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Final 12/21/00 9:00 am
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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

BUDGET BILL SIGNING CEREMONY

THE WHITE HOUSE

December 21, 2000

Acknowledge: Members of the Cabinet; Jack Lew and the other members of my economic team; Members of Congress, including: Sen. Conrad, Sen. Dorgan, Sen. Specter, Rep. Goodling, Rep. Obey, Rep. Kildee, Rep. Sue Kelly, Rep. Talent, Rep. Young; all the other leaders here whose hard work and commitment brought us to this day.

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This marks more than just the end of another year's budget. It is a giant step forward on a journey that we began nearly eight years ago when we launched an economic plan rooted in common sense and common values. Opportunity, responsibility, community—fiscal discipline, investing in people, opening new markets.

That strategy has paid off. We are in the longest economic expansion in our history—with 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the lowest female unemployment in 40 years, the lowest Hispanic and African American unemployment ever recorded, and the highest home ownership in history. We have put America's fiscal house in order—replacing record deficits with record surpluses. In fact, with this budget, we are going to pay off another \$200 billion on the national debt. That means we are on track to paying down \$560 billion on the national debt over four years.

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Crime has fallen for eight consecutive years--the longest continuous drop on record. America is not just better off, we are a better nation.

This budget builds on our progress—and it starts with education. When I became President, the education debate in Washington was fairly stale and predictable. On one extreme were those who thought throwing money at the problem was all that was needed. On the other, those who thought there wasn't any role for the federal government in education. Some even tried to abolish the Department of Education.

Vice President Gore and I believed differently. We visited classrooms across our country and saw that high levels of learning were possible even in the most difficult social and economic circumstances. The challenge was to make the successes we saw in some of our schools take root in all of our schools. Under Secretary Riley's leadership, that's what we are doing. We are turning our schools around with higher standards, more accountability, more investment. Test scores are up with some of the greatest gains in some of the most disadvantaged communities. And two-thirds of high schools graduates go on to college, up 10 percent since 1993.

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Revised Final 12/21/00 1:00 pm
Afridi/Gottheimer

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With the largest student enrollment in history, this budget makes education priority one. With this budget, we have more than doubled funding for education during my Administration. In fact, this is the biggest and best education in our history.

This is not about budget numbers; it's about helping real schools, real students. It is about making a difference in the lives of millions of young people across this country. Let me give you some examples.

Our first-ever initiative to renovate classrooms will mean that, over time, millions of children will attend more modern, dignified schools. With \$1.6 billion on its way to help communities with smaller classrooms, we will help roughly two million children smaller classes and more individualized attention in the early grades.

With nearly \$1 billion more for Head Start – the largest increase in our history – we will have more than doubled the program, adding 60,000 more children to quality preschool in this year alone. We fought for and won a dramatic increase in child care ^{that} resources which will further ensure the health and safety of our children. These new resources, along with the child care funds provided in welfare reform will help more than 2.2 million children next year—an increase of nearly one million since 1997. By over doubling funding for after-school, we are providing 650,000 more students with a safe place to learn, bringing to over 1.3 million the number of young people benefiting from our new after-school initiative.

With another major increase in our new GEAR UP initiative, 1.2 million disadvantaged children will now be preparing for college as early as sixth grade. Together with one of the largest increases in TRIO ever, we are building greater and greater pathways to college for economically disadvantaged young people.

With the largest increase ever in Pell grants, we have now increased the maximum grant by nearly \$1,500 since 1993 for 4 million young people every year from low- and moderate income families. This significant expansion of Pell grants is part of the biggest expansion of college opportunity since the G.I. Bill.

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Draft 12/20/00 7:45 am
Afridi/Gottheimer

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Jack Lew

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During our eight years in the White House, one of the events we have looked forward to the most each year, is ~~this~~ annual presentation of the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal. It has been a special thrill for us to meet the authors whose books we have read, the performers and visual artists whose works have inspired us, and the scholars whom we have admired.

We are especially pleased by the fact that so many artists, writers, historians, and philosophers join us each year to celebrate the vibrancy of our nation's cultural and artistic heritage. The sheer variety of people at this ceremony – from school children to arts patrons, from scholars to corporate executives – proves how integral the arts and humanities are to every facet of our lives.

With the rapid pace of change in the way we learn and work, in how we understand the world and our place in it, artists and thinkers are indispensable touchstones of ~~our~~ *the* past and lodestars ~~for~~ *at the* future. The awards we bestow today are in recognition of the great gifts of beauty and wisdom and knowledge that these recipients have bestowed on us for so many years. Each of them, in his or her own way, has shown us that the most important fact of human existence is our common humanity. When we listen to each others' music, absorb each others' words, exchange ideas and plays and paintings with each other, we not only celebrate our diversity, we strengthen the common bonds that make us one people, one community, one America.

