

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an  
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton  
Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Public Liaison

**Series/Staff Member:** William White, Jr.

**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 14205

**FolderID:**

---

**Folder Title:**  
POTUS Disability Remarks

**Stack:**  
**S**

**Row:**  
**31**

**Section:**  
**2**

**Shelf:**  
**10**

**Position:**  
**1**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

For Immediate Release

May 23, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
BY SATELLITE  
TO THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON  
EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CONFERENCE  
IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

9:35 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Tony, for your remarks, your support, your friendship and your leadership of the committee. I want to say hello to the others who are there -- to John Sweeney and to Al Checchi. I want to say a special word of thanks to my good friend, Justin Dart who I know had to leave, but who has been a real champion for Americans with disabilities; indeed, for the rights and interests of all Americans.

I want to say a special word of greeting to the cochairs of the committee, the vice chairs -- Norm Miller, I. King Jordan, Karen Meyer, Neil Jacobson, Dr. Sylvia Walker, and Ron Drach.

Thank you, all of you who are there for your very warm welcome. I'm sorry I couldn't join you in person today, I have to be in Milwaukee with the German Chancellor. But I didn't want to miss this opportunity to talk with you about what we must do together to ensure the full participation of the 49 million Americans with disabilities in the vibrant life and economy of our great country.

Three and a half years ago, when I took the oath of office, I had a very clear vision of what I hoped our country could be like as we move into the 21st century. I wanted us to be a country that offers great opportunities to all who are willing to work for them. I wanted us to remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom. And I wanted us to rebuild our sense of unity and community around the shared ethic of responsibility and a respect for diversity.

Together we've made great progress toward achieving those goals. Our economic strategy to reduce the deficit, expand trade and invest in our people is paying off. The deficit is now less than half of what it was four years ago; we have 8.5 million more jobs, the lowest combined rates of inflation, mortgage rates and employment in 27 years. Homeownership is at a 15-year high, and we have all-time highs in exports and new business formations for each of the last three years.

We've also worked hard to increase educational opportunities for all Americans -- from more positions for children in Head Start to more affordable college loans to a national service program. We've done our part to fight to lower the crime rate by passing a Crime Bill which is putting 100,000 police officers on the street, banning assault weapons, and passing the Brady Bill which has kept 60,000 people with criminal records or other disturbing histories from getting handguns. (Applause.) And we have maintained our commitment to a clean, safe environment for all Americans.

Compared to four years ago, the world is also a safer and more peaceful place. The nuclear threat is diminished. No weapons are pointed at the people of the United States. Peace and freedom are taking hold from Haiti to South Africa, to

MORE

Northern Ireland, to Bosnia, to the Middle East. We have moved a long way in three and a half years.

But today I want to talk to you about our country's future, especially in terms of that first objective -- expanding opportunities for every American who is willing to take responsibility for making the most of his or her God-given abilities. The theme of your conference is investing in abilities. That's been something we've tried very hard to do and something I intend to keep on doing.

In 1992 I issued a challenge to our nation. I said we must not rest until America has a national disability policy based on three simple creeds: inclusion, not exclusion; independence, not dependence; and empowerment, not paternalism. (Applause.) I remain committed to that vision, and I want to thank all of you for working so hard with us to make it a reality. More than ever before in our history, America's greatness in the next century will depend upon the ability of all our citizens to make the most of their own lives. Americans with disabilities are an enormous, largely untapped reservoir of that potential.

Employment is the key to economic security for Americans, including people with disabilities. Even though we have created 8.5 million new jobs, it remains a tragedy today that two-thirds of the people with disabilities are unemployed. And it's up to all of us -- employers, labor, people with disabilities, and government -- to work together to change this picture.

In the past four years, we have made progress. We're fighting to make sure that people with disabilities have health care and the living wages they need to live independently. Our strong commitment to the Americans with Disabilities Act has opened up town halls, schools, transportation systems, workplaces, groceries, restaurants, and movie theaters to millions of people with disabilities. Our 1997 budget calls for an increase in funding for ADA enforcement at the Department of Justice. (Applause.)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is preparing students with disabilities to get their share of the high-wage jobs that are opening up in this new economy. I know how much the IDEA means to millions of students with disabilities and to their parents. I strongly support it. (Applause.)

