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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Legislative Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Elisa Millsap

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 6522

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Events - July: ADA [American's with Disabilities] Event South Lawn 07/27/1994

Stack:

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Row:

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	RE: Personally Identifiable Information [partial] (2 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Legislative Affairs
Elisa Millsap
OA/Box Number: 6522

FOLDER TITLE:

Events - July: ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] Event South Lawn 07/27/1994

2007-0143-F

db4517

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Bobby Silverstein

4-6-65

(b)(6)

[001]

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

James L. Davis

(b)(6)

Min Russell Williams

(b)(6)

Beth Jones

Sasser

615 265 2506

HRC → TN?

Holly/Thornold

Judge on 4th circuit
daughter ← Min Russell Williams
SC Bd of Mental Health

4-7722

Dedicate courthouse

EVENT: 4th Anniv of Am with Disabilities Act
DATE: Wed, 7/27 (anniv on 7/26)
TIME: 10:30-11:30 am
LOCATION: South Lawn

MASTER

PARTICIPANTS:

POTUS
VPOTUS
HRC
MEG

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON STAGE:

~~YES~~ Sen. Mitchell *Pot 7/27/27*
~~YES~~ Sen. Harkin *Braden* (Y)
~~YES~~ Sen. Hatch *Doyle* (Y)
Speaker Foley
Rep. Gephardt
Rep. Hoyer -yes
Rep. Fish -yes

MEMBERS IN VIP SECTION:

~~NO~~ Sen. Dominici *Angela* (N)
~~NO~~ Sen. Inouye *Sally* (N)
~~NO~~ Sen. Kassebaum *Sen WCD*
~~NO~~ Sen. McCain *Sen (WCD)*
~~NO~~ Sen. Wellstone
~~NO~~ Sen. Wofford
~~NO~~ Sen. Stevens
~~YES~~ Sen. Kennedy
~~NO~~ Sen. Dole
~~NO~~ Sen. Simon
~~NO~~ Sen. Metzenbaum *(WCD)*
~~NO~~ Sen. Durenberger
~~NO~~ Sen. McCain
~~NO~~ Sen. Jeffords
~~NO~~ Sen. Chafee
~~NO~~ Sen. Moynihan
~~NO~~ Sen. Daschle
~~NO~~ Sen. Pryor
~~NO~~ Sen. Rockefeller
Rep. Bonior -no
Rep. Michel -no
Rep. Edwards (CA) -yes
Rep. Owens -yes
Rep. Mineta -no
Rep. Brooks -yes
Rep. Dingell -no
Rep. Markey
Rep. Goodling
Rep. Gunderson
Rep. Moorhead
Rep. Waxman
Rep. Ford (MI)
Rep. Rahall -no

Rep. Miller (CA)
Rep. Williams
Rep. Lewis (GA)
Rep. Stark
Rep. Gibbons -no
Rep. Moakley -yes
Rep. Nadler -yes
Rep. Mollohan -yes

Sen. Biden - NO

EVENT: 4th Anniv of Am with Disabilities Act

DATE: Wed, 7/27 (anniv on 7/26)

TIME: 10:30-11:30 am

LOCATION: South Lawn

Arrival 10:15 am NW Gate

PARTICIPANTS:

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VPOTUS

HRC

MEG

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Sen. Mitchell

Sen. Harkin

Sen. Hatch

Speaker Foley

Rep. Gephardt

Rep. Hoyer -yes

Rep. Fish -yes

MEMBERS IN VIP SECTION:

Sen. Dominici

Sen. Inouye

Sen. Kassebaum

~~NO~~ Sen. McCain ~~will RSVP~~ Joe

Sen. Wellstone ~~will RSVP~~ x 2159

Matt ~~NO~~ Sen. Wofford ~~will RSVP~~ x 2159

~~NO~~ Sen. Stevens ~~will RSVP~~

~~YES~~ Sen. Kennedy ~~Steve~~

Sen. Dole

~~NO~~ Sen. Simon

Sen. Metzenbaum

Sen. Durenberger

Sen. McCain

~~YES~~ Sen. Jeffords

Sen. Chafee

Sen. Moynihan

~~NO~~ Sen. Daschle

~~NO~~ Sen. Pryor

Sen. Rockefeller

Rep. Bonior -no

Rep. Michel -no

Rep. Edwards (CA) -yes

Rep. Owens -yes

Rep. Mineta -no

Rep. Brooks -yes

Rep. Dingell -no

Rep. Markey

Rep. Goodling

Rep. Gunderson

Rep. Moorhead

Rep. Waxman

Rep. Ford (MI)

