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Disability--Disability Timeline

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**CLINTON ADMINISTRATION
TIMELINE ON ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

2000

October 25, 2000 [planned]

Second annual "Disability Mentoring Day: Career Development for the 21st Century" (see 10/27/99).

October 2000

The Health Care Financing Administration will extend ~~premium-free~~ Medicare Part A benefits for 8½ years to Social Security Disabilities Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries whose cash assistance when they return to work. The President's fiscal year 2001 budget proposes to appropriate funds to those benefits for as long as such individuals work. ??

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The President directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene an interagency task force on Health Care Coverage of Assistive Technologies that includes the Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Education, Labor, Veteran Affairs, and other agencies as appropriate.

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- The President directed his cabinet to organize a task force to examine Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology.

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- President ~~called on Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps~~ and announced that AmeriCorps would be awarded \$9 million to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers working to close the digital divide.

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- At Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, the Presidents offered remarks on digital opportunities available for persons with disabilities. He announced concrete actions by the Administration, companies, universities, and non-profits to help ensure that people with disabilities are full participants in the Information Age by: increasing the accessibility and usability of existing information and communication products and services for people with disabilities; improving state-of-the art assistive technology, ensuring that existing efforts to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity are accessible to people with disabilities, using information technologies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and increasing access to technologies for people with disabilities who cannot currently afford it.

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- President Clinton announced a FY 2001 budget of \$100 million for disability and research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and \$41 million for Assistive Technology Act funds to States.

July 26, 2000

The President and First Lady joined leaders of the disability community in a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Initiatives and accomplishments include:

- Automatically adjusting the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level for individuals with disabilities
- Increasing the amount of monthly earnings that count during a trial work period for Social Security beneficiaries who go to work

- The President will issue an Executive Order calling on Federal agencies to hire 100,000 people with disabilities over a five-year period.
- The President will also direct Federal agencies to establish effective procedures for processing requests for reasonable accommodation by employees and job applicants with disabilities.
- The President will call on Federal agencies that already operate customer service centers to identify positions that could be relocated to home-based or off-site facilities.
- The President will direct all Federal agencies to engage in a plan to ensure that today's Federal programs are free from disability-based discrimination, using specific steps designed by DOJ and the EEOC to reach this important goal.
- The President announced a new website www.disAbility.gov to serve as a "one-stop" electronic link to a range of useful information for people with disabilities and their families.
- The First Lady will announce the Administration's plan to increase the amount that students who receive SSI can earn while continuing to receive the important protection SSI provides.
- The First Lady will unveil a new interagency Youth to Work Initiative to help youth with disabilities make the transition from school to work.
- The Presidential Taskforce on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities has worked with several major corporations to begin a public-private partnership that will help ensure that youth with disabilities are afforded the employment opportunities needed to lead to meaningful careers.

June 25, 2000

Vice President Gore announced that the Administration would launch a series of new initiatives designed to promote the delivery of home and community-based services and support for people with disabilities.

- A new \$50 million investment in FY 2001 to help states more easily offer service to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs
- New guidance to state Medicaid directors on Medicaid coverage of home and community based services to help them reply with the recent Olmstead Supreme Court ruling
- Create a nearly \$20 million investment in a public-private partnership between the Administration and the National Program Office on Self-Determination to help individuals with disabilities transition into community living
- Plans to increase home ownership, extend work incentives for individuals with disabilities to a broader range of housing assistance programs, and promote the development of new assistive technology for people with disabilities
- Establish a National Mental Health Coalition to promote community-based services for individuals with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders

Finally, the Vice President emphasized the Administration's strong support for health care and work incentives legislation of particular importance to people with disabilities, including a Medicare prescription drug benefit; a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights; a \$1,000 tax credit for work-related expenses for people with disabilities and a \$3,000 long-term tax credit for Americans with long-term care needs.

July 26, 2000

President Clinton issued Executive Order 13164 requiring federal agencies to establish procedures to facilitate the provision of reasonable accommodation and to submit these procedures to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

*consolidate
under
one 7/26 heading*

July 26, 2000

President Clinton issued Executive Order 12163 increasing the opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be employed at all levels of the federal government.