President William J. Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton

*Share the transforming
experience of great art or
~~theater~~ or scholarship
we*

*- artist -
- Shop -
405*

provided in welfare reform, will serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly 1 million since 1997.

- ✓ **Promoting Early Learning by Improving the Quality of Child Care.** This year, President Clinton called on Congress to include an Early Learning Fund in the budget to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. The final budget included the Stevens-Kennedy Early Learning Opportunities Act and provided \$20 million to allow states and communities to help improve child care quality and promote readiness for school.
- ✓ **Helping Low-Income Families Invest for the Future.** Congress approved the President's request of \$25 million for Individual Development Accounts that empower low-income working families to save for a first home, post-secondary education, or to start a new business.

Investing in the Mississippi Delta. Today's legislation also includes authorization for the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), a newly-created agency that will focus \$20 million for area development and technical assistance on distressed counties in the Mississippi Delta Region. The authorization will permit the establishment of the DRA, which will work to improve the economic status of some of our Nation's most impoverished communities.

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	<u>1993 FUNDING</u>	<u>2001 FUNDING</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>IMPACT OF NEW RESOURCES</u>
<u>Total Increase, Key Education Initiatives</u>	\$26.7 billion	\$59.6 billion	+ \$32.9 billion (+123%)	
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>				
Total Resources	\$23.9 billion	\$42.1 billion	+ \$18.2 billion	
Urgent School Renovation: Provides support for short-term emergency repairs, such as repair of roofs, plumbing and electrical systems and meeting fire and safety codes.	\$0	\$1.2 billion	+ \$1.2 billion	Provides resources for \$901 million in urgent school repairs, \$274 million to improve educational technology and special education, and \$25 million for charter school facility needs.
Class-Size Reduction in Early Grades: Helps schools hire and train 100,000 new teachers over seven years, reducing class sizes in the early grades to an average of 18.	\$0	\$1.6 billion	+ \$1.6 billion	Allows schools to hire approximately 37,000 teachers to reduce class sizes. Roughly 2 million children receive more individualized instruction, particularly in the early grades where the benefits of smaller classes have been demonstrated.
After-School: Offers a safe place for children to learn during the after-school and summertime hours.	\$0	\$846 million	+ \$846 million	Enables approximately 1,650 rural and inner-city communities to provide extended learning opportunities.
Teacher Recruitment and Training: Supports professional development for teachers, retention efforts, and recruitment of new teachers and mid-career professionals.	\$435 million	\$995 million	+ \$560 million	Funding has more than doubled for teacher recruitment and training programs. New programs focus on teacher training in technology, support for non-traditional teacher candidates, and comprehensive reform of teacher preparation programs, state certification and licensing of teachers, and teacher recruitment.
Title I Accountability Fund: Strengthens accountability by accelerating State and local efforts to turn around the lowest performing Title I schools.	\$0	\$225 million	+ \$225 million	This program, started in FY 2000, supports efforts of States and districts to improve accountability and turn around up to 4,500 low-performing schools, while increasing public school choice for children in failing schools.
Title I Grants to LEAs: Helps disadvantaged students learn the basics and achieve to high standards. (Figures exclude the accountability fund.)	\$6.1 billion	\$8.4 billion	+ \$2.3 billion	Now serves 13.5 million low-income children, up from 8 million children in 1993-94. Because of increased funding and better targeting, the percentage of high-poverty schools receiving Title I funds has grown from 79% in 1994 to 96% in 2000.
Education Technology: Closes the digital divide by increasing access to computers and the Internet, and helps teachers effectively use technology in the classroom.	\$23 million	\$872 million	+ \$849 million	The more than 3,600 percent increase in the federal investment in education technology helps 3,400 school districts purchase hardware and software, supports demonstration projects to improve the use of educational technology; and prepares 275,000 future teachers to use technology effectively in their classrooms.

	<u>1993 FUNDING</u>	<u>2001 FUNDING</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>IMPACT OF NEW RESOURCES</u>
Special Education: Helps States provide high-quality special education and related services to children with disabilities aged birth through 21 years.	\$3.0 billion	\$7.4 billion	+ \$4.5 billion	The 150 percent increase in special education funding has increased the Federal contribution toward meeting the cost of special education for children with disabilities, from 8 percent to 15 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure.
Small, Safe, and Successful High Schools: Provides support for high schools to create smaller learning communities like schools-within-schools and career academies.	\$0	\$125 million	+ \$125 million	Funding enables approximately 1,000 large high schools serving at least 1 million students to implement smaller, more intimate learning environments that promote stronger bonds between students and teachers and safer and improved school climates.
Pell Grants: Provides scholarships to low-income undergraduate students. Maximum Pell Grant (Total Pell Grants).	\$2,300 (\$6.5 billion)	\$3,750 (\$8.8 billion)	+ \$1,450 (+ \$2.3 billion)	Low-income students are receiving more grant aid for college. The maximum Pell Grant, which determines the size of all students' awards, has increased 63 percent since 1993.
Work-Study: Helps undergraduate and graduate students pay for college.	\$617 million	\$1.0 billion	+ \$394 million	In FY 2001, 1 million students will participate in the Work-Study program, an increase of 288,000 students since 1993.
TRIO: Funds college outreach and student support services for disadvantaged individuals.	\$388 million	\$730 million	+ \$342 million	This year 765,000 disadvantaged high school and college students — 135,000 more than in 1993 — will receive support services to help them prepare for and succeed in college.
GEAR UP: Helps disadvantaged students prepare for college through partnerships of schools and colleges and state efforts.	\$0	\$295 million	+ \$295 million	1.2 million low-income middle- and high-school students will now receive mentoring, tutoring, counseling, and other support services each year to help them prepare for college.