Rep. Rahall -no

Rep. Miller (CA)

Rep. Williams

Rep. Lewis (GA)

Rep. Stark

Rep. Gibbons -no

Rep. Moakley -yes

Rep. Nadler -yes

Rep. Mollohan -yes

ADD BIDEN - NO

Marianne Baker 0122

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DATE: Wed, 7/27 (anniv on 7/26)
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VPOTUS
HRC
MEG

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Sen. Hatch
Speaker Foley
Rep. Gephardt
Rep. Hoyer -yes
Rep. Fish -yes

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Sen. Inouye
Sen. Kassebaum
Sen. McCain
Sen. Wellstone
Sen. Wofford
Sen. Stevens
Sen. Kennedy

Rep. Miller (CA)
Rep. Williams
Rep. Lewis (GA)
Rep. Stark
Rep. Gibbons -no
Rep. Moakley -yes
Rep. Nadler -yes
Rep. Mollohan -yes

~~Sen. Dole~~ WCB (WCB 7-25)
J & A ~~Sen. Simon~~ WCB
Sen. Metzenbaum WCB (WCB 7-25)
Sen. Durenberger WCB (WCB 7-25)
W ~~Sen. McCain~~ (NA)
H ~~Sen. Jeffords~~
Sen. Chafee
Sen. Moynihan
Sen. Daschle
Sen. Pryor
Sen. Rockefeller
Rep. Bonior -no
Rep. Michel -no
Rep. Edwards (CA) -yes
Rep. Owens -yes
Rep. Mineta -no
Rep. Brooks -yes
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Rep. Markey
Rep. Goodling
Rep. Gunderson
Rep. Moorhead
Rep. Waxman
Rep. Ford (MI)
Rep. Rahall -no

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HRC
MEG

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Sen. Hatch
Speaker Foley
Rep. Gephardt
Rep. Hoyer -yes
Rep. Fish -yes

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Sen. Inouye
Sen. Kassebaum
Sen. McCain
Sen. Wellstone
Sen. Wofford
Sen. Stevens
Sen. Kennedy
Sen. Dole
Sen. Simon
Sen. Metzenbaum
Sen. Durenberger
Sen. McCain

Rep. Miller (CA)
Rep. Williams
Rep. Lewis (GA)
Rep. Stark
Rep. Gibbons -no
Rep. Moakley -yes
Rep. Nadler -yes
Rep. Mollohan -yes

CJ
Sen. Jeffords Treach
Sen. Chafee Donna
Sen. Moynihan Eleanor
Sen. Daschle Andrew
Sen. Pryor Leslie
Sen. Rockefeller Ticio
Rep. Bonior -no
Rep. Michel -no
Rep. Edwards (CA) -yes
Rep. Owens -yes
Rep. Mineta -no
Rep. Brooks -yes
Rep. Dingell -no
Rep. Markey
Rep. Goodling
Rep. Gunderson
Rep. Moorhead
Rep. Waxman
Rep. Ford (MI)
Rep. Rahall -no

HARRIS WOFFORD
PENNSYLVANIA

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

Holden?
Copy
Edge
1 (Steve 5400)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3803

Senator Harris Wofford
United States Senate
Harrisburg Regional Office



P.O. Box 55
Federal Square Station
228 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17108
Phone: (717) 231-7540
Fax: (717) 231-7542

Facsimile Cover Sheet

Date: 9/19/95

To: Cassie O'Neil

Of: White House

Fax Number: 202-456-2604

From: _____

Message: Please refer to Scheduler + get back to me - Thank you -

Number of Pages, including cover sheet: _____

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HARRIS WOFFORD
PENNSYLVANIA

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3803

July 19, 1994

Came from the district
We can do it through your DC office
we will get fix to DC office

TO: Cassie O'Neill, Staff Assistant, Office of the President.
FR: Harris Wofford, USS, Harrisburg, PA District Office
RE: 4th Anniversary Celebration of ADA - Additional Invitation

I write on behalf of Sandra Christianson, ADA Director in Governor Robert P. Casey's Office of General Counsel. Ms. Christianson, who has directed the ADA efforts for Pennsylvania for more than a year has been inadvertently omitted from the guest list for the 4th Anniversary ADA Celebration.