*consolidate
of other July 25 stuff*

July 26, 2000

President Clinton directed the Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in close consultation with the Interagency Disability Coordinating Council and the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities to develop priorities under which federal agencies will focus on specific programs or types of programs to ensure that they are readily accessible to person with disabilities.

July 25, 2000

President Clinton directed The Interagency Committee on Disability Research to publish within 120 days of the directive issue, a report identifying priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities. Following the issuance of the report, agencies participating in the Small Business Innovation Research program shall develop a strategy for enhancing transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR.

June 23, 2000

The President signed Executive Order 13160, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, and state as a patent in Federally conducted education and training programs and initiatives.

June 2000

The President's Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities *held* initiated a National Transition Summit to develop recommended actions for how the federal government can best help youth with disabilities graduate from high school and college and improve their employment rate.

March 17, 2000

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued proposed regulations to create a new government-wide excepted appointing authority for persons with psychiatric disabilities. The authority would broaden the category of people who may non-competitively acquire competitive civil service status after two years of successful service.

January 25, 2000

Healthy People 2010 is a national initiative to improve the health of all Americans, including those with disabilities, by establishing health objectives for the year 2010 and by measuring progress towards these goals.

January 14, 2000

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued guidance to state Medicaid directors on how to make state programs responsive to the desires of people with disabilities to live in appropriate community-based settings.

January, 2000

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Expanding Economic Opportunity

- Disability Office in the Department of Labor
- National Disability Business Development Board
- Tax Credit for work-related expenses for people with disabilities

- Extending Medicare access for people with disabilities who work (from 4.5 years to lifetime access)
- Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants (\$2.4 billion or an increase of \$60.8 million) to improve the employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Education and Training

- State Grant Program: FY 2001 budget includes \$5.28 billion for Special Education Grants to States.
- State Improvement Grants: FY 2001 budget includes \$45.2 million for State Improvement Grants to expand efforts to reform and improve State systems for providing educational, early intervention, and transitional services to improve results for children with disabilities.
- Parent Training: FY 2001 budget for the Parent Training and Information Center is \$26 million.
- Reading and Behavior: FY 2001 budget includes a request for a \$10 million Primary Intervention initiative to support projects that demonstrative effective interventions coupled with early identification to improve results for children with disabilities.
- State Technical Assistance Awards: FY 2001 budget includes an \$8 million request to improve State monitoring and complaint resolution systems and to correct deficiencies associated with the State and Federal implementation of IDEA.

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Priorities: Improving Access and Quality of Healthcare

- Addressing the Nation's Multi-Faceted Needs for Long-Term Service and Supports: FY 2001 includes a \$28 billion, 10 year investment to tackle the complex problem of long-term care. Its centerpiece is \$3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their caregivers.
- Expanding Coverage to Uninsured Americans: FY 2001 proposes a 10 year, \$110 billion initiative that would dramatically improve the affordability of and access to health insurance.
- Advocating a Strong Patient's Bill of Rights: The President and Vice-President have called for the passage of the bipartisan Patient's Bill of Rights Act.

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Improving Accessibility

- Assistive Technology Initiatives: FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million (a \$13.5 million increase) for disability and technology research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).
- Centers for Independent Living: FY 2001 budget includes \$58 million for Centers for Independent Living (CILs)—a 20.8 percent increase over last year's funding level.

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Promoting Equality for All of Our Citizens

- Increased Funding for Civil Rights Enforcement: FY 2001 budget includes a request for an additional \$16 million for Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to further implementation of the American with Disabilities Act
- Protecting All of Our Citizens: The President and Vice President have repeatedly called for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would strengthen and expand the existing Federal hate crimes law to cover cases of hate crimes based on disability, gender, or sexual orientation.

Other highlights of the FY 2001 budget

- \$100 million to fund the President's Access to Jobs initiative. The program helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work.
- Proposes \$255 million for Fathers Win/Families Work grants to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families
- Allows grantees an additional two years to spend Welfare-to-Work funds

- Funding for 29 new positions for Americans With Disabilities Act enforcement
- Supports a new \$50 million investment in grants to help state develop comprehensive plans to care for person with disabilities in the most appropriate setting, as required by the American With Disabilities Act (see *Olmstead* ruling of 1999)

1999

~~XX, 1999~~

~~The President proposed and won \$25 million in funding for a program to coordinate systems of care, increase the number for services delivered, and establish an accountability system to assure adequate patient care for uninsured and low-income individuals.~~

December 17, 1999

At a bill signing ceremony at the FDR Memorial, the President signed into law the historic Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, which provides better health care options for people with disabilities who work.