High school graduates with disabilities who went to school under IDEA have an employment rate twice that of the overall population of individuals with disabilities. We're building on this achievement by supporting efforts like your high school high-tech program that is guiding promising students to college and careers in science and technology. We're making sure people with disabilities are included in our school-to-work efforts.

No one -- no one -- should have to go through what Judy Heumann went through to get an education in our country. She's been a pioneer in the struggle for the rights of people with disabilities. She developed polio when she was 18 months old and she was denied the right to attend public school until the fourth grade. She had to sue to get a teaching job that was denied her because she uses a wheelchair. And during the '70s, she participated in a sit-in that resulted in the creation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As my Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education, she now runs IDEA. That is her remarkable story and we need more of them. (Applause.)

But you and I know the ADA and the IDEA alone will not achieve our vision of inclusion, independence and empowerment for people with disabilities. That's why I fought so hard for

MORE

measures like the Family and Medical Leave Act. And today I'm announcing that as a result of your work, federal agencies are now developing a better system for tracking the unemployment rate of people with disabilities.

This new system will strengthen our ability to include people with disabilities in all our employment policies and program. In addition, I've asked the Secretary of Commerce to work with your committee and relevant federal agencies to recommend to me ways that we can ensure that people with disabilities are included in all our efforts to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses. So we are making progress. (Applause.)

But let me say there is more to do. First we must preserve the guarantee of Medicaid coverage for people with disabilities. For three decades Americans have stood on common ground about the need for guaranteed Medicaid coverage for older Americans, pregnant women, low-income children and people with disabilities. But last year Congress sent me legislation to repeal that guarantee -- legislation that would have taken away health care coverage from millions of Americans who need it most. I vetoed that legislation, and if they send it to me again and they want to repeal the guarantee again I will veto it again. (Applause.)

Let me be clear. We can balance this budget without repealing guaranteed Medicaid coverage for the six million Americans with disabilities who depend upon it, including one million children. Medicaid is a family issue, as people with disabilities know, making it possible for more people to get care at home and in their communities. Without the guarantee, a middle-class family with a child with a severe disability could be forced into poverty to pay for the child's medical care. Parents could be forced to give up jobs to stay home to care for a child. Children and adults who live independently today might be forced into institutions. I will not let that happen. (Applause.)

The second thing we have to do is to strengthen the health security of people with disabilities and, indeed, for all Americans, with the passage of the Kassebaum-Kennedy health insurance reform bill. This legislation would not allow insurance companies to deny coverage for anybody with a preexisting condition, and will allow people to keep their health insurance if they change jobs or if someone in the family gets sick. So I urge Congress to stop stalling and pass the bill now, as an important step forward. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say I've called on Congress to increase the minimum wage, which will benefit millions of Americans with disabilities who face extra costs for accessible housing and personal assistance. We need that. (Applause.)

All of you know that America is in the best position to be a winner in the global economy of the 21st century because of the depths of our values, the strengths of our diversity, the power of our economy. But we don't have a person to waste. We have to continue to expand opportunity, demand responsibility from all of our citizens. And that does mean inclusion, not exclusion. (Applause.)

Again, let me thank you, all of you, for everything you've done and for everything you will do. Thank you for the progress we've made and the progress we still will make.

Just last week I had a very moving visit with Christopher Reeve in the Oval Office, and I mentioned to Christopher that in 1933 the Oval Office was the first government office designed specifically to be accessible to accommodate President Roosevelt. He said to me that it was too bad that at the time he had to hide his disability.

MORE

I hope with Christopher Reeve that as the Roosevelt Memorial becomes a reality, with your efforts to remove the stigma of disability, they'll find a way to make sure that the American people know that this great, great President was great with his disability.

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

END

9:46 A.M. CDT

BUSH

Administration of George Bush, 1990 / May 2

moving down a path toward the United States flag—the strongest symbol of freedom known throughout the world. It's those men and women honored by this memorial who joined the South Korean troops under the U.N. banner to help save a proud nation from communism, men like the Members of Congress you are saluting here tonight who served in the Armed Forces during the Korean war. Because of these brave soldiers and so many others, South Korea is now on its way to becoming one of the world's greatest economic powers with a freely elected democratic government and secure borders.

And so, to the veterans of the Korean war and to all attending, thank you for this opportunity to join you in saluting these Members of Congress, these old soldiers who have not just faded away but who have continued to serve their country in elected

office. And in closing, let me share with you a line from Tennyson, in which Ulysses looks back with his soldiers on the battles they fought as young men and tells them, "Though much has been taken, much abides."