Appropriately, Pat Halpin-Murphy, Secretary's Representative for the Department of Labor in Region III, and Leslye Herrmann, Deputy Director of the ADA office for Pennsylvania, have been invited to attend the Celebration.

I request that an invitation be extended to Sandra Christianson, whose tireless efforts have energized the ADA program in Pennsylvania and have made her office and its expertise accessible and responsive to those with ADA related questions and problems.

Each of these women has a proven track record of fighting for the ADA before its passage and implementation, and of bringing its provisions fully to bear in the state. I urge you to make the necessary arrangements to include Sandra Christianson on the guest list for the Celebration.

I will appreciate a prompt response. Please contact Helen Norton, Staff Assistant in my Harrisburg office, for any other information that may be required and to report action taken in this matter.

Joan

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(717) 347-2341

PRESIDENT CLINTON CELEBRATES THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

July 27, 1994

Today, President Clinton will honor the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and underscore his commitment to universal health care coverage to ensure that every American -- especially disabled Americans -- has guaranteed health insurance that can never be taken away. The President will emphasize that universal coverage will help tear down the final barrier to inclusion and independence for the millions of Americans with special needs and will enable them to realize the full range of opportunities which are available to them.

Americans with disabilities are a large and diverse population. Of the estimated 49 million people with physical or mental impairments, a significant portion are of working age. For too many, their disability status -- compounded by the lack of available and affordable assistance -- renders them unable to get insurance, and significantly hurts their job prospects. At the same time, families with insurance are reluctant to change jobs or move, for fear of being denied health care coverage. Passage of real health care reform which achieves universal coverage will help to bridge this gap in the protections of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act.

Prior to the ADA event, President Clinton will place a phone call to Dr. Glenn Anderson in Little Rock, Arkansas using a text telephone with the call being placed through the Arkansas Relay Service. Telecommunications relay services, mandated by the ADA, allow people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-disabled and use a text telephone to communicate with people to use a standard phone -- and vice versa.

In addition to the celebration on the South Lawn, the Department of Justice marked the anniversary by airing Public Service Announcements, which encouraged businesses and individuals to learn what the law requires. The ads include a 1800 number for information on how to comply with the law or file complaints.

-more-

ADA Anniversary, page 2

PROGRAM

The First Lady will make opening remarks, followed by Tipper Gore. The Vice President will then make remarks and introduce the President.

Administration officials expected to attend are: Attorney General Janet Reno, Transportation Secretary Federico Pena, Education Secretary Richard Riley, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Secretary for Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Dr. Lee Brown, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Deval Patrick, and Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services at the Department of Education, Judy Heumann.

Individuals from the disability community attending the event are Marca Bristo, recently confirmed as Chair of the National Council on Disability; Judy Chamberlin, National Empowerment Center in Lawrence, Massachusetts; Brian Clukey, President of People First of Northern Virginia; Tony Coehlo, Chair of the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities; Justin Dart, former Chair of the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities; I. King Jordan, President of Gallaudet University; Becky Ogle, Director of Project Accessibility at NAMES, and Co-chair of The Real Health Care For All Campaign; Paul Schroeder, Director of Governmental Affairs for the American Council for the Blind; Patrisha Wright, Director of Government Affairs at the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

Members of Congress attending are Speaker Tom Foley (D-WA), Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME), Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-NY).

