

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: Domestic Policy Council
Series/Staff Member: Diana Fortuna
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 12024
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Accomplishments - Disabilities

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	97	2	10	3

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Opening Line: People with disabilities have the same aspirations as all Americans: opportunities for employment, access to education, quality health care, equal rights. That is why I have fought so hard to protect the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other critical laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in schools, workplaces, and public areas across the nation. I commend Senator Dole for his hard work in helping to enact the Americans with Disabilities Act. But we do have differences. Senator Dole and Speaker Gingrich passed -- and I vetoed -- a budget that would have ended the Medicaid guarantee of meaningful benefits to people with disabilities and included Medicare cuts that would have affected 4.9 million disabled Americans [under age 65].

Key Answer Points

- In rejecting proposals that would have ended the Medicaid guarantee of meaningful health benefits for individuals with disabilities, I have preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities, including 1 million children.
- I have proposed a balanced budget that preserves health care benefits for 37 million Medicare beneficiaries, including 4.9 million Americans under the age of 65 with disabilities. My budget would impose no new increases in Medicare premiums.
- I am working to protect the civil rights of disabled Americans by including a 3.9 percent increase in funding for ADA enforcement and compliance in my 1997 budget and I am fighting for strong, national policies that promote inclusion, independence and empowerment of disabled Americans.
- In 1994, 800,000 more severely disabled individuals were working than at the end of 1991. I am committed to expanding employment options for people with disabilities and challenging all Americans to understand that having a disability is a natural part of the human experience.
- I am fighting to increase the focus of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on outcomes for children and by cutting unnecessary paperwork. My Administration has opposed attempts to weaken the guarantee of the right to education for children with disabilities.
- At the start of my Administration, I appointed a highly qualified group of people with disabilities to high-level, policy-making positions, including many people from the disability community like Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary of Education for the Special Education & Rehabilitative Services.

From: Bob Wardwell
To: HCFA.DC1.BVladeck
Date: 3/12/96 12:17pm
Subject: People served under hcbs waivers -Forwarded -Reply

The best numbers HCFA has were produced by a contractor in 1993 using 1992 data. They indicate 241,755 served at a cost of \$2,204,767,404. Of that number, MR/DD 55,942 at \$1,444,091,202; Aged 54,065 at \$154,401,132; Aged/Disabled (mixed programs) 103,664 at \$402,876,922; Children 1,590 at \$45,004,147; AIDS/ARC 7,975 at \$38,520,938; Other 1,285 at \$16,486,485.

Unfortunately all our attempts to do a better job with waiver data have failed short because of resource limitations here and the barriers to obtaining data from States.

Our impression is that the old axiom that an approved slot was a filled slot is no longer the case in several States as legislatures refuse to put up State match. (It was easier in the magic money days of donations and taxes.)

MR/DD served have usually come in at less than a third of those served but 2/3 of dollars...a point that alienates many advocates for the aged and physically disabled. This is a product of the higher target costs of in ICF/MR institutional care, the higher cost of dealing with cognitive limitations in the community, and the greater ability or willingness of MR agencies to put State match on the table.

The numbers Bob Williams put on the table do not seem unreasonable based on the data I have seen from the National Association of State DD Services Program Directors. There is a wonderful story to tell here. I think we have to be careful not to attribute all of the success to the Medicaid waiver program...but its clearly responsible for most of the dollars which have driven the trend away from institutional care. *Gett*

Please let me know if I've captured what Diana needs to know. There was so much back and forth...I'm not sure I caught it all.

CC: SRichardson, MDuckett

3/13
Diana
For some reason, I was unsuccessful
e-mailing this to you. I hope you can
read it in fax form.
[Signature]

Laurie R. Jeff
2pg

day + hard 7h
238-4204

818-238-4266

ARMR/Arld Kennedy
cosponsoring

Carmen Fowler

Platts - 602

lg security mtg on MR
Seattle

Olympics of Intell'D

Helps Gov, M, county exec

To: Fortuna, Diana

Date: 6-20-96

From: RICHES_E

Page 1 of 7

Please review the attached ASAP and provide feedback (if any, although I'm sure you will find it perfect) - via fax to Bill White @ (202) 456-6218. We hope to come to closure on this document by next week.

Thanks, Bill

DRAFTFOR INTERNAL USE ONLYDRAFT**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

"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...We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Bill Clinton
July 26, 1995

President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including those with disabilities. From the White House to every federal agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented willingness to address the concerns of Americans with disabilities. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible and to be productive throughout their lives.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Fighting Discrimination:** Under President Clinton, federal agencies have vigorously enforced the Americans with Disabilities Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in schools, workplaces and public areas across the nation. President Clinton strongly opposes attempts to weaken these laws.
- **Protecting Health Care:** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has rejected proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. President Clinton has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities, including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child or seek placement in an institution. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with

disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions.

- **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities:** President Clinton is increasing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's focus on outcomes for children and cutting unnecessary paperwork. The Administration opposes weakening the guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities.
- **Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs:** The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services. As a result, the number of people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs nearly doubled to 122,000 in 1994.

- **Support for Families:** President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act making workplaces more accommodating for many families that include a child or adult with a disability. In 1995, the President vetoed a budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on Social Security families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for home modifications, equipment and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time.
- **Increasing Access:** By enacting the National Voter Registration Act and the Telecommunications Reform Act, President Clinton has made voting easier and communications technology more accessible for Americans with disabilities.
- **Transportation:** The Clinton Administration is helping to connect people with disabilities to employment, educational opportunities and a full range of public activities by ensuring that Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for accessible bus and rail transit systems and paratransit services are fully implemented.

- **Employment of People with Disabilities:** The Clinton Administration is offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to increase their independence through rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.
- **Appointees with Disabilities:** The President has appointed an impressive group of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including many people prominent in the disability community. Many of these appointments are to key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Under President Clinton, federal agencies will continue to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities and supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions.