November 20, 1999

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton praised Congress for passing the landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act, which makes it possible for millions of Americans with disabilities to join the workforce without fear of losing Medicaid or Medicare coverage. The President also challenged states take advantage of the new health care coverage options under this legislation.

October 27, 1999

The White House sponsored the first-ever mentoring day for people with disabilities. OPM and Departments of Labor, Justice, Education, Transportation, and Defense also participated in the mentoring program, which was modeled after other "shadow" days, and employers across the country were encouraged to participate.

October 16, 1999

President Clinton released an OPM plan to bring more adults with disabilities into the Federal workforce, entitled *Accessing Opportunity: The Plan for Employment of People with Disabilities in the Federal Government*, and directed the Federal government to implement the plan immediately. This plan was accompanied by an Employment Guide, providing detailed resources for federal employees as they recruit, hire, train, and promote people with disabilities.

October 16, 1999

In his Saturday radio address, President Clinton directed federal agencies to recruit people with disabilities for positions at all levels of government, provide opportunities for people with disabilities, collect and maintain data to monitor the success of people with disabilities in the federal workforce, and provide reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities. He also challenged Congress to pass the bipartisan Work Incentives Improvement Act (see November 20, 1999).

July 26, 1999

On the ninth anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act, President Clinton commended the work of his Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, a group developing a coordinated and active employment agenda for people with disabilities.

July 1999

The Social Security Administration increased monthly earnings guidelines from \$500 to \$700 per month, enabling beneficiaries with disabilities to earn more without affecting their benefits.

July 1999

The Federal Communications Commission adopted rules on Section 225 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities, if readily achievable.

June 25, 1999

President Clinton called for a bipartisan "season of progress" on the key domestic challenges facing the nation including the protection of health insurance for disabled Americans who want to rejoin the workforce.

June 22, 1999

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that, under the Americans With Disabilities Act, unjustifiable institutionalization of a person with a disability who, with proper support, can live in the community is discrimination.

June 15, 1999

At the U.S. Capitol, President Clinton urged Congress to pass the Work Incentives Improvement Act, a bill that would allow people with disabilities to obtain work without fear of losing health insurance.

June 7, 1999

At the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health, chaired by the President's Mental Health Advisor Tipper Gore, the Clinton-Gore Administration released unprecedented measures to improve mental health including the implementation of full mental health and substance abuse parity in FEHBP, the acceleration of mental health research, the launch of a pilot program to help people with mental illness get the quality treatment necessary to return to work, and the encouraging of states to offer more coordinated Medicaid services for people with mental illness.

June 4, 1999

President Clinton signed an Executive Order ensuring that individuals with psychiatric disabilities are given the same hiring opportunities as persons with significant physical disabilities or mental retardation.

June, 1999

President Clinton called for parity for mental health and substance abuse coverage in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) by 2001.

January 13, 1999

President Clinton announced a new \$1,000 tax credit for people with disabilities ~~could~~ ^{to help} meet critically high costs to get to work. He also announced the doubling of the assistive technology budget and the expansion of low-income assistive technology loans to the States.

January 4, 1999

President Clinton unveiled an historic new initiative to support Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of family members who care for them. This four-part, \$6.2 billion (over 5 years) initiative takes important steps to address complex long-term care needs through: an unprecedented \$1,000 tax credit for Americans of all ages with long-term care needs, a new national Family Caregivers Support

Program, a national campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about program coverage and options, and a proposal to have the Federal government serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term insurance to Federal employees at group rates.

January, 1999

Tipper Gore announced that OPM would explore measures to eliminate the stricter standards that are currently applied to job applicants with psychiatric disabilities.