FACTS ABOUT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

- ? 35 % of people with disabilities (including severe and non-severe) are without health care coverage. (Bureau of Census 1/94)
- ? Due to a variety of physical, mental and emotional conditions, an estimated 49 million noninstitutionalized Americans have a disability (20%). Of these persons, 24 million have a "severe" disability. (Bureau of Census 1/94)

-more-

- ? Severe disabilities reduce employment chances. Those with disabilities constitute 13% of all employed persons; those with a severe disability comprise 3%. Although having a less than severe disability does not have a large effect on one's chance of being employed, having a severe disability does. However, just 23% with a severe disability worked. Data shows that persons with a disability -- particularly a severe one -- earn less than those without one. (Bureau of Census 1/94)
- ? According to the Dole Foundation, two-thirds of Americans with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 64 are not working. The cost to America is an estimated \$200 billion dollars annually in private and public payments and an additional \$100 billion in unrealized wages and taxes.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act was driven by a growing realization that government was spending far too little on measures that would enable people with disabilities to live productively and independently and far too much in ways that perpetuated the isolation and dependency of people with disabilities.

Signed into law in 1990, the ADA eliminates discrimination in access, employment, transportation and communications for Americans with disabilities. This year marks the fourth anniversary of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act and implementation of the final phase of the law -- which requires small businesses that employ fifteen or more employees to comply with the employment provisions of the law. This will affect an additional 400,000 private businesses and 100,000 organizations and non-profits this year, amounting to a total of two million businesses covered by the ADA. (Businesses with 25 or more employees were required to comply by July 26, 1992.)

Some of the transportation provisions are phased in until 2010.

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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

Although passage of the Act marked an "Independence Day," people with disabilities and their families cannot become truly independent until they achieve economic independence. For many, their disability status -- compounded by the lack of available and affordable assistance -- renders them unable to get health insurance, and therefore hinders job prospects. They are either not hired because of the insurance risk they pose, or they opt not to work because they fear losing the health benefits they now get through Medicaid. Passage of a health care bill, which achieves universal coverage for all Americans regardless of pre-existing conditions and places no life-time limits on care, would eliminate a strong disincentive for employment, and help make what the Americans with Disabilities Act aims to achieve into reality.

As a major piece of civil rights legislation, one of the goals of the ADA is to include people with disabilities in mainstream society. Universal health coverage extends inclusion in our health care system to people with disabilities.

PHONE CALL TO DR. GLENN ANDERSON

The President will place a phone call to Dr. Glenn Anderson, newly-named and first African-American chair of the board of trustees at Gallaudet University. Dr. Anderson is deaf. The call will be "conveyed" by a communications assistant who, as in any relay call, listens and speaks to the hearing person and types the hearing person's message onto a computer screen, a message that is received by the text telephone user. The text telephone user's response is relayed verbally to the hearing person. Now in its third year, the Arkansas Relay Service can provide service for an estimated quarter million persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired in the state. The Arkansas Relay Services, Inc. (ARSI) is a non-profit organization established to administer the relay service. The service operates 24 hours a day and ensures full confidentiality for both parties. There is no cost to users for local calls. MCI administers the ARSI service in Arkansas as well as Wisconsin, Florida, Arizona and Louisiana. Additional providers offer the same service in other states. This service is available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PHONE CALL TO DR. GLENN ANDERSON

The Oval Office

10:26 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. Anderson? Good morning. I want to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of the Galludet University Board of Trustees.

I also want to thank you for your great career in rehabilitation work, and your earlier help to me when I served as governor.

I'm glad we can use this telephone network today because I know what an important link it is to millions of Americans. Go ahead.

DR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you very much for your kind words.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak with you this morning. Thank you for agreeing to make this relay call.

Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your appearance at the Galludet University commencement last May. You inspired deaf people all over the country by your appearance and your wonderful commencement address. Go ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the honor was mine. I was very inspired by the students and their dreams.

I also want to say how very proud I am of the strong support we have been receiving from the deaf and disabled communities on health care reform. Go ahead.

DR. ANDERSON: Great. Yes, we very much care about improving health care services, and we are so glad that you have taken the lead in advocating for health care reform.