- President Clinton is committed to expanding employment options for people with disabilities and challenging all Americans to understand that having a disability does not mean being dependent and unproductive.
- The Clinton Administration will work to maintain a strong Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children with disabilities and to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

June 1996

Social Security Disability Programs

General Information:

- o \$55 billion in cash benefits to over 8 million people with severe disabilities on an annual basis.
- o Cash benefits awarded under two programs; the Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI), and the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI).
- o Eligibility requirements for disability benefits are the same under both programs; that is, an individual must be unable to do any kind of work for which he/she is suited and his/her disability must be expected to last for at least a year or to result in death. Many consider the definition very strict and it is.
- o Even with a strict definition, approximately 3 million persons apply to SSA for disability benefits on an annual basis and about 1/2 are awarded benefits.
- o Total new awards in 1994 = 1,366,833
Total new awards in 1995 = _____
- o SSDI Program: Began in 1954. Designed for workers who become disabled during their working years (18 to 64). Benefits paid to workers with disabilities and their children or surviving spouse who have Social Security insurance coverage. Two year waiting period for Medicare.
- o SSI Program: Began in 1972. Designed for people with disabilities with little or no income and resources. Immediate eligibility Medicaid.
- o Childhood SSI benefits: Cash benefits and Medicaid coverage for children under age 18 with disabilities in families with little or no income or resources.

841,000 children received benefits in 1994
_____ children received benefits in 1995

*Will send 95 numbers
on Monday. Fax
would not go thru
to Bill White.
Tried for over 30 min.

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-80)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: <u>Michael Water</u>		From: <u>Donna</u>	
Dipl. Agency: <u>SSA</u>		To: <u>SSA</u>	
Fax # <u>202 366-0263</u>		Fax # <u>410 965-5774</u>	
NNN 7540 01 317 7360		GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

HA

Administration Accomplishments: Social Security Disability

- o The Clinton Administration is dedicated to prompt and efficient customer service to applicants and beneficiaries of disability benefits. Two improvement areas:

An improved 800 information service. In 1995, the Social Security Administration was the recipient of the Dalbar, Inc. 800 Number Service Award. SSA came in first over private 800 number services such as LL Bean.

In November of 1994 the Administration began to redesign the disability claims in an effort to speed the processing time for disability determination and award of benefits. The backlog has been reduced by over 100,000 claims.

- o When fraud in the children's SSI program became the subject of the national news media, the President promptly supported reasonable reforms to prevent fraud and resisted radical cuts in the program as proposed by the Republican Congress.
- o The Clinton Administration took aggressive steps to prevent fraud in the adult program as well in order to preserve benefits for citizens with disabilities who are truly eligible.
- o The Clinton Administration is committed to offering every individual with a disability the opportunity to maximize their independence. The Administration has worked diligently to improve and expand rehabilitation services to SSI and SSDI beneficiaries who wish to return to work.

Adult disability beneficiaries of both programs are encouraged to make maximum use of the work incentives provisions to assist in their return-to-work efforts.

The Clinton Administration refers approximately 100,000 beneficiaries a year to 82 State Vocational Rehabilitation programs for employment-related services at a cost of over \$72 million.

To enhance the services that State Vocational Rehabilitation programs provide, the Clinton Administration has entered into advance funding agreements with six State VR programs. This guarantees a higher quality of service to our beneficiaries.

The Clinton Administration will greatly expand its rehabilitation program this spring by purchasing services directly from private and other public sector providers. Private providers are already poised to begin serving SSI and SSDI beneficiaries who want to work despite their disability.

More than
100,000

As to VR in private -
2000 - 2001
3/94 published

4 mos to have all done
by Nov;

New
program
for
improving
service

THE WHITE HOUSE

Re write on
tax credit

Diana -

Attached is the disability policy issue brief I e-mailed you about. The brief has been reviewed and I need your help with the highlighted edits. Please re-draft the brief with the additional information requested. As always, our timeline is short and we need a new draft by Monday. Please call with questions/comments.

Dan Collins
X-65691

HELPING AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"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... We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Clinton

5th Anniversary of the ADA

July 26, 1995

President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including people with disabilities. From the White House to every federal agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented willingness to listen to and address the concerns of Americans with disabilities. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible and to be productive throughout their lives

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

How? Need detail

- **Fighting Discrimination:** President Clinton has demonstrated his commitment to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against Americans with disabilities in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America. President Clinton strongly opposes attempts to weaken these laws.
- **Protecting Health Care:** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has resisted proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. President Clinton has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities -- including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child, or seek a placement in an institution. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to get services at home or in the community, rather than in institutions.
- **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities:** President Clinton is committed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities. We are increasing IDEA's focus on outcomes for children and cutting unnecessary paperwork.

Can we use another word?

- **Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs:** The Clinton Administration's approach to granting state waivers has led to an increase in home and community-based services. From 1992 to 1994, the number of people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs doubled from 62,000 to

more than 122,000.
000.

just over

what is the approach?

What is the approach?

- **Support for Families:** President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act and made workplaces more accommodating for the many families that include a child or adult with a disability. In 1995, the President vetoed a budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on Social Security - families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for home modifications, equipment, and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time.
- **Increasing Access:** By enacting the National Voter Registration Act and the Telecommunications Reform Act, President Clinton has made voting easier and communications technology more accessible for Americans with disabilities.
- **Employment of People with Disabilities:** The Clinton Administration is committed to offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to maximize independence. The Administration is working to ensure that those with disabilities who wish to return to work have access to rehabilitation services and work incentive programs. *How many? Most ever?*
- **Appointees with Disabilities:** The President has appointed a large number of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including many people prominent in the disability community. Many appointments are to key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.

Statistical Backup

- The Administration's settlements and enforcement actions have increased access for thousands of people with disabilities.
- The Department of Justice conducted a national public education campaign about the ADA. - any stats or results? *type of discrimination / justice?*
We have successfully resolved over 40,000 charges of employment discrimination.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- President Clinton will continue to enforce the civil rights of people with disabilities with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible. *rewrite*
- The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities and supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of preexisting conditions.
- We must challenge all Americans to understand that having a disability does not mean being dependent and unproductive, and expand options for return to work.
- President Clinton will work to ensure that the right to an education for children with disabilities is maintained, and to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. *unnatural segue*

Contact: Diana Fortuna, 224 OEOb, 456-5570
Last Update: April 10, 1996

Andy:

Unfortunately, I am told I am not supposed to release this officially yet (it is part of a larger group of policy pieces that is under review), but I think it is useable to speak from. Bill White may release it to the appointees soon.

Diana

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"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...We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Clinton

5th Anniversary of the ADA

July 26, 1995

Overview. President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including people with disabilities. From the White House to the smallest agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented willingness to listen to and address the concerns of Americans with disabilities across the country. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible, and to be productive throughout their lives.

Accomplishments.

