our great research institutions. It continues in the clinics and the hospitals and the doctors' offices around the country where people with HIV and AIDS go for the care they need to survive, to maintain their health, and to preserve their dignity. When we make advances in science we must match those strides with improvements in our delivery of health care.

For people with AIDS, the current discussions over a balanced federal budget are not some distant political firefight. Let me talk for a few minutes about a subject that is very important to me -- the future of Medicaid.

For people with AIDS, Medicaid is a lifeline of support. Nearly half of the 200,000 Americans who are living with AIDS including 90 percent of the children. It provides access to doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and home care that allows people with HIV and AIDS to live their lives more fully. Medicaid pays for the drugs that keep HIV under control for longer and longer periods of time and it pays for the drugs that prevent the infections that often end the lives of those with AIDS. Medicaid pays for the care that allows families to stay together.

Yet today, Medicaid is under attack by the Republican leaders in Congress who want to slash its spending and eliminate the thirty-year common ground commitment we have made to the poor, the elderly, and those with disabilities. We cannot, we must not, and I will not allow us to destroy this vital safety net. I will need your help if we are to win this fight.

Medicaid cannot do the job alone. That's why we created the Ryan White CARE Act to plug the holes in our health care system that left many people with HIV and AIDS out in the cold. Last

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year, more than 360,000 Americans received care under the Ryan White Act.

When I ran for President, I promised to fully fund the CARE Act and we have. Funding has increased by 108 percent, more than doubling the number of cities receiving funds and enabling every state in the country to receive some level of assistance.

The CARE Act must be extended for another five years. Both houses of Congress have approved legislation to accomplish this but final legislation remains stalled. I am asking the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader to make every effort to get me a final bill by the end of this month so that I can sign it and we can get on with the work ahead.

I am also fighting for the funding increases that I have requested for the CARE Act as well as housing programs for people with AIDS and our AIDS prevention programs at CDC.

I am concerned by the continued rate of new infections in this country. In the 1980s, we made important progress in reducing the number of new infections by nearly 50 percent. But for the last five years, the estimated number of infections has hovered between 40,000 and 60,000 per year. We also know that as many as half of those infections occur among people under the age of 25 and half are among teenagers.

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Until we have a cure and a vaccine, education and prevention are our best hope. For prevention to work it must be targeted and it must be sustained. We saw that at work in the gay community in the 1980s, when activists overcame the inertia of their government to protect their lives.

We must pay particular attention to two populations who are at the center of this epidemic -- young people and those who abuse drugs. I was pleased to see the new public service announcements released last week by Secretary Shalala. They give young people the tools they need to protect themselves.

We have increased the number of drug treatment slots available in this country and I am working to convince the Congress to approve our requests for money to bring that number even higher. We need to recognize that substance abuse treatment is a form of HIV prevention. And we must ensure that those who use drugs receive AIDS prevention services at the same time.

I have asked the CDC to convene a meeting of state and local health officials and their counterparts on substance abuse to develop an action plan to assure the integration of HIV prevention and substance abuse prevention.

As we pursue a cure and a vaccine, we must also continue to aggressively work to drive down the number of new HIV infections

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in this country. Any new infection is an unnecessary infection. I am setting a goal, today, of reducing the number of new infections in the United States by half in the next five years and to zero within the next decade.

This will require a sustained and consistently funded prevention effort. We cannot afford to freeze prevention funding -- as the Republicans in Congress have proposed -- because the epidemic cannot be frozen. It will just grow and grow and grow.

We also cannot forget the basic human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The stories of AIDS related discrimination break the hearts of all Americans of conscience.

Five years ago, our nation took a huge step forward toward a more just society when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. It offers more than 40 million Americans who are living with physical or mental disabilities -- including those who are living with HIV and AIDS -- protection against discrimination.

The Justice Department, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services have been vigorously enforcing the A.D.A. And we are about to launch a new effort to ensure that health care facilities -- nursing homes in particular -- are providing equal access to people with HIV or AIDS.

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Still, all of us can do more. We can start by cleaning our own house. I am asking Patsy Fleming to conduct an immediate 60-day review of all government programs that require HIV testing as a condition of participation in government service and government programs. Those that do not have a strong public health rational, must be amended or they must be ended.

We must continue to examine our societal attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and others for whom fear of AIDS becomes a convenient excuse for discrimination. We cannot let our fear outweigh our common sense because we all come out behind.

The thing we have to remember is that people with AIDS and those who are living with HIV are part of our American family. They are our sons and daughters; our brothers and sisters; our aunts and uncles; our mothers and fathers; our grandmothers and grandfathers. They are Americans and they need our compassion and they deserve our respect.

Finally, let me say that the fight against AIDS is international in scope. HIV knows no political boundaries. It is found on every continent and virtually every country. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 18 million men, women, and children are living with HIV around the world.

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The United States is and will remain a full partner in the international effort to fight the pandemic.

We must remember that we have a moral and a national interest in helping developing nations with prevention programs, medical care, and other vital services. And when we do find the cure and the vaccine that we seek, we must find ways to share them with the world.

Frederick Douglas, the great American abolitionist, once wrote:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire. It is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened. The conscience of the nation must be roused. The propriety of the nation must be startled."

Each of you has the power to be the thunder and the lightening. Each of you is a part of the conscience of our nation. Together, I am certain, we can change our future for the better.

Thank you.