Hopefully, you will also be able to remind health care providers of how important it is that they be sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities for health care services and for access to reasonable accommodations. I am very inspired by your hard work, and will do all I can to support your efforts.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, I will be sensitive to those things. And I think you well understand that the only way we can extend those benefits and opportunities to the disabled community is to cover all Americans. If we do that, we will be able to contain costs and empower disabled Americans to work and to live to the fullest of their abilities.

Let me say, also, before we close this conversation, how pleased I am that the ADA is working and giving us things like this telephone relay system. It's a great tribute to the work that millions of disabled Americans have done.

MORE

I want to make a special note of the work that your wife Karen has done and the help she gave to our campaign in 1992 and our efforts to reach out for all Americans. Go ahead.

DR. ANDERSON: Great. My wife is here with me, and she's grinning from ear to ear. She enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and work in your campaign.

I also want to say, yes, the ADA is working very well. And it will work even better in the years to come. Our conversation this morning is a living example of how well ADA is working. Go ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to thank you again for all you have done to make the ADA work for people in their everyday lives.

It's been a real pleasure to talk with you today. One of my aides told me that your son, Jamal, and I have a picture together that you would like me to autograph. I'd be glad to do that, and I look forward to seeing you again soon. Signing off.

DR. ANDERSON: Great. Many, many thanks for this opportunity. Thank you, again, and you have a great day, too. Bye bye.

THE PRESIDENT: Goodbye.

END

10:35 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The South Lawn

11:08 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. It is wonderful to see this sea of Americans here at the White House today. Senator Harkin and I were back there talking, and he was beaming because he had so much to do with the ADA. And I was listening to the First Lady and to Tipper and to the Vice President give their fine speeches and they were all so good, I was wishing I could just sit there and not have to say anything -- (laughter) -- enjoy the day and welcome you here.

I thank especially the members of Congress who are here -- Congressman Hoyer, Congressman Fish, Congressman Major Owens and Congressman Goodling. (Applause.) Thank you for being here, sirs. Two who are not here because they're on the Hill working, I want to mention -- Senator Kennedy and Congressman Jack Brooks who worked so hard on this. (Applause.)

I thank former Congressman Tony Coelho who's done a magnificent job as Chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disability. (Applause.)

I thank all the people who are here on this stage. And I want to say something today about the spirit of bipartisanship. I will say more later, but I would remind you that it would be wrong for the day to go by without pointing out that this Bill was signed into law by my Republican predecessor, President Bush, and I thank him for doing that. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce three young people from Galludet University who are here who are part of one of our administration's most important initiatives and an illustration of why we have to keep working to open the doors of opportunity to all Americans. They are Jennifer Nasukowitz (phonetic), Amy Hopkins and Madeleine Frederickson (phonetic). I would ask them to stand. (Applause.)

They are completing their training to be participants in the first class of our national service program, Americorps. (Applause.) Beginning this September, they will be part of 20,000 young Americans who will be working to help to reclaim our sense of national community. They'll be working to help reclaim the natural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay. And together, they'll be working to revolutionize our sense of what we can do together. And in return, they'll get a little bit of help to continue their education.

You know, as the Vice President said, when we went across this country and sought the opportunity to serve here, our slogan was, putting people first. What that meant to me was pretty simple as we hurtle toward the next century, as we come to the end of the Cold War, we owe it to our people to do some basic things. First of all, to try to create a world of greater peace and prosperity -- that's what we've been about here the last two days with the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel -- (applause); second, to restore the American economy; third, to rebuild our American

MORE

community with stronger community, stronger families; fourth, to empower all Americans to live to the fullest of their God-given abilities and to expect them to assume the responsibility to do so. (Applause.)

We are at a moment in history when our values -- what we believe is morally right -- and our interests -- what is clearly good for us in a tangible material way -- are one. We do not have a person to waste -- (applause) -- and that is why we are here today to rededicate our selves to an America where every man, woman and child can reach the fullest of their God-given potential.

Like every civil rights law in our history, the Americans with Disabilities Act is just that. It's about potential; it is not a handout. It stands for what's best in our heritage -- empowering Americans to build better lives for themselves. And that tradition, I pledge as your President, to see that this Act is fully implemented and aggressively enforced in our schools, our workplaces, in government and in public places for the benefit of all persons with disabilities -- the blind and visually impaired, the deaf and hard of hearing, persons with mental retardation, persons with mental illness, persons who are mobility impaired -- all people who have problems that can be overcome; that's what this Act is about. (Applause.)