- o **Fighting Discrimination.** The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against Americans with disabilities in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America. President Clinton strongly opposes legislative attempts to weaken these laws.
- o **Protecting Health Care.** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has resisted proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities, and allows many children and adults to get services at home or in the community, rather than in institutions.
- o **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities.** The President is committed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities. We are increasing IDEA's focus on outcomes for children, and cutting unnecessary paperwork. Young people with disabilities are a key part of the Administration's lifelong learning agenda, including the National Service Act, the School-to-Work Act, and Goals 2000.
- o **Increasing home and community-based programs.** Our flexible approach on state waivers has led to an increase in home and community-based services. From 1992 to 1994, the number of people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs doubled, from 62,462 to 122,075.
- o **Support for Families.** The Family and Medical Leave Act, signed into law by the President, has made workplaces more accommodating for the many families that include a child or adult with a disability. The President vetoed the budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on SSI -- families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for diapers, home modifications, equipment, special dietary items, and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time.

- o **Increasing Access.** By signing the National Voter Registration Act and the Telecommunications Reform Act, the President has made voting easier and communications technology more accessible for Americans with disabilities.
- o **Employment of People with Disabilities.** The Clinton Administration is committed to offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to maximize independence. The Administration works to ensure that SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who wish to return to work have access to rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.
- o **Appointees with Disabilities.** The President has appointed a large number of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including many people prominent in the disability community. Many appointments are to key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.

Statistical Backup.

- o The Administration's settlements and enforcement actions have increased access for thousands of people with disabilities. The President's 1997 budget would increase funds for the Department of Justice's enforcement activities by 4 percent. DOJ has conducted a national public education campaign about the ADA.
- o We have successfully resolved over 40,000 charges of employment discrimination.
- o The President has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities -- including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child, or seek a placement in an institution.
- o The Social Security Administration refers approximately 100,000 SSDI and SSI beneficiaries a year to 83 state vocational rehabilitation programs for services designed to put people back to work. This spring, we will begin purchasing rehabilitation services directly from private and other public sector providers when state agencies are unable to help those who want to work despite their disability.

Agenda.

- o We will continue to enforce the civil rights of people with disabilities with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- o The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. He supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of preexisting conditions.
- o We must challenge all Americans to understand that having a disability does not mean being dependent and unproductive, and expand options for return to work.
- o We will work to ensure that the right to an education for children with disabilities is maintained, and to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Contact: Diana Fortuna, 224 OEOP, 456-5570
Last Update: April 10, 1996

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"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... We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Clinton

5th Anniversary of the ADA

July 26, 1995

Overview. President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including people with disabilities. From the White House to the smallest agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented willingness to listen to and address the concerns of Americans with disabilities across the country. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible, and to be productive throughout their lives.

Accomplishments.

- 1 **Fighting Discrimination.** *vigorously* The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against Americans with disabilities in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America. President Clinton strongly opposes legislative attempts to weaken these laws. *Our settlements have reached for 000's of ppl.*
- prominent in the disability comm.* 2 **Protecting Health Care.** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has resisted proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities, and allows many children and adults to get services at home or in the community, rather than in institutions. *97B Inc 4010 enforcement*
- 7 { 3 **Appointees with Disabilities.** The President has appointed an ~~unprecedented~~ number of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including policy makers in key positions that are not directly related to disability issues. *achieving*
- 3 **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities.** The President is committed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities. We are increasing IDEA's focus on outcomes for children, and cutting unnecessary paperwork. Young people with disabilities are a key part of the Administration's lifelong learning agenda, including the National Service Act, the School-to-Work Act, and Goals 2000.
- Inc'g Access* 6 **Making Reasonable Accommodations.** By signing the ~~Family and Medical Leave Act~~, the National Voter Registration Act, and the Telecommunications Reform Act, the President has made workplaces more accommodating, voting easier, and communications technology more accessible for 49 million Americans with disabilities.
- 4 **Increasing home and community-based programs.** Our flexible approach on state waivers has led to an increase in home and community-based services. From 1992 to 1994, the number of people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs doubled, from 62,462 to 122,075. *Inc'g Access*

- 2 / F + M Leave
- Families*
- o **Support for ~~Children with Disabilities~~.** The President vetoed the budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on SSI -- families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for diapers, home modifications, equipment, special dietary items, and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time.
 - o **Employment of People with Disabilities.** The Clinton Administration is committed to offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to maximize independence. The Administration works to ensure that SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who wish to return to work have access to rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.

Statistical Backup.

- o The Administration has investigated thousands of complaints relating to employment, government services, public accommodations and transportation. Under President Clinton's leadership, the Department of Justice has a national public education campaign on the ADA, including public service announcements on television and radio, a toll-free information line, and an "ADA Information File" provided to 15,000 libraries across the country.
- o We have successfully resolved over 40,000 charges of employment discrimination.
- o The President has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities -- including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child, or seek a placement in an institution.
- o The Social Security Administration refers approximately 100,000 SSDI and SSI beneficiaries a year to 83 state vocational rehabilitation programs for services designed to put people back to work. This spring, we will begin purchasing rehabilitation services directly from private and other public sector providers when state agencies are unable to help those who want to work despite their disability.

Agenda.

- o We will continue to enforce the civil rights of people with disabilities with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- o The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. He supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of preexisting conditions.
- o We must challenge all Americans to understand that having a disability does not mean being dependent and unproductive, and expand options for return to work.
- o We will work to ensure that the right to an education for children with disabilities is maintained, and to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Contact: Diana Fortuna, 224 OEOP, 456-5570
Last Update: March 11, 1996

DIANA,

NOT TO BE A
PAIN, BUT COULD
WE GET THE
DISABILITY ACCURISH
MENT PIECE TO BE
MOVE LIKE THIS?

— Bill

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"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...We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Clinton

5th Anniversary of the ADA

July 26, 1995

Overview. President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including people with disabilities. From the White House to the smallest agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented willingness to listen to and address the concerns of Americans with disabilities across the country. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible, and to be productive throughout their lives.

Accomplishments.

- o **Fighting Discrimination.** The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against Americans with disabilities in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America. President Clinton strongly opposes legislative attempts to weaken these laws.
- o **Protecting Health Care.** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has resisted proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities, and allows many children and adults to get services at home or in the community, rather than in institutions.
- o **Appointees with Disabilities.** The President has appointed an unprecedented number of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including policy makers in key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.
- o **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities.** The President is committed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities. We are increasing IDEA's focus on outcomes for children, and cutting unnecessary paperwork. Young people with disabilities are a key part of the Administration's lifelong learning agenda, including the National Service Act, the School-to-Work Act, and Goals 2000.
- o **Making Reasonable Accommodations.** By signing the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Voter Registration Act, and the Telecommunications Reform Act, the President has made workplaces more accommodating, voting easier, and communications technology more accessible for 49 million Americans with disabilities.
- o **Increasing home and community-based programs.** Our flexible approach on state waivers has led to an increase in home and community-based services. From 1992 to 1994, the number of people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs doubled, from 62,462 to 122,075.