FY 1999

The President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The FY 1999 budget expanded HUD's Fair Housing programs to \$40 million—a \$10 million increase over FY 1998 funding. That 33 percent increase included \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

1998

December 14, 1998

Vice President Gore directed OPM to develop a model plan to bring more adults with disabilities into the Federal workforce.

November 28, 1998

The President announced nearly \$130 million in new housing vouchers to help over 17,000 people with disabilities obtain affordable rental housing. These funds will help subsidize rents in the private marketplace, providing new affordable housing choices for people with disabilities. Earlier in the month, HUD Secretary Cuomo unveiled \$696 million in grants to non-profit organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to create more than 8,100 subsidized apartments for over 12,000 low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities.

November 13, 1998

With the support of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to provide assistive devices to low-income individuals with disabilities.

November, 1998

The President's Access to Jobs initiative helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work.

September 29, 1998

The Department of Transportation and the Access Board have issued final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions for over-the-road bus (OTRB) accessibility that provides a definition of what constitutes discriminatory action.

September 10, 1998

President Clinton launched his High Hopes initiative, a mentoring program for middle and high school students to encourage larger numbers of under-represented minorities to enroll in colleges and universities. He also directed the National Science and Technology Council to develop recommendations within 180 days on how to achieve greater diversity throughout the government's scientific and technical work force.

August 7, 1998

President Clinton signed that Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which included the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The legislation improves worker training and placement options for people with disabilities.

July 29, 1998

combine
In a memorandum to the Attorney General, HHS Secretary, EEOC Chair, and SBA Administrator, President Clinton directed for the expansion of public education regarding the provision of the ADA to employers, employees, and others whose rights may be affected, with special attention to small businesses and underserved communities, such as racial and language minorities that may not have ready access to information that is already available. He also directed the HHS Secretary to continue to take all necessary actions to inform Governors, State legislators, State Medicaid directors, consumer organizations, employers, providers, and other interested parties about section 4733 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Section 4733 allows States to provide Medicaid coverage to working people with disabilities, who would not normally qualify for Medicaid benefits because of their earning level.

July 29, 1998

can / see paper
In commemoration of the eighth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, President Clinton signed an Executive Memorandum aimed at increasing employment and health care options for people with disabilities. He also announced the release of a letter to Medicaid Directors clarifying that the ADA obligates states to offer appropriate community based services. In addition, he announced his commitment to work with Senators Jeffords and Kennedy to pass affordable, feasible legislation to help people with disabilities keep their health care coverage and return to work.

July 2, 1998

Vice President Gore announced that the FDR Memorial would soon include an additional outdoor room at the main entrance depicting FDR in the small wheelchair he invented. *(see Jan. 2001)*

June 26, 1998

President Clinton commended the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Bragdon v. Abbott*. The decision reinforced the protections offered by the Americans with Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

June 9, 1998

Did not participate in this
President Clinton signed that Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which provides significantly increased resources to make out Nation's surface transportation systems accessible.

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Fannie Mae announced the publication of "A Home of Your Own Guide," the first manual specifically created to provide step-by-step home buying guidance for people with disabilities.

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President Clinton signed an Executive Order 13078 establishing the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. The Task Force is charged with creating a coordinated and aggressive national policy to move individuals with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate approaching that of the general adult population.

1997

August 5, 1997

President Clinton signed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Provisions included:

- ~~\$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and low-income non-custodial fathers into jobs~~
- Creation of an optional program whereby States could allow people with disabilities who earn up to 250 percent of poverty to purchase Medicare coverage
- Preservation of the Federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for populations who depend on it

Restored SSI & Medicaid to _____ + _____ (see 8/22/96)

May 2, 1997

President Clinton dedicated the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to honor the thirty-second President of the United States.

June 4, 1997

President Clinton signed into Law a stronger Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to reaffirm the national commitment to provide a world class education for all children through safe schools conducive to learning and through protecting the rights of students with disabilities.

1996

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President Clinton signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. This legislation limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable, and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.

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President Clinton enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity of 1996 initiating the move of millions of families from welfare to work.

August 6, 1996

President Clinton signed into law S. 1757, the "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act Amendment of 1996." The legislation extends for 3 years the authorization of appropriations under the Act. Through this Act, Federal funds support the development and operation of developmental disabilities councils, protection and advocacy activities, university-affiliated programs, and projects of national significance.