We must move from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, from paternalism to empowerment. (Applause.) Your future and the future of those whom you represent is at the heart of my vision for America. In every aspect, consider this: if our goals here at home are to restore our economy, to rebuild our American communities and to empower individuals, how can we achieve them unless you are part of all of them? Look at the progress which has been made and look at where we have to go.

In the last 18 months, we have passed a bill cutting the deficit by record amounts, reducing the federal government to its smallest point since John Kennedy was President, having three years of deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was President; and it's produced 3.8 million jobs and a 1.5 percent drop in the unemployment rate. But we've got a long way to go. (Applause.)

We've got a long way to go because millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened it to them. (Applause.) We are working up here to strengthen our American community. Congressman Brooks, today, is back in the Congress working on the crime bill, which will put more police officers on our street and ban assault weapons and toughen sentences, but also give our children something to say yes to. There are billions of dollars there to invest in programs to get kids out of trouble before they are too far gone. It will rebuild our American community.

But how can we be a community if millions of you are isolated from our common life and our common purposes? We can never be an American community. (Applause.)

The Secretary of Education is working to implement the most important empowerment agenda of all. Along with the Department of Health and Human Services and others, we are trying to implement a lifetime education system starting with Head Start for all children who need it and going through lifetime learning for people when they change jobs in the workplace. But how can this work unless you are part of the empowerment agenda of America, we will never be fully empowered. (Applause.)

So, I say to you, if our job is to put people first, to rebuild the economy, to strengthen our communities, to empower our

people, we cannot do that job unless you walk every step or ride every step or get there however you can. We need you. And without you we cannot do it. (Applause.)

In this global economy, as the Secretary of Labor never tires of telling me, the only thing we have that nobody can take away from us is the mind and the heart and spirit of our people. (Applause.) That's good news. It means the mind of our people and the spirit of our people can be used sometimes without lifting large weights or doing great physical labor. It means we can open the possibility of employment to more people. But it also means if we really want to win for all Americans, we must believe and act on the premise that we do not have a person to waste. (Applause.)

When I was first elected governor -- it seems like 100 years ago now -- but back in the late '70s before the Americans with Disabilities Act came along -- of the 50 or so people that worked in my office, three were blind. I got to the point where I didn't notice because they were just great employees. It struck me as crazy for them not to be part of a workforce they could contribute to. Today I have had the honor of appointing 44 outstanding people with disabilities to important jobs in our government -- (applause) -- including Judy Human who's here with me today, the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education. (Applause.)

She had to fight for her first job as a teacher. She's fought for disability rights for her entire life. Now she's fighting for the future of every child in America. I say that to make this point. We have not appointed a single, solitary person because of their disability. They have all been appointed because of their ability to serve the American people. (Applause.)

Why is this health care issue so important to this agenda. There are many reasons. We're the only country in the world that's going backwards in health care coverage with an advanced economy. A few years ago, 88 percent of our people were covered, now we're down to 83 percent. In the last five years alone, over five million Americans have lost their health insurance coverage. That is very troubling. We're spending too much money to get too little -- throwing billions of dollars away on paperwork and bureaucracy every year so that we don't have the money we need. Look at this Cabinet behind me -- to fight drugs, to take care of veterans health care needs, to build a transportation network for the 21st century, to spend on education and training programs, to spend on the needs of the poor and to fight crime. That's just the Cabinet members behind me. Why? Because we are holding all spending flat while health care spending explodes -- not for new health care, more money for the same health care.