We honor tonight the heroic hearts and strong will of our Korean war veterans, who have given so much that others might have freedom. God bless you all, and thank you for letting me come over to pay my respects to your honorees tonight. Thank you and God bless you.

*Note: The President spoke at 7:45 p.m. in the Regency Gallery at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. In his opening remarks, he referred to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward J. Derwinski; Gen. Richard G. Stilwell, USA, Ret.; and Lee Kun Hee, chairman of the Samsung Group.*

## Remarks to the President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities May 2, 1990

Good morning. And, Justin, thank you, my dear friend, for that most generous introduction. I'm just delighted to be with all of you. I want to say how pleased I am to see Ed Rensi and thank him for what he and his company are doing in this field of interest to all of us. I had a little opportunity just before I came in here to say hello to another person I admire very much—Patricia Neal, over here. And then I was glad to see Chris Burke again. Last time I saw him he was running wild in the White House. Not really—but he came over, and we did a little tape together. But he's doing great, and I'm so proud that he's with us here today.

I'm going to get into real trouble on all this acknowledgment; but I'm delighted, of course, to be with Justin Dart. He is truly a great humanitarian. He's one of the strongest advocates for equal rights and equal opportunity for all Americans that I've ever met, especially those with disabilities. And his hard work and perseverance through

adversity benefited all of us. And you have to forgive me for rambling on about Justin. It's just that not only is he a friend but he truly is one of the founding fathers of the Americans with Disabilities Act, one of the most important pieces of legislation to ever reach Capitol Hill.

And as I said almost 2 years ago, it is time—past time—that people with disabilities are included in the mainstream of American life. As members of a community who are actively involved in helping disabled Americans join the work force, I don't have to tell you that we face many difficulties. More than two-thirds of our fellow citizens with disabilities of working age are, indeed, unemployed; and that is intolerable. And much of that unemployment stems from lack of opportunity. And ADA, that act, will form the foundation for policies and programs that can create opportunities for Americans with disabilities to find and hold jobs and to enjoy the income and satisfaction that productive participa-

May 2 / Administration of George Bush, 1990

tion in society brings to us all. And no longer can we allow ignorance or prejudice to deny opportunities to millions of Americans with disabilities.

We recognize your right to equal opportunity, and we need your abilities and skills. Anybody who takes a look at the demographics in this country and looks just over the horizon into the future knows that the problem is going to be not finding jobs for people but finding people for the jobs that exist as we move towards the end of this decade. We welcome you, the disabled, into the mainstream of American life because it is your life as well as ours.

Every American should be able to join the work force to the fullest extent of their abilities. And I am hopeful that the House of Representatives will take action soon on the ADA, just as the Senate took enthusiastic action last September. I look forward to signing a bill that will address the needs of our disabled citizens. And frankly, it is my view that disabled citizens have waited long enough for equality.

Now, I was asked over here for a special purpose. And this morning I have the pleasure of sharing the stage with some truly exemplary Americans. And I wish I had time to introduce each one of them because their efforts are certainly outstanding. There is, however, one individual who de-

serves special mention. His name is David Schwartzkopf. As you saw—and I understand you've just seen this video—David has overcome some extremely tough obstacles—cerebral palsy, legal blindness, early misdiagnosis—to become a completely mainstreamed professional in a high-technology industry. Not content to merely be successful in his professional career, David is out in society doing all that he can to help other disabled Americans overcome some big hurdles. His inventions have helped visually impaired people enter the work force, his speeches have inspired management to rethink their hiring practices, and his consulting is helping to bring about equal opportunities. David gives meaning to the words dignity and independence.

And so, it is with great pleasure that I present you, David, with the President's trophy, proclaiming you the 1990 Disabled American of the Year. Congratulations for your help to so many others. Congratulations.

*Note: The President spoke at 10:28 a.m. in the Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Justin Dart, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities; Edward Rensi, president and chief operating officer of McDonald's Corp.; and entertainers Patricia Neal and Chris Burke.*

## Remarks to the President's Youth Leadership Forum May 2, 1990

Well, Barbara and I heard there was a good meeting going on, and we thought we'd slide over and say hello and officially welcome you to the White House. I'm delighted that my favorite Point of Light, as we call it, is with me this morning. I'm sure some of you are familiar with what we mean: Points of Light—one American helping another, group of Americans helping other Americans. And my favorite Point of Light is right here, the Silver Fox.