- o **Support for Children with Disabilities.** The President vetoed the budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on SSI -- families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for diapers, home modifications, equipment, special dietary items, and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time.
- o **Employment of People with Disabilities.** The Clinton Administration is committed to offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to maximize independence. The Administration works to ensure that SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who wish to return to work have access to rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.

Statistical Backup.

- o The Administration has investigated thousands of complaints relating to employment, government services, public accommodations and transportation. Under President Clinton's leadership, the Department of Justice has a national public education campaign on the ADA, including public service announcements on television and radio, a toll-free information line, and an "ADA Information File" provided to 15,000 libraries across the country.
- o We have successfully resolved over 40,000 charges of employment discrimination.
- o The President has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities -- including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child, or seek a placement in an institution.
- o The Social Security Administration refers approximately 100,000 SSDI and SSI beneficiaries a year to 83 state vocational rehabilitation programs for services designed to put people back to work. This spring, we will begin purchasing rehabilitation services directly from private and other public sector providers when state agencies are unable to help those who want to work despite their disability.

Agenda.

- o We will continue to enforce the civil rights of people with disabilities with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- o The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. He supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of preexisting conditions.
- o We must challenge all Americans to understand that having a disability does not mean being dependent and unproductive, and expand options for return to work.
- o We will work to ensure that the right to an education for children with disabilities is maintained, and to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Contact: Diana Fortuna, 224 OEOP, 456-5570
Last Update: March 11, 1996

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

12-Feb-1996 10:42pm

TO: fortuna_d
FROM: Bob Williams
SUBJECT: As promised

Here is that document we prepared sometime back and which I think you might want to draw upon for your accomplishments piece. Hope it helps. Please share this with Bill White as well. I lost his e mail address, please have him send it to me. Thanks!

INITIATIVES UNDER THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

HOME

o IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER DISABILITIES TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN HOMES

In Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994, for the first time in the history of the U.S., every state reduced the number of their persons with developmental disabilities living in state institutions and commensurately increased the total number of their citizens living in community housing. Three States and DC have closed all INSTITUTIONS for individuals with developmental disabilities and have now created community living arrangements.

In Fiscal Year 1994 for the first time since the creation of the Federal Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) option under Medicaid in 1971, total ICF-MR expenditures did not increase. Total ICF-MR expenditures remained at 9.2 billion dollars in both Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994, and total ICF-MR residents were reduced significantly for the first time (by 5,600 persons), as states took advantage of the increased flexibility to offer alternative, noninstitutional services under Medicaid home and community based services waiver programs. In the first two years of the greatly increased flexibility in granting such waivers under the Clinton Administration, the total number of people served in homes and communities by this program increased from 62,462 in June 1992 to 122,075 in June 1994. Under the Clinton Administration every state in the United States for the first time has opted to utilize this flexibility and to expand Medicaid HCBS waiver programs.

In the last three years of the Clinton Administration (1992-1994) states closed a total of 45 state institutions (or 15 per year). That compares with an average of less than 4 per year in the previous 20 years, and less than 6 in the

previous decade.

In 1994 the number of children and youth (birth-21 years) living in state institutions (4,001) fell below 5% of the highest total number of 1965 (91,592), as children and youth have been guaranteed opportunities for education and in-home supports in their families and local communities. At the average annual state institution cost of \$82,256 per person, an additional 87,591 children and youth in state institutions would cost approximately \$7 billion dollars per year. This is approximately 3.5 times federal contributions for all special education students (not just those with developmental disabilities) and about 1 billion dollars more than the combined total of federal SSI payments to children (\$3 billion), federal payments for Medicaid waiver services for children (\$0.4 billion), federal payments for Medicaid ICF-MR services for children (\$.55 billion) and federal payments for special education for children (\$2.1 billion).

In 1994, for the first time ever, the average number of residents per residential setting for persons with developmental disabilities in the United States fell below 5 people (4.9). That is a decrease from 7.5 in 1987 and 5.9 in 1992. In 23 states the average number of persons per residential setting was less than 4.0 persons.

In 1994 for the first time half of all states (25) served more than half of their residential services recipients in homes of 6 or fewer persons and four-fifths of all states (41) served more than half of all residential service recipients in settings of 15 or fewer residents. Comparable statistics in June 1991 were 19 states and 31 states, respectively.

ADD funded a Home of Your Own Initiative - the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability operates the National Home of Your Own Technical Assistance Center. Its goals include facilitating broad-based systems change at state and national levels. 1994 activities included contacts with Fannie Mae to change the way secondary mortgages are currently accepted and contacts with HUD to change current policies related to community care waivers.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

o ALL CHILDREN, INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BELONG WITH FAMILIES

More than 40 States now have Family Support Legislation and programs to help families care for children with disabilities.

ADD activities resulted in over half of these states including Family Support Initiatives.

o IMPROVING CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Examples:

The Mississippi University Affiliated Program developed and operates Project Coach for mainstreaming preschool children with disabilities into community child care settings. As a

result of Project Coach, a significant number of these children are now being served in regular childcare settings with their peers.

The New York Bronx University Affiliated Program assisted in the development of a community-based integrated day care center/preschool program.

o SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Young people with developmental and other disabilities can contribute and give to others. These young people are becoming PEER ADVOCATES, they are performing service activities and volunteering. ADD funded Youth Leadership activities to support such young people becoming involved in their schools and communities, including participating with others that do not have disabilities.

SCHOOL

o ALL CHILDREN, INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER DISABILITIES, DESERVE A QUALITY EDUCATION

Significant INCLUSIVE EDUCATION breakthroughs have occurred, every State now has efforts to include children with disabilities, including severe disabilities, into regular classrooms.

ADD has supported this effort through funding activities in the areas of training families, students with developmental disabilities, and personnel preparation. Examples:

With Federal funding and collaboration with Alaska schools, the Center for Human Development at the University of Alaska University Affiliated Program, is providing training and demonstrations for inclusion of children with multiple disabilities, including children with deaf-blindness, into regular classrooms.

The Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University operates a project that provides intensive statewide training and technical assistance to schools to facilitate the integration of students with disabilities into regular classes in regular schools. This project affects 4000 children with disabilities and is part of a statewide effort to make public schools more effective for all youth in Michigan.

The Institute on Community Integration at the Minnesota University Affiliated Program operates a program that has been instrumental in supporting the return of students with severe disabilities to their neighborhood schools in over 80 communities in Minnesota.

WORKPLACE

o IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER DISABILITIES TO WORK AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY

Over 1 million individuals with disabilities are employed in this country:

- three-fourths of those are individuals with developmental disabilities;
- one-third of those are in REAL JOBS (11% in competitive employment; 11% in individual supported employment; and 11% group supported employment).

In the area of supported employment we have moved from paid, outside staff to the use of natural supports in the workplace.

The appointment of individuals with significant disabilities to senior level positions in agencies as role models has been significant to support employment of individuals with disabilities as well support community integration.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 allows parents of children with severe disabilities the opportunity to take extended leave to address the needs of their child without the risk of losing their employment. It all allows and supports the inclusion and individuals with disabilities and provides them with the same support.

The School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-239) includes the participation of individuals with disabilities (Departments of Education and Labor leads). This legislation promotes INCLUSION, which will provide more employment opportunities in integrated settings for individuals with disabilities. The Labor Department has initiated a One Stop Shopping Initiative, taking transition plans of students 16 and older and working towards job placements.



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20507

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

for

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER PAUL STEVEN MILLER

Office of
the Commissioner

DATE:

3/7

NUMBER OF PAGES:
(Including Cover)

2

TO:

Diana Fortune

OFFICE/COMPANY/FIRM:

Domestic Policy

TELEPHONE NO.: ()

456-5570

FACSIMILE NO.: ()

7028
456-~~05~~

FROM:

Paul Miller

CONTACT PERSON:

TELEPHONE NO.: (202) 663-4036

FACSIMILE NO.: (202) 663-7101

COMMENTS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This communication is intended for the sole use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt for disclosure.

Any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient or the person(s) responsible for its delivery is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this communication in error, please telephone this office immediately (if necessary, call collect) at (202) 663-4036 and either destroy the communication or return it to the address above.



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20507

Commissioner
Paul Steven Miller

MEMORANDUM TO DIANA FORTUNA, Domestic Policy

FROM: Paul Steven Miller
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PSM", is written over the name "Paul Steven Miller".

DATE: March 7, 1996

SUBJECT: Presidential Personnel Memo

I think the talking points on Presidential Personnel issues should not focus on raw numbers or percentages. It is difficult to focus on raw numbers because of the disclosure issue. Some individuals may have a disability, and disclose that disability, and yet, have no connection to disability rights issues or perspectives. Moreover, because there are a number of disability specific appointments, *i.e.*, National Council on Disability, President's Committee, etc., raw numbers are misleading. We can talk further about these issues if you like. I think the key point to make is that the President appointed a historic number of persons with disabilities *from the disability rights movement* who have a *rights bearing attitude*. In addition, I think it is important to emphasize where the President has made his appointments of persons with disabilities. The President appointed *full-time* policy makers with disabilities in key positions that are not disability specific. For example, over the course of the Administration, persons with disabilities were appointed to positions in the White House, including the Vice-President's Office, the Office of Administration, the National Economic Council; Education; Health and Human Services, including the first presidential appointee who uses augmented communication; Housing and Urban Development; Justice; State; Transportation, Veteran's Affairs; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Office of Personnel Management; and Social Security Administration.

I think that raw numbers can be misleading. The key point to emphasize is the breadth and quality of the appointments, and how through the appointments process, policy development is created and impacted.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill White

FROM: Paul Miller, Liz Savage, and Andy Imparato

RE: Accomplishments Introduction and Bullets on ADA Enforcement

DATE: Friday, February 23, 1996

President Clinton came to Washington with a strong desire to put people first, and make the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans.

The President's policy of openness and inclusion has carried through to the disability community. From the White House to the smallest executive agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented willingness to listen to and address the concerns of Americans with disabilities across the country.

how?
The President began this Administration by appointing more people with disabilities to high level policymaking positions than any president in history. The Administration has created and implemented policies which enable people with disabilities to live independently in mainstream society.

President Clinton is committed to a "national disability policy based on three simple creeds: inclusion, not exclusion; independence, not dependence; and empowerment, not paternalism."

President Clinton directed his Administration to enforce the ADA to the full extent of the law. Thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families have directly benefitted from Clinton Administration enforcement of the ADA and other disability rights laws. The Administration has also demonstrated leadership in fighting the backlash against Americans with disabilities.

By signing the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Voter Registration Act, and the Telecommunications Reform Act, the President has made workplaces more accommodating, voting easier, and communications technology more accessible for 49 million Americans with disabilities. In addition, President Clinton has steadfastly defended programs and policies relied upon by Americans with disabilities that are under attack in the current Congress, such as Medicaid, Medicare, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Social Security.

The President's disability policy agenda has been executed on many fronts.

Fighting Discrimination

- * Vigorous enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act is a high priority for the Clinton Administration. President Clinton has stated that he will strongly oppose any legislative attempts to weaken these laws.
- * The Clinton EEOC has successfully resolved over 40,000 charges of employment discrimination under the ADA since it became effective in July of 1992, and produced monetary benefits without having to go to court resulting in over \$71 million for charging parties. In addition, the Clinton EEOC has filed over 140 strategic lawsuits, many of which have been resolved successfully.
- * The Clinton Justice Department has approached enforcement on two fronts. First, Attorney General Reno's national ADA public education campaign has increased public awareness and, coupled with the Department's enforcement and technical assistance, has substantially increased voluntary compliance. Second, the Clinton Justice Department has used all the tools of the law to compel compliance, including civil penalties and damages for aggrieved persons with disabilities. Where necessary, the Justice Department has used litigation to set precedents and impact entire industries, such as filing lawsuits against architects and contractors for failing to design and construct accessible new buildings; and challenging professional licensing examinations that discriminate against entire classes of people with disabilities.
- * DOT
- * IDEA
- * HUD
- * FCC

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF OLDER AMERICANS

"I think we're obligated to balance this budget to take the debt off our children and our grandchildren, but we're obligated to do it in a way that represents -- that reflects our responsibility to our parents and our grandparents..." -- President Clinton