But most of all, it is a human problem. The other day in Western Pennsylvania, I was introduced by two women; one, a mother of five children who had become ill and she and her husband lost their health insurance and all their children; the other, a 62 year-old woman who had been a dairy farmer all of her life -- seven-day-a-week work, no slacking in that business. And she finally had lost her health insurance, at the time in her life when she needed it most. And if you look out at this sea of people and all those whom you represent, the fact that the health insurance system of America discriminates against millions of people because of their disabilities, or because they have had serious illnesses, or because they are too old, when they switch jobs or when their employer gets in trouble; and the fact that it is wildly discriminatory against small business, which is creating most of the new jobs in this country, but paying 30 or 40 percent more for health insurance than those of us in government or working for big businesses do -- all these things are keeping us from putting every person's talents to use; and especially, especially, the disabled Americans who could be

in the workforce if their employers could afford to provide them health insurance. (Applause.)

The people who fought for the Americans with Disabilities Act understood that. They originally had health care reform in the Act, and it had to be dropped, because they knew that this bill would be delayed for years if it had to deal with the difficult and complicated and politically explosive issue of health care reform. But I tell you, my fellow Americans, now is the time to act and to go forward and to finish the work that was done in the beginning six years ago. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Now! Now! Now!

THE PRESIDENT: Now is the time.

AUDIENCE: Now! Now!

THE PRESIDENT: There are those who say, well, we can just reform the insurance laws and say everybody's entitled to insurance and everybody's entitled to take it from job to job and subsidize the poor more.

Let me tell you, if we do that, we will cut Medicare for the elderly; we'll do a little more for the poor in the short run; we'll do nothing to help people be part of the working middle class, because what will happen is insurance premiums will go up, coverage will go down, small businesses on the margin will stop covering, and people who wish to be part of the working middle class will have fewer, not more, opportunities to work and live to the fullest of their capacities.

We do not want to create a system where the only way you can have health care is if you are poor and go on welfare, if you go to jail, if you go to work for a big employer or the government, or you are wealthy. We want a system that covers everybody so you can be what you want to be. (Applause.)

Let me tell you that for over a year -- and in my case, as a citizen of this country and when I was a governor for now more than four years -- we have pursued every avenue, we have examined all evidence, we have solicited every suggestion for how to provide this kind of opportunity and security for all Americans. I have seen no one yet who has come up with a better idea than shared responsibility between employers and employees for private health insurance in our private health care system. (Applause.) It already works for most families; that's the way most families are covered. And in the state of Hawaii, it works for all families. In Hawaii, for 20 years, there's been a requirement for shared responsibility for private insurance between employers and employees.

And whenever I bring this up, people say, well, yes Mr. President, but in Hawaii, everybody goes there because they want a vacation. It's sunny and people are healthier there. Everything is more expensive there, so what difference does it make if health insurance is more expensive -- everything costs more. Look at the facts.

First of all, 20 percent of the people in the health system in Hawaii are poor native islanders. Secondly, health insurance is the only thing in Hawaii that is not more expensive than anyplace else in America -- it's 30 percent cheaper for small businesses than the average cost of health insurance in America because everybody pays and no one avoids their responsibility. And the people are healthier because they have primary and preventive care like the First Lady was talking about. (Applause.)

As has been pointed out, somewhat embarrassingly to them, there are many American companies now in the forefront of the fight against universal coverage who provide coverage to all their employees when they open businesses in other countries and they do just fine. And they can do just fine here, too.

What is different about this moment in history? Well, I'll tell you what's different -- for the first time ever, you have the American Medical Association --

THE AUDIENCE: You're here. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you. Somebody was whispering, what's different at this moment in history is the President's crazy enough to take on this fight. (Laughter.)

No, what is different? This time the American Medical Association, the American Association of Family Practice, the pediatricians, the American Nurses Association, the medical schools of the United States, the American Association of Retired People, the AFL-CIO and an association literally, literally, of hundreds of thousands of small businesses and many of the biggest businesses in the country, as well as a majority of the American people all have agreed that the best way to do this is to have employers and employees share the responsibility for buying private insurance.

Now, how are we going to do it? Let me say that I desperately want a bipartisan bill. I have reached out to members of the other party. This bill passed with a bipartisan majority. At one point, two dozen Republican senators supported Senator Chafee's bill for universal coverage. But every time I have reached out, they have moved further away. I feel like I keep reaching out. I wish we were in a car and they would eventually run up against the door and have to come back to my way -- (laughter) -- because I keep reaching out.