One of the reasons we were a little late in coming over is that we were waiting for

truly one of America's brightest stars. She's proven she's human by getting caught up in airplane delays. And of course, I'm talking about Whitney Houston, who we still hope might be along at any minute. But the airlines or somebody did not cooperate—weather or something. But in any event, she's on her way.

Look, we're here because we know that America can be really transformed by youth engaged in service. There's no problem in America that young people cannot solve or certainly help solve. This first President's

Youth Leadership Forum is a testament to the ability of young people to solve problems, design solutions, marshal resources, and then implement them.

Sometimes we forget that we are made of young people. You should remember that a great barrier to greatness was coming over the horizon barely 17 when he drove the English Channel in 1801—I'm not talking about the end of the world [laughter]—but I am talking about here. By the age of 250 of his music. Einstein's theory of relativity by the age of 32, Alexander stretched from the included Indiana—

Today's young people have the same strength and sensitivity to beauty as we have our day, ensuring that through life we are claimed. Third-grade shut-ins each of comfort and of her own program.

## Statement by the President on Export Controls for May 2, 1990

The President's Coordinating Committee on Export Controls changes be made subject to export COCOM controls protect our technology from being exported. President initiate of these controls changes in Eastern Union, as well as

insurance premium goes. So after 3 years, the [unclear] afford to pay. He [unclear]. He dropped his [unclear] use he was persuaded [unclear] would work. So he's

with open-heart sur- [unclear] to go home and be [unclear] se, but under the plan [unclear] majority, he must now [unclear] ents for that visiting [unclear] that, so he stays in [unclear] times the cost to the [unclear] while, Medicare stops [unclear] e's stuck.

gs. that can happen. [unclear] what they have now [unclear] significantly more. Every [unclear] will pay \$1,650 more [unclear] age person who re- [unclear] something we need [unclear] will pay \$1,700 more [unclear] for the same health [unclear] are people who al- [unclear] cent of their income

elderly really afford [unclear] ums to cover their [unclear] elderly really afford [unclear] ne home health care [unclear] vouchers cover them [unclear] a increases if they get [unclear] th insurance is sup- [unclear] cover you when you [unclear] re healthy. Will the [unclear] ciently under control [unclear] ers to cover the full [unclear] hinks so.

er Americans give up [unclear] forced into managed [unclear] the option to them [unclear] e network? Is it real- [unclear] e the budget and to [unclear] Trust Fund, to do [unclear] majority proposes? [unclear] gle one of these ques-

imble with Medicare [unclear] bet their lives. And [unclear] eir lives? Not to bal- [unclear] strengthen the Medi- [unclear] mply to pay for a big

tax cut for people who don't need it. It's a bad deal. We ought not to do it. It will break up America's common ground. And you can help to stop it.

If the Congress and the majority really wants to balance the budget and reform the Medicare Trust Fund, let me ask them to join with me in a real commitment to health care reform that can be achievable, even by their standards. Senator Kennedy has already introduced a bill with Senator Kassebaum that goes part of the way. Let us require insurance plans to cover those with preexisting conditions. Let us make a commitment to preventive and long-term care. Let us encourage home care as an alternative to nursing homes and give folks a little help to have their parents there. Let us let workers take their insurance coverage with them when they change jobs, and crack down on fraud and abuse, and give people the option to choose a managed care option if they want it; don't force people to take something they don't want.

If we really want to work together, there ought to be four basic principles that everybody, without regard to party, signs off on. We have to make sure that good, affordable health care is available to all older Americans. That's what we do now; let's don't stop it. We must not cut Medicare to pay for a bigger tax cut than can be justified, that goes to people who don't really need it, a lot of whom don't even want it. We ought not to do that. We must be committed to reducing medical cost inflation and stabilizing the Medicare Trust Fund through genuine reforms, not by destroying Medicare and hurting the people who are on it. We must not balance the budget by cutting Medicare to older Americans. We do not have to do any of these things.

This is a time of great and exciting change, I know that. But you know, the conservatives are supposed to be in charge around here, and conservatism means, if nothing else, if it ain't broke don't fix it. And do no harm. That's the first principle.