FIGHTING TO PROTECT MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

- **Fighting Drastic Republican Cuts** in Medicare and Medicaid that will shift a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries; and reduce Medicaid nursing home coverage for hundreds of thousands of the elderly and disabled.
- **Long-Term Care** -- Opposing Republican proposals to reduce Medicaid long-term care coverage and to repeal enforcement of quality standards for nursing homes. Consistently supported expanding state administered home and community-based care services, tax clarifications and consumer standards for private long-term care insurance, and penalty-free withdrawals from IRAs to pay for long-term care.
- **Making Medicare and Medicaid Responsive to Beneficiary Needs** -- Worked to strengthen and improve Medicare and Medicaid by combating fraud and abuse, enhancing quality, and supporting an expansion of managed-care options to increase choices for beneficiaries -- not as a smokescreen for deep and arbitrary cuts. Proposed providing more preventive services and a respite care benefit for families of victims of Alzheimer's disease under Medicare.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **A Stable Social Security System** -- Committed to preserving Social Security benefits and ensuring the long-term integrity of the Trust Fund. The President stated benefits should not be used to balance the budget or pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.
- **A Reliable Pension System** -- Signed the Retirement Protection Act in December 1994. Now workers and retirees will be able to count on receiving the pension they have earned.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Older Americans Act** -- Proposed reauthorization of Older Americans Act to renew and strengthen critical Meals on Wheels, transportation, senior community employment, and ombudsman services. Fighting to keep the program intact.
- **Senior Service Corps** -- Fighting to support and protect the Corporation for National Service's Senior Service Programs -- Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

BRINGING SENIORS TO THE TABLE

- **Elevation of Commissioner of Aging** to Assistant Secretary status.
- **1995 White House Conference on Aging** -- Called for the fourth White House Conference on Aging, after the 1991 Conference failed to take place.

DISABILITY POLICY

"We must move from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, from paternalism to empowerment....millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened it to them."

President Clinton
4th Anniversary of the
Americans with Disabilities Act
July 27, 1994

The Administration is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible, and to be productive throughout their lives. To that end, the Administration has launched a full-scale review of disability programs and policies (headed by Carol Rasco, the President's Domestic Policy Advisor, and Alice Rivlin, Director of Management and Budget) to ensure that Federal policies are guided by these goals. In addition, the President has appointed an unprecedented number of people with disabilities to important policy-making jobs within the Administration.

Working to End Discrimination against Americans with Disabilities

The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America.

- o Under President Clinton's leadership, the Department of Justice has launched a national public education campaign to inform Americans about the ADA, including public service announcements on television and radio, a toll-free information line, and an "ADA Information File" provided to 15,000 libraries across the country.
- o The Administration has increased enforcement activities, investigating thousands of complaints relating to employment, government services, public accommodations and transportation.
- o The Administration's emphasis on public education and enforcement has substantially increased voluntary compliance with the ADA.

Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities

This Administration is working to foster full participation for Americans with disabilities in the nation's mainstream, including efforts to make health care affordable to all Americans:

- o Federal grant programs in six states are demonstrating the positive return on the investment of hiring individuals with disabilities. These pilot projects encourage the employment of young adults with disabilities through teaching accommodations strategies and how to make adjustments in human resource practices.
- o The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained its vocational rehabilitation and counseling field staff to work closely with employers to educate them about their responsibilities under the ADA and the advantages of employing qualified applicants with disabilities.

Responsive Services for Families

Current disability policies recognize that families who are raising children with disabilities require additional supports.

- o The Department of Health and Human Services supports services and research that enhance independence and quality of life for people with disabilities and their families, including income support, Medicaid, and Maternal and Child Health programs providing case management and other special supports for children with disabilities.
- o Each state has established a toll-free 800 number linking families to a central directory of state and local resources and services.
- o Parent training and information centers exist in almost every state to help families locate services, information, and informal parent networks and support groups.
- o The President protected all American families when he signed the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Childhood Immunization Initiative.

Insuring Future Success

The Clinton Administration has started a revolution in learning for all Americans, including Americans with disabilities. The National Service Act will allow students to contribute to their communities through public service. The Goals 2000 Act will set encourage education reform for all children. In addition:

- o The Department of Education is currently developing legislation to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), with a strong focus on improving outcomes for students with disabilities.
- o In May 1994, President Clinton signed the School-to-Work Act with the goal of empowering all individuals, including those with disabilities, to have the skills and experience they need to compete.

Update

As part of its welfare reform bill, the House has approved a plan to cut off aid to 225,000 disabled children, because of anecdotal news reports of children faking disabilities in order to qualify for SSI benefits. The Administration advocates a more reasoned approach that would draw on the work of the congressionally-appointed Childhood Disability Commission to reform the children's SSI program. The Commission will complete its work in July or August.

Latest Update: April 13, 1995

FAX: Cover plus 1 page

Fax to: Judy Heumann (fax 205-9252)
Paul Miller (fax 663-7101)
Liz Savage (fax 514-0293)
Bill White (fax 6-6218)

FROM: Diana Fortuna

DATE: 3/7/96

Presidential Personnel did this for me. What do you think we can say based on this? Does the word "unprecedented" apply?

Dave
3/7
1:30pm
-Mason

**Disability Representations in the Bush and Clinton Administrations
Snapshot of Bush Sept. '91* versus Clinton Sept. '95***

2/28/96

Bush Sept. 1991	Disabled	Total	Clinton Sept. 1995	Disabled	Total
PAS	20	746	PAS	26	722
	3%			3%	
PA	10	284	PA	12	220
	4%			4%	
Non-Career SES	23	715	Non-Career SES	28	737
	3%			4%	
Schedule C	49	1759	Schedule C	62	1644
	3%			4%	
Grand total	102	3504	Grand total	128	3323
	3%			4%	

* Numbers based on OPM data for both administrations
in order to provide an accurate comparison.

Private and Confidential

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

21-Oct-1996 10:22pm

TO: justice

FROM: owner-justice

SUBJECT: Clinton to Disability Leaders

Justice For All

jfa@mailbot.com

JFA is pleased to share the following letter from President Bill Clinton to our national network of disability rights activists:

Clinton/Gore 96
October 8, 1996

Dear Disability Rights Leader:

It is with deep gratitude that I thank you for your loyal support. My good friend, Justin Dart, has shared with me the tremendous results of his Justice '96 tour to every state. I commend Justin and the many members of the disability community who have worked so tirelessly on my behalf.

When I was elected President, I issued a challenge to our nation. I said that 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. However, last year, Speaker Gingrich and Senator Dole sent me legislation that could have eliminated the Medicaid guarantee of health care and independence so important to individuals with disabilities. I vetoed that legislation, and if they try again to eliminate the guarantee or try to weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act, I will veto it in a heartbeat.