May 23, 1996

President Clinton addressed the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Conference and reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to the ADA and IDEA. He also announced a new system used by Federal agencies to track the unemployment rate of people with disabilities and ensure that people with disabilities are included in Federal employment policies and programs.

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President Clinton signed an Executive Order to continue and broaden the responsibilities of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. In its 30-year existence, the committee has organized national planning; stimulated development of plans, policies, and programs; and advanced the concept of community participation in the field of mental retardation.

1995

January 20, 1995

HHS Secretary Donna Shalala named 15 members of the new Childhood Disability Commission, which will review the assistance given to disabled children under the Supplementary Security Income program.

1993

Can I see this paper?

February 5, 1993

President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a child or adult with a disability, seriously ill family members, newborn or adoptive children, or their own serious health conditions without fear of losing their jobs.

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- Creation of an optional program whereby States could allow people with disabilities who earn up to 250 percent of poverty to purchase Medicare coverage
- Preservation of the Federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for populations who depend on it
- Restoration of disability and health benefits to legal immigrants who were in this country before welfare reform became law (8/22/96). These provisions were clarified in the Noncitizen Benefit Clarification and Other Technical Amendments Act of 1998.

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1994 –Nothing turned up this year for disabilities? No major legislation, initiatives, etc. in 1994

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President called on Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and announced that AmeriCorps would be awarded \$9 million to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers working to close the digital divide. Several of the projects focus on the needs of people with disabilities, such as a project in North Carolina that would give 300 blind and visually impaired students of all ages computer and Internet skills.

At Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, the President offered remarks on digital opportunities available for persons with disabilities. He announced concrete actions by the Administration, companies, universities, and non-profits to help ensure that people with disabilities are full participants in the Information Age by: increasing the accessibility and usability of existing information and communication products and services for people with disabilities; improving state-of-the art assistive technology, ensuring that existing efforts to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity are accessible to people with disabilities, using information technologies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and increasing access to technologies for people with disabilities who cannot currently afford it.

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- Increasing the amount of monthly earnings that count during a trial work period for Social Security beneficiaries who go to work
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The First Lady also announced a series of proposals to improve and increase opportunities for young people with disabilities to successfully transition to work and to achieve independence:

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- Unveiling a new interagency Youth to Work Initiative to help youth with disabilities make the transition from school to work.
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- Plans to increase home ownership, extend work incentives for individuals with disabilities to a broader range of housing assistance programs, and promote the development of new assistive technology for people with disabilities
- Establishment of a National Mental Health Coalition to promote community-based services for individuals with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders

Finally, the Vice President emphasized the Administration's strong support for health care and work incentives legislation of particular importance to people with disabilities, including a Medicare prescription drug benefit; a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights; a \$1,000 tax credit for work-

related expenses for people with disabilities and a \$3,000 long-term tax credit for Americans with long-term care needs. [included in FY 2001 budget/legislative initiatives and priorities and Jan. 13, 1999 entries]

July 25, 2000

President Clinton directed The Interagency Committee on Disability Research to publish within 120 days of the directive issue, a report identifying priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities. Following the issuance of the report, agencies participating in the Small Business Innovation Research program shall develop a strategy for enhancing transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR.

June 2000

The President's Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities held a National Transition Summit to develop recommended actions for how the federal government can best help youth with disabilities graduate from high school and college and improve their employment rate.

March 17, 2000

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued proposed regulations to create a new government-wide excepted appointing authority for persons with psychiatric disabilities. The authority would broaden the category of people who may non-competitively acquire competitive civil service status after two years of successful service.

January 14, 2000

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued guidance to state Medicaid directors on how to make state programs responsive to the desires of people with disabilities to live in appropriate community-based settings.