OTHER NATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Total Resources	\$2.8 billion	\$20.2 billion	+ \$17.4 billion	
Head Start: Prepares low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development through child development and family support services.	\$2.8 billion	\$6.2 billion	+ \$3.4 billion	After doubling resources over the past eight years, Head Start and Early Head Start will serve approximately 935,000 children in 2001.
The E-Rate: Provides resources to schools investing in technology.	\$0	\$3.1 billion	+ \$3.1 billion	Since 1998, \$5.6 billion in E-Rate resources have helped connect schools and classrooms to the Internet. Today, 95 percent of schools are connected, up from 35 percent in 1994, and 63 percent of classrooms are connected, up from 3 percent in 1994.
Hope Scholarship: Provides a tax credit of up to \$1,500 a year for tuition and fees for the first two years of college.	\$0	\$5.1 billion	+ \$5.1 billion	Helps make the first two years of college universally affordable. In 2000, 5.6 million families can receive \$5 billion in Hope Scholarship tax relief.
Lifetime Learning Tax Credit: Provides a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition to college and graduate students and to adults taking career-related classes.	\$0	\$2.4 billion	+ \$2.4 billion	In 2000, 7.2 million families can receive \$2.4 billion in education tax relief.
Student Loan Interest Deduction: Creates a tax-deduction for interest during the first 60 months of student loan repayment.	\$0	\$333 million	+ \$333 million	Makes student loans more affordable.

**CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN PODESTA
REMARKS ON DIESEL REGULATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC
December 21, 2000**

Good morning. I came here today to convey the importance of this morning's clean air announcement, and to thank the people of the EPA for their work in this effort. For eight years now, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been worked to preserve our environment, keep our air clean, and protect the health of all our citizens. All of you have been instrumental in that endeavor. I'd like to acknowledge the individual who, since 1993, has been a driving force behind our environmental record: the Administrator of the EPA Carol Browner. No EPA Administrator has ever worked harder or accomplished more to protect our environment, and to improve the lives of millions of Americans, young and old. On behalf of the President and the American people I want to thank her for her tireless leadership.

Carol, you've helped the President prove an important point: that we can both protect the environment and grow the economy at the same time. That's exactly what we've done over the past eight years. We've helped produce the most dynamic economy in American history, and improved air quality in every single state. We've reduced toxic air pollution from chemical plants by 90 percent. We've ensured safer drinking water for millions of Americans. We've cleaned up three time as many Superfund cleanup sites than the two previous administrations combined. We've launched a clean water plan to clean up 40 percent of the nation's waterways still too polluted for fishing or swimming. President Clinton signed the toughest pesticide law to protect Americans from dangerous residues in food. We've set the toughest standards in decades for smog and soot, which will prevent millions of cases of childhood asthma. We're working to clear haze and restore skies to our national parks. And last year, President Clinton announced a new plan to make our air even cleaner, by dramatically reducing pollution from gasoline-powered cars. Thanks in part to these efforts, more than 43 million Americans are now breathing healthier air.

But we must stay on the path that got us here. In a few moments, Administrator Browner will discuss our new initiative to build on our progress, with new measures to reduce air pollution from heavy-duty trucks and buses. These steps will dramatically improve the health of our nation, by dramatically reducing tailpipe emissions from diesel-powered vehicles. They represent the most sweeping effort ever to protect our air and our health from the pollution caused by cars and trucks.

As with so many other efforts to protect our environment, we have proven wrong the skeptics who claimed that the costs of fighting pollution would be ruinous. Time and again, science has helped us develop safer alternatives without dire economic costs. We proved the skeptics wrong when we took lead out of gasoline, and banned DDT. And we proved them wrong when we passed the Clean Air Act. Since 1970, the direct benefits of the Clean Air Act including lower health care costs and work days lost, have outweighed the costs by more than \$1

trillion. In all, over the past thirty years, through the actions of government and the ingenuity of American industry, we have reduced air pollution in the United States by nearly a third – even as our economic output has more than doubled.

Before I introduce the Administrator, the President has asked me to read a statement on today's announcement.

[read statement]

[introduce Administrator Browner]