Vice President Gore and I are proud of our record of achievement. It is impressive to note how often the combined efforts of the disability community and our Administration have provided more opportunities for all Americans. Our joined forces were invaluable in protecting Medicaid and Medicare; in ending preexisting condition exclusions in health care; in ensuring that children with disabilities are provided a free and appropriate education; in empowering voters with disabilities by passing the Motor-Voter Act; in helping families through the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act; and in assuring disability access to

cyberspace through the Telecommunications Act. We make a good team.

Vice President Gore and I know that the job is far from finished. Millions of Americans still lack adequate health care services, real jobs, truly accessible communities, and equal access to the American Dream. We will not rest until all Americans with disabilities in institutions have the choice of living in their homes and communities with appropriate services.

Vice President Gore and I are proud of this Administration's highly qualified political appointees with disabilities, and we are proud of our work with you. You can send a strong message across America that the bridge to the twenty-first century must be accessible to all Americans. Americans with disabilities have a leadership role and a clear choice. You have the power to make the difference.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

--

Fred Fay
jfa@mailbot.com

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FIRST TERM
HEALTH REFORM RECORD:
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CURRENT PROPOSALS**

Updated: October 12, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S HEALTH CARE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Enacted the Kennedy-Kassebaum health insurance reforms that will benefit as many as 25 million Americans.** This law will enable individuals to keep their health insurance coverage when they change jobs. Workers will no longer fear losing their health insurance if they or a family member have a pre-existing condition. Many of the provisions in this law were included in the President's balanced budget proposal and the Health Security Act. The law also includes several other key provisions that will:
 - Guarantee renewability of coverage;
 - Guarantee access to health insurance for small businesses;
 - Eliminate the discriminatory tax treatment of the self-employed;
 - Established penalty-free withdrawals from IRAs for some medical expenses;
 - Strengthen efforts to combat health care fraud, waste and abuse;
 - Provide consumer protections and tax incentives for private long-term care insurance; and
 - Simplify the health care system and reduce paperwork.
- **Established protections for mothers and their newborns.** Today, some health plans refuse to pay for anything more than a 24-hour hospital stay, and some recommend releasing mothers as few as 8 hours after delivery. The President signed into law common sense legislation that requires health plans to allow new mothers to remain in the hospital for at least 48 hours following most normal deliveries and 96 hours after a Caesarean section.
- **Signed into law mental health parity provisions.** The President signed into law legislation to prohibit health plans from establishing separate lifetime and annual limits for mental health coverage.
- **Strengthened Medicare Trust Fund.** The President's 1993 economic package included policy and structural changes that extended the life of the Trust Fund by three years which were enacted without one Republican vote. The President's balanced budget proposal will extend the life of the trust fund by 10 years from today.
- **Protected the Medicaid guarantee for children, elderly, pregnant women and people with disabilities.** The President vetoed the Republicans' proposal to block grant the Medicaid program, guaranteeing health care coverage or benefits to 37 million beneficiaries. The President also presided over the approval of 12 Medicaid waivers to cover 2.2 million previously uninsured Americans.
- **Protected kids from tobacco products and advertising.** The President issued guidelines to eliminate easy access to tobacco products by children and to prohibit companies from advertising tobacco to kids. The goal is to reduce smoking by children by 50 percent within seven years.
- **Increased childhood immunizations to an historic high.** The President's childhood immunization initiative includes community-based educational efforts, more affordability and better detection. In 1995, 75 percent of two-year olds were fully immunized -- an historic high.

- **Made women's health a priority.** Helped develop technology to detect cancer and other diseases earlier and with greater accuracy. Since 1993, funding for breast cancer research at NIH has increased by 79 percent. Launched the Women's Health Initiative -- the largest clinical study ever on diseases that affect older women. Included women of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds in research and evaluation of drugs and medical devices.
- **Enacted laws to reduce violence against women.** The President enacted the Violence Against Women Act -- the first national effort to reduce violence against women. This Act has already devoted \$156 million to give law enforcement tools to punish criminals who prey on women and children. Created a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline, (which has already received 50,000 calls), to provide immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals.
- **Enacted laws to prevent and punish handgun violence.** Fought for the Brady bill, which has already prevented more than 60,000 fugitives, felons and criminals from buying handguns. The President expanded this bill to prevent individuals who commit acts of domestic violence from buying guns. Banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and stopped efforts to repeal the assault weapons ban. Every year at least 39,000 people die and 100,000 are treated in emergency rooms from gun violence.
- **Expedited the FDA review and approval of new drug products.** Under the President's watch, U.S. drug approvals are now as fast or faster than any other industrialized nation. Average drug approval times have dropped since the beginning of the Administration from almost three years to just over one year. In 1997, virtually all breakthrough drugs will be approved within 6 months without compromising safety standards.
- **Increased funding for AIDS research, prevention, housing and treatment.** In the President's first term, he has presided over a 56 percent increase in spending on programs for people living with AIDS including: the Ryan White Care Act, research, State AIDS drug assistance programs that help patients buy new protease inhibitor drugs, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS that provides housing assistance for over 65,000 people.
- **Increased funding for the veterans' health.** An increase of nearly one billion dollars will provide resources for the health care of 43,000 more veterans.
- **Helped Vietnam veterans whose children are born with spina bifida.** The President signed legislation to provide health care and rehabilitative training for children of Vietnam veterans who are born with spina bifida. This legislation will help thousands of children whose birth defects may be a result of their fathers' or mothers' service to our country.
- **Improved funding for the Indian Health Service.** Increased Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates for the Indian Health Service will result in an additional \$65 million to provide quality health care for American Indians and Alaskan Natives.
- **Reduced regulations.** The Vice President's reinventing government initiative has resulted in the elimination of 1,600 pages of regulations in the Department of Health and Human Services, a 23 percent reduction.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS*