January, 2000

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Expanding Economic Opportunity

- Disability Office in the Department of Labor
- National Disability Business Development Board
- Tax Credit for work-related expenses for people with disabilities
- Extending Medicare access for people with disabilities who work (from 4.5 years to lifetime access)
- Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants (\$2.4 billion or an increase of \$60.8 million) to improve the employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Education and Training

- State Grant Program: FY 2001 budget includes \$5.28 billion for Special Education Grants to States.
- State Improvement Grants: FY 2001 budget includes \$45.2 million for State Improvement Grants to expand efforts to reform and improve State systems for providing educational, early intervention, and transitional services to improve results for children with disabilities.
- Parent Training: FY 2001 budget for the Parent Training and Information Center is \$26 million.
- Reading and Behavior: FY 2001 budget includes a request for a \$10 million Primary Intervention initiative to support projects that demonstrative effective interventions coupled with early identification to improve results for children with disabilities.
- State Technical Assistance Awards: FY 2001 budget includes an \$8 million request to improve State monitoring and complaint resolution systems and to correct deficiencies associated with the State and Federal implementation of IDEA.

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Priorities: Improving Access and Quality of Healthcare

- Addressing the Nation's Multi-Faceted Needs for Long-Term Service and Supports: FY 2001 includes a \$28 billion, 10 year investment to tackle the complex problem of long-term care. Its centerpiece is \$3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their caregivers.
- Expanding Coverage to Uninsured Americans: FY 2001 proposes a 10 year, \$110 billion initiative that would dramatically improve the affordability of and access to health insurance.
- Advocating a Strong Patient's Bill of Rights: The President and Vice-President have called for the passage of the bipartisan Patient's Bill of Rights Act.
- Restoring Disability and Health Benefits to Legal Immigrants. The Balanced The President's FY2001 budget proposes to restore eligibility for SSI and Medicaid to legal immigrants who enter the country after August 22, 1996 if they have been in the United States for five years and become disabled after entering the Uniter States.

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Improving Accessibility

- Assistive Technology Initiatives: FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million (a \$13.5 million increase) for disability and technology research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).
- Centers for Independent Living: FY 2001 budget includes \$58 million for Centers for Independent Living (CILs)—a 20.8 percent increase over last year's funding level.
- President's Access to Jobs initiative: FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million as a result of guaranteed funding in TEA-21

Legislative Priorities and FY 2001 Budget Initiatives: Promoting Equality for All of Our Citizens

- Increased Funding for Civil Rights Enforcement: FY 2001 budget includes a request for an additional \$16 million for Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to further implementation of the American with Disabilities Act
- Protecting All of Our Citizens: The President and Vice President have repeatedly called for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would strengthen and expand the existing Federal hate crimes law to cover cases of hate crimes based on disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Funding for 29 new positions for Americans With Disabilities Act enforcement
- Supports a new \$50 million investment in grants to help state develop comprehensive plans to care for person with disabilities in the most appropriate setting, as required by the American With Disabilities Act (see *Olmstead* ruling of 1999)

1999

December 17, 1999

At a bill signing ceremony at the FDR Memorial, the President signed into law the historic Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, which provides better health care options for people with disabilities who work. [At both the signing and in a WH statement, Clinton only highlighted bill provisions—no other announcements made.]

November 20, 1999

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton praised Congress for passing the landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act, which makes it possible for millions of Americans with disabilities to join the workforce without fear of losing Medicaid or Medicare coverage. The President also challenged states to take advantage of the new health care overage options under this legislation.

October 27, 1999

The White House sponsored the first-ever mentoring day for people with disabilities. The Office of Personnel Management and the Departments of Labor, Justice, Education, Transportation, and Defense also participated in the mentoring program, which was modeled after other “shadow” days, and employers across the country were encouraged to participate.

October 16, 1999

~~President Clinton released an OPM plan to bring more adults with disabilities into the Federal workforce, entitled *Accessing Opportunity: The Plan for Employment of People with Disabilities in the Federal Government*, and directed the Federal government to implement the plan immediately. This plan was accompanied by an Employment Guide, providing detailed resources for federal employees as they recruit, hire, train, and promote people with disabilities.~~

October 16, 1999

In his Saturday radio address, President Clinton directed federal agencies to recruit people with disabilities for positions at all levels of government, provide opportunities for people with disabilities, collect and maintain data to monitor the success of people with disabilities in the federal workforce, and provide reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities. He also released an OPM plan to bring more adults with disabilities into the Federal workforce, entitled *Accessing Opportunity: The Plan for Employment of People with Disabilities in the Federal Government*, and directed the Federal government to implement the plan immediately. This plan was accompanied by an Employment Guide, providing detailed resources for federal employees as they recruit, hire, train, and promote people with disabilities. -He also challenged Congress to pass the bipartisan Work Incentives Improvement Act (see November 20, 1999).