My fellow Americans, this is a big fight, but it's not just for the seniors in this audience and in this country. It's for all their children. Most senior citizens have children that are working harder for the same or lower pay they were making 5 or 10 years ago. They

have their own insecurities and their own problems. They need their jobs and their incomes and their children's education and their own health care stabilized. We don't need to do something that makes their lives worse, either. And it's for all their children, the people on Medicare's grandchildren. They deserve a chance to have a good education, to be sent to college. Their parents should not wake up in the middle of the night torn between their own parent's health care and their children's education.

This is not just a senior citizens issue. We need to increase opportunity and security for all Americans. And the worst thing we could do is to tear down Medicare. That would increase insecurity, not just for the elderly but for all Americans. It would cloud the future of this country.

We have come a very long way by pulling together. Do not let this budget debate tear this country apart. Do not turn back on Medicare. Stand up and say, if you want to do something to balance the budget and stabilize the Medicare Trust Fund in a way that helps the elderly people of this country, we will stand with you. But if you want the Government to mess with my Medicare, the answer is, no.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Eugene Glover, national president, and Genevieve Johnson, DC chapter president, National Council of Senior Citizens; and Arthur Flemming, chair, Save Our Security.

## Remarks to the Americans with Disabilities Act Roundtable

July 26, 1995

Thank you very much. Secretary Rubin, Attorney General Reno, to the distinguished members of this panel, Senator Harkin and Congressman Hoyer, Chairman Coelho, Dr. Hitt, Gil Casellas, Marca Bristo, the members of the administration who are here—I see Reed Hundt and Patsy Fleming out there—I thank all of you for being here to celebrate this fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Five years ago, when the ADA became law, we became the first nation in the world to commit ourselves to equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens with disabilities. Because of the ADA, our country is stronger today. Our fellow citizens are being judged by their ability to contribute, not by their disabilities. Now all of you and millions of others all across this country have an opportunity they never had before to make the most of their own lives.

That opportunity is critical to what we have to do as a nation to meet the great challenges we face and to move forward into the next century. In many ways, the ADA is the perfect example of what I mean when I talk about our job is to create more opportunity and demand more responsibility from all of our citizens.

The ADA has meant more opportunity for 49 million Americans with disabilities to do their part to make us a stronger and better country. It has meant that more people can go to work and participate in community life and do things that most Americans take for granted, like helping to take care of their families or getting a good education or registering and voting. It's also a perfect example of what I have meant in recent weeks when I have urged the American people to come together to find common ground in order to move forward together as a nation.

That was true across party lines. Members of both parties, including three who are here today, Senator Harkin, Representative Hoyer, and former Congressman Tony Coelho, fought for the ADA in the Congress. And President Bush signed it into law. The ADA became law because Americans, like so many of you, worked together in the best interest of everyone, putting party behind country. There was a realization that the best way to keep our country moving forward was to allow every American, regardless of whether he or she used a wheelchair, was blind, had a mental disability, or was HIV-positive, to live up to his or her God-given potential.

And today, even as we celebrate the rights gained under the ADA, the budget cuts proposed by the congressional majority would sharply reduce the services and the supports that enable people to effectively exercise the rights granted by the ADA. Under the pro-

posed cuts, States would be forced to drop 1.4 million people with disabilities from Medicaid rolls, and 4 million disabled Americans on Medicare would have to pay more every year for the same health care. They also have proposed eliminating funds for training special education teachers.

Now, we have to join together to maintain our commitment and our common ground. I will vigorously implement and enforce the ADA through the Cabinet and the administration. We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrowed minds.

We should also celebrate, all of us, this fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the best way possible: By all, each of us, rededicating ourselves to creating a society of equal access and equal rights for all. That is the best kind of affirmative action for all the American people.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the Cash Room at the Treasury Department. In his remarks, he referred to Tony Coelho, Chair, President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities; R. Scott Hitt, Chair, Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS; Gilbert F. Casellas, Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Marca Bristo, Chair, National Council on Disability; Reed F. Hundt, Chair, Federal Communications Commission; and Patricia S. Fleming, Director of National AIDS Policy.

### **Remarks to the White House Community Empowerment Conference July 26, 1995**

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President; to all the mayors and other distinguished visitors who are here; to the Members of Congress and all those who have worked on the empowerment zone program here in our administration. And I'd like to say a special word of thanks to the Vice President and all of his staff, and to Secretary Cisneros and Andrew Cuomo. They have literally worked themselves to exhaustion to make sure that this program is a success.