Let me say that 22 years ago -- 22 years ago -- a Republican President, Richard Nixon, and one of the incumbent Republican Senators from Oregon, Robert Packwood, offered a bill to require employers and employees to share the responsibility for private health insurance. If it was a good idea 22 years ago, it is a better idea today when things have gotten more difficult in terms of cost and coverage, and we ought to do it. (Applause.)

Now, let me say -- you heard the Vice President with that quote from the Republican consultants -- let's send them home empty-handed. We've done that a lot, you know. We've done that a lot. It took five years to pass the ADA. When I showed up in town here, it had taken seven years until we could finally pass the Brady Bill last year -- seven years. (Applause.) Seven years. Seven years until we could finally pass the Family and Medical Leave Law last year -- very important to you. (Applause.)

Seven years until we could finally get the worldwide trade agreement that will add a half a million jobs in America between now and the end of the decade. (Applause.) A lot of times, if you want bipartisan consensus on a tough issue, it takes forever. But I tell you, we dare not wait longer. For 60 years, Presidents of both parties have known we should cover all Americans. We now see health care costs going up, and the only government spending going up is in health care while we are desperately trying to bring this deficit down and invest in our future. And we know that in only five years, 5 million Americans have lost their coverage.

We are at an historic moment. For the first time ever, there are bills on the floor of both houses of the Congress that will give Americans health care. We must say we don't care about politics. There are Democrats and Republicans and Independents in

this audience. There are people here today who voted for all three people who ran for President last time. I do not give a rip what your politics are, but I do want you to have health care so you can contribute to America's future. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Health care now! Health care now! Health care now!

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. Let me say this. I love these chants, but this is what often happens in our society -- we're all here preaching to the saved. (Laughter.) And I ask you -- I ask you to go to the Congress with a simple message, and to go back home to your communities with a simple message -- let us discard politics, let us put people first, and let our focus be simply this: what will work?

I have no pride of authorship. Nothing would please me more than if somebody else's name, 100 names, 400 names, 500 names in both houses of Congress would be on a health care bill, but we dare not do something which holds out false hopes. Let's do what works, let's complete the work of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Let's say to the whole world, this is one country that knows we don't have a person to waste, and we're going into the next century with all of our people, arm in arm.

God bless you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

11:31 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 1994

ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 1994

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a national monument to freedom. Contained within its broad pillars of independence, inclusion, and empowerment is the core ideal of equality that has defined this country since its beginnings. For when America's founders set down the guiding words of freedom, first among them, proudly were, "We the People." Our young Nation would be governed not by kings or tyrants -- America would be led by farmers and doctors, artists and merchants, teachers and parents, each possessing widely different knowledge and skills. Some would be active participants in community life. Others would embrace the quiet joys of home. But all of the people would make an essential contribution to the character and quality of America.

On this, the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we mark the full extension of the ADA's employment provisions to our Nation's small businesses. In 1990, members of both political parties resolved to make laws of inclusion, and today, telephone relay systems connect deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to Americans everywhere. Four years ago, we pledged to build bridges to independence, and today, architectural barriers are coming down in office buildings and movie theaters across the country, making room for new passageways to participation. We moved to craft policies of empowerment, and today, leaders in public and private sectors alike are recognizing the vast potential of every citizen and the breathtaking determination of each to create and to achieve. With this Act, we began a new era for 49 million of our fellow citizens. And today, celebrating the rights of people with disabilities, we declare in no uncertain terms that "We the People" means all of us, with our myriad differences and doubts, with our infinite talents and aspirations.

This day -- a wonderful, vigorous celebration of the progress and possibilities for equal opportunity -- must also include an equally vigorous commitment to continue the fight. Now is the time to act on our understanding that having a physical or mental disability is a part of the human experience. We must work to fully implement the provisions of the ADA and to see that these and related laws are aggressively enforced in our schools and workplaces, in our national government and local councils. Most important, we must finally overcome the remaining handicaps of prejudice and stereotype. Discrimination, ignorance, intolerance -- these barriers are a far greater tragedy than any common limitation of the human mind or body. And it is only in overcoming these that America will truly be worthy of its people.

more

(OVER)

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 1994, as the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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