- **Extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund until 2006.** The President's Medicare savings (of \$116 billion scored by the Congressional Budget Office) and structural changes will extend the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for approximately ten years from today.
- **Modernizing Medicare and providing for more choices.** The President's Medicare plan will increase the choice of plans for beneficiaries by adding a Medicare Preferred Provider Organization option, a Provider Sponsored Organization alternative, and a HMO with a point-of-service option. It also includes "competitive-bidding" initiatives that will make Medicare a more prudent and effective purchaser of health care services. Lastly, it enhances funding for academic health centers by redirecting funds for medical education to managed care plans.
- **Adding new preventive benefits for Medicare beneficiaries.** The President's Medicare proposal will add preventive benefits by providing for: full coverage of mammography screenings, a colorectal screening benefit, diabetes case management, and preventive injections for pneumonia, influenza and hepatitis B.
- **Taking a first step toward coverage of long-term care.** The President's Medicare proposal will establish a respite benefit for families of Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease.
- **Liberating states to have more flexibility to administer Medicaid.** The President's Medicaid proposal will eliminate the burdensome waiver process for both managed care and home and community-based care alternatives to institutionalization. It will preserve the Federal guarantee of health coverage and also make it easier for states to expand coverage.
- **Providing for a "Workers' Transition Insurance" benefit.** This proposal will build on Kennedy-Kassebaum by helping to assure that previously insured people who are looking for a new job can afford to keep their health insurance and thus retain their portability protections. It will cost about \$2 billion a year and will help approximately 3 million Americans a year retain insurance coverage, including 700,000 children.
- **Empowering small businesses to access and purchase more affordable insurance.** This will be accomplished through the use of voluntary health purchasing cooperatives (HPCs) by providing access to Federal Employees Health Benefit Plans, overriding restrictive state laws and giving grants for the establishment and operation of HPCs.
- **Prohibiting health plans from restricting medical communications.** Currently, some health plans require doctors to sign contracts that may inappropriately limit their ability to give patients information about referrals and alternative treatment. The President's "anti-gag" initiative will encourage physicians to discuss a full range of treatment options with patients.

- **Creating an Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry.** The President signed an Executive Order to create a bi-partisan Advisory Commission to review changes occurring in the health care system and, where appropriate, make recommendations on how best to promote and assure consumer protection and health care quality.
- **Protecting health care benefits of workers and retirees.** Helped tens of thousands of workers and retirees get promised benefits from their private health plans by developing a project to resolve cases quickly and by submitting amicus briefs in critical cases.
- **Expanding health care options for older veterans.** The President proposed the "Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Project of 1996," legislation to open the VA system to Medicare-eligible veterans in a number of cities. This measure will allow the VA to receive reimbursement from Medicare, improving access to care for older veterans while lowering costs to the VA system.
- **Contributing to the World Health Organization's initiative to eradicate global polio by the year 2000.** This proposal will increase spending on global polio eradication efforts by \$20 million. If successful, the United States alone could save more than \$230 million per year after polio eradication is achieved.

* Where Federal funding is required for these proposals, it is included in the context of the President's balanced budget.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

26-Sep-1996 10:35am

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Angus S. King
Office of the Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: va / hud talking points

Building a Strong American Community,
Keeping America's Families Healthy and Strong
September 26, 1996

Upholding the basic value of community. Today, as a part of the VA/HUD appropriations bill for 1997, President Clinton signed into law strong new health care provisions for families, for mothers with newborns, for Americans suffering from mental illness, and for veterans and their children. The bill also strengthens the American community through preserving our commitment to the environment, housing, emergency relief and national service.

Important health care reforms. President Clinton's strategy has always been to create opportunity for all, demand responsibility from all, and to work to come together in a great American community. In response to challenges President Clinton issued, today's legislation includes a number of reforms which will help keep American families healthy and strong.

- * 48-hour rule. Today's legislation means that health insurance companies are required to allow all new mothers and their babies to stay in the hospital for at least 48 hours following most normal deliveries. The "Newborns' and Mothers' Protection Act of 1996" means that families will never have to worry again about mothers being prematurely discharged from the hospital following birth.
- * Mental health parity coverage. This legislation is an important first step to ending discrimination in health care coverage faced by people diagnosed with mental illness. Largely due to the work of the Administration, especially Tipper Gore, health plans can no longer establish separate lifetime and annual limits for mental health coverage.
- * Spina Bifida. The Veterans' Administration will now provide medical and rehabilitative training for children of Vietnam veterans who are born with spina bifida. The children of our soldiers should not have to suffer for their parents' sacrifice.

Preserving our values, standing by our commitments. Today's legislation also meets a number of challenges the President has given

to strengthen the American community.

- * The responsibility to give our children a healthy environment. Today's bill gives the Environmental Protection Agency the resources it needs to protect our air and water, to clean up urban industrial waste sites, and to build on our record pace of Superfund cleanups.
- * Expanding college opportunity while helping our communities. President Clinton's national service program, AmeriCorps, gives our young people the opportunity to earn money for college by serving their communities. This legislation will keep it going strong.
- * Improving the lives of those willing to take responsibility. By providing for more community development banks and improved and safer public housing, the bill will help the Department of Housing and Urban Development build America's communities.
- * Giving Americans the nation's helping hand. The bill allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue its indispensable

work of helping out in the wake of floods, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes.

* A commitment to space exploration. The bill gives NASA the resources to chart new horizons as it continues the work of space exploration.

Our strategy of opportunity, responsibility and community is working for America. The annual census study of incomes for 1995 was released today, announcing the biggest increase in median family income in a decade -- up \$898 after inflation. There were also 1.6 million fewer people in poverty, the biggest drop since 1968. And we had the largest decline in income inequality in 27 years. It is clear that America's economy is on the right track.

Distribution:

TO: John O. Sutton
TO: Barry J. Toiv
TO: Laura Capps
TO: Mary Ellen Glynn
TO: Kathy McKiernan
TO: APRIL K. MELLODY
TO: Julie E. Mason
TO: Teresa Wildman
TO: Lorraine McHugh
TO: Gordon Li
TO: Karen L. Hancox
TO: Margo L. Spiritus
TO: Steven J. Naplan
TO: Patricia A. McHugh
TO: Jennifer D. Dudley
TO: Ruby G. Moy
TO: Jason S. Goldberg
TO: Daniel Taberski
TO: Dena B. Weinstein
TO: Lorraine A. Voles
TO: Rica F. Rodman
TO: Stephen B. Silverman
TO: Joshua Silverman
TO: Julia R. Green
TO: Allison Wilkie
TO: Peggy A. Lewis
TO: Lauren J. Boyd
TO: Chris Dorval
TO: Kevin M. O'Keefe
TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman
TO: Brenda B. Costello
TO: Jeremy D. Benami
TO: Deborah L. Fine
TO: David S. Beaubaire
TO: Russell W. Horwitz
TO: Gabrielle M. Bushman
TO: Rahm Emanuel
TO: Michelle Crisci
TO: Craig Gardenswartz
TO: Stacy L. Forster