We told you when we started this that this would not be some one-shot deal and there would be no followup. And I think it's fair

### **Administration of W**

to say we have kept looks of this crowd, And I thank you for

I also want to say to Congressman R Members of Congress active in passing the isolation as a part of

I can't say how m the Vice President's empowerment board to talk about all th do it. And your pr you also are commit

As I have said m. I think this country The first is to rest of opportunity for American value of Americans. And the sense of community working together, r other, toward the work at this job tl vinced that we can' economic or our se do a better job c reaching across the tion, what you all l to be part of the program in the first plac

In the past few v to the American pe can find common g controversial issues. I town laying it out, Vice President and ference and talked common ground o of the role of the and community live controversial enoug James Madison Un High School here I thought our com issue of religion in p ica. And then, of c tunity just a few da tional Archives on affirmative action.

Today, I want to that the empower bodies everything v

and your earlier help  
governor.

this telephone net-  
now what an impor-  
of Americans.

morning, Mr. Presi-  
much for your kind-  
l to have this oppor-  
this morning. Thank  
this relay call. Also,  
rtunity to thank you  
ie Gallaudet Univer-

May. You inspired  
country by your ap-  
nderful commence-

the honor was mine.  
e students and their  
say how very proud  
ort we have been re-  
d disabled commu-  
-m.

Yes, we very much  
ealth care services,  
you have taken the  
lth care reform.

o be able to remind  
how important it is  
the needs of people  
h care services and  
accommodations. I  
hard work and will  
ir efforts.

of course, I will be  
And I think you well  
way we can extend  
tunities to the dis-  
over all Americans.  
ible to contain costs  
Americans to work  
t of their abilities.  
e we close this con-  
am that the ADA  
things like this tele-  
great tribute to the  
lisabled Americans

al note of the work  
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.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. from  
the Oval Office at the White House. The tele-  
phone conversation used a new relay service tech-  
nology which allows the deaf to communicate by  
telephone.

### Remarks on the Fourth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 27, 1994

**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 Con-  
gress who are here: Congressman Hoyer,

Congressman Fish, Congressman Major  
Owens, and Congressman Goodling. 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 Con-  
gressman Jack Brooks who worked so hard  
on this. I thank former Congressman Tony  
Coelho who's done a magnificent job as  
Chair of the President's Committee on Em-  
ployment of People with Disability. 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.

I'd also like to introduce three young peo-  
ple from Gallaudet 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 Nasukiewicz, Amy Hopkins, and  
Madelaine Frederickson. 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. 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 edu-  
cation.

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  
2 days with the King of Jordan and the Prime  
Minister of Israel; second, to restore the  
American economy; third, to rebuild our  
American community with stronger commu-

nity, 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.

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, and that is why we are here today to rededicate ourselves 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.

We must move from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, from paternalism to empowerment. 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 3 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.

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. 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 streets 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

When I was first elected Governor—it seems like 100 years ago now—but back in the late seventies 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 p because they were struck me as crazy of a work force t Today I have had 44 outstanding peo portant jobs in ou Judy Heumann w the Assistant Secre cial Education. She job as a teacher. S rights for her entir for the future of e say that to make th pointed a single, s their disability. The because of their abi people.

Why is this heal to this agenda? T We're the only co going backwards in an advanced econ percent of our pe we're down to 83 p alone, over 5 mill their health insur troubling. We're sp to get too little, th away on paperwor year so that we de need. Look at this fight drugs, to take care needs, to build for the 21st centur and training progr of the poor and t the Cabinet membe cause we are holdi health care spendi health care, more n care.

But most of all, The other day in w introduced by two v five children who ha her husband lost th all their children; a woman who had be her life; 7-day-a-we that business—and health insurance at she needed it most

ing if this society are working up here American community. Today is back in the crime bill, which officers on our streets and toughen sentences on children something billions of dollars to get kids out are too far gone. It an community. But unity if millions of our common life and We can never be an

education is working to important empowering with the Department of Human Services and implement a lifetime with Head Start for and going through people when they place. But how can are part of the of America, we will d.

job is to put people economy, to strengthen empower our people, unless you walk every or get there however and without you we

ly, as the Secretary telling me, the only body can take away the heart and spirit good news. It means and the spirit of our times without lifting great physical labor. the possibility of employment. But it also means for all Americans, on the premise that o waste.

ected Governor—it o now—but back in the Americans with ong, of the 50 or so y 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 work force they could contribute to. Today I have had the honor of appointing 44 outstanding people with disabilities to important jobs in our Government, including Judy Heumann who's here with me today, the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education. 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.