July 26, 1999

On the ninth anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act, President Clinton commended the work of his Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, a group developing a coordinated and active employment agenda for people with disabilities.

July 1999

The Social Security Administration increased monthly earnings guidelines from \$500 to \$700 per month, enabling beneficiaries with disabilities to earn more without affecting their benefits.

July 1999

The Federal Communications Commission adopted rules on Section 225 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities, if readily achievable.

June 25, 1999

President Clinton called for a bipartisan “season of progress” on the key domestic challenges facing the nation including the protection of health insurance for disabled Americans who want to rejoin the workforce.

June 22, 1999

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that, under the Americans With Disabilities Act, unjustifiable institutionalization of a person with a disability who, with proper support, can live in the community is discrimination. President Clinton stated that this decision would increase access to home

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2000

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH, 2000

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These two landmark civil rights laws have opened the doors of opportunity for people with disabilities and increased our awareness of the enormous contributions that Americans with disabilities can make to our national life.

A decade ago, when we were debating the Americans with Disabilities Act, critics said that making workplaces, public transportation, public facilities, and telecommunications more accessible would be too costly and burdensome. But they have been proved wrong. Since passage of the ADA in 1990, more than a million men and women with disabilities have entered the labor force and, as tax-payers, consumers, and workers, they are contributing to a period of unprecedented prosperity and record employment in our country.

Throughout my Administration, we have worked hard to break down the barriers that people with disabilities continue to face on a daily basis. In 1998, I signed the Workforce Investment Act, requiring that information technology purchased by the Federal Government be accessible to people with disabilities. In 1999, I was proud to sign the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, which enables Americans with disabilities to retain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work, because no one should have to choose between health care and a job. We are also dramatically expanding the income students with disabilities can earn while retaining access to disability benefits; and to lead by example, we are hiring more people with disabilities throughout the Federal Government.

Today's revolution in information and communications technology offers us powerful new tools to expand employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities. Whether translating web pages aloud for people who are blind or visually impaired, creating captioning for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, or enabling people with physical disabilities to control a computer through eye movement and brain waves, these technologies show enormous potential for increasing access to employment and full participation in society. We are exploring ways that Medicare and Medicaid can be enhanced to cover the cost of assistive technology so that people can live and work more independently in the communities of their choosing. And I was pleased to announce on September 21 that dozens of corporate leaders from the technology sector and the presidents of many of America's leading research universities have pledged to make their products and services accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

A new generation of young people with disabilities is growing up in America today -- graduating from high school, going to college, and preparing to participate fully in the workplace. They have a right to

make the most of their potential, and our Nation must make the most of their intellect, talents, and abilities. By working together to break down barriers for Americans with disabilities, we will keep our economy growing, make a lasting investment in the future of our country, and uphold our fundamental commitment to justice and equality for all our people.

To recognize the enormous potential of individuals with disabilities and to encourage all Americans to work toward their full integration into the workforce, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 2000 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon Government officials, educators, labor leaders, employers, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that reaffirm our determination to fulfill the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 17, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 1180
WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
Washington. D.C.

9:55 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Kennedy, Senator Jeffords, we thank you for your leadership and your remarks today. And, Senator Roth, we thank you very much. We know this couldn't have happened without you. And, Senator Moynihan, Representative Lazio, thank you, sir. And, Representative Waxman and Representative Brown who are here, and Representative Dingell who is not here -- I want to thank all of you for your leadership in the House. Give them all a hand. (Applause.)

I also want to thank the members of the administration who were particularly active in supporting this bill -- Secretary Herman, the co-chair of my task force on the employment of adults with disabilities -- (applause) -- Secretary Shalala, Secretary Summers, Social Security Commissioner Apfel -- (applause.) I'd like to thank, in the White House, my Chief of Staff John Podesta, Chris Jennings, and Jeanne Lambrew, who had