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 5 years alone, over 5 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; 7-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 work force if their employers could afford to provide them health insurance.

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 6 years ago.

**Audience members.** Now! Now! Now!

**The President.** Now is the time.

**Audience members.** Now! 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.

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 4 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. 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.

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—

**Audience member.** You're here.

**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.

Now, let me say—you heard the Vice President with that quote from the Republican consultants say, "Let's send them home emptyhanded." We've done that a lot, you know. We've done that a lot. It took 5 years to pass the ADA. When I showed up in town here, it had taken 7 years until we could finally pass the Brady bill last year—7 years—7 years; 7 years until we could finally pass the family and medical leave law last year—very important to you; 7 years until we could

finally get the worldwide that will add a half a million between now and the end. A lot of times, if you want bipartisanship on a tough issue, it takes for you, we dare not wait long. Presidents of both parties should cover all American health care costs going up, a government spending going up while we are desperately trying to deficit down and invest in it. We know that in only 5 years, Americans have lost their coverage.

We are at an historic moment in time ever, there are bills on the floors of the Congress that can save health care. We must stop talking about politics. There are Democrats and independents. There are people here today. All three people who ran for time. I do not give a rip who are, but I do want you to let so you can contribute to America.

**Audience members.** Health care now! Health care now!

**The President.** That's right. This, I love these chants, but it happens in our society: preaching to the saved. And you to go to the Congress with a message, and to go back home to the families with a simple message: politics. Let us put people's focus be simply this: What will

I have no pride of authorship. I would please me more than any other name, 100 names, 400 names in both Houses of Congress on a health care bill, but I want something which holds out for us to do what works. Let's complete the Americans with Disabilities Act to the whole world, this is our goal. We know we don't have a person who we're going into the next century with, arm-in-arm.

God bless you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:00 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

k you. Thank you. g, "What's different y is the President's this fight." [Laugh-

This time the Amer- the American Asso- e, the pediatricians, ociation, the medi- l States, the Amer- d People, the AFL- literally, literally, of of small businesses t businesses in the ity of the American hat the best way to ers and employees r buying private in-

g to do it? Let me nt a bipartisan bill. mbers of the other a bipartisan major- en Republican Sen- hafee's bill for uni- very time I have oved further away. ng out. I wish we ould eventually run ave to come back —because I keep

ears ago—22 years resident, Richard mbent Republican ert Packwood, of- oyers and employ- sibility for private as a good idea 22 idea today when ifficult in terms of ve ought to do it. u heard the Vice r from the Repub- 's send them home ne that a lot, you lot. It took 5 years showed up in town : until we could fi- st year—7 years— could finally pass ave law last year— ears 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. 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 5 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.

**Audience members.** 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. 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.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:08 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

# **Remarks Honoring the NCAA Women's Basketball Champion University of North Carolina Tar Heels**

July 27, 1994

I apologize for being a little late. I've been on the phone with Members of the Congress, which I had to do. Senator Helms, Congressman Valentine, Congressman Lancaster, Congressman Price; I think Congressman McMillan's out there somewhere. Alex. It's good to see all of you, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great honor for me to have this basketball team here if only to see them all looking normal after I watched that incredible end to the championship game. The University of North Carolina women's basketball team not only won its first national title this year but had the best record in the country and the school record, 33 wins. Coach Sylvia Hatchell broke the 400-career-victories mark and was named National Coach of the Year. But my guess is that—actually, I wanted to ask her this, whether when the team spray-painted her hair Carolina blue, it made it worthwhile, or she began to wonder. [Laughter]

I want to say, of course, a special word of congratulations to Charlotte Smith for that three-point shot. I can tell you I've been in a lot of tough fights myself around here and there have been a lot of times when I've looked around for somebody who could take that shot. [Laughter] And I want to congratulate Tonya Sampson who I know has overcome some considerable personal challenges to be the leading scorer in Carolina women's basketball history.

I also want to say something that I have felt for a long time—and it's appropriate this year because North Carolina women's basketball and soccer teams won the NCAA titles, and so often in the past your men's basketball team has done so well—the thing I have always admired about the University of North Carolina is it's been a place that emphasized both academics and athletics and other extracurricular activities. And it's demonstrated to the country that it is not necessary to make a choice, and that there's something to be said for learning how to compete, to work on a team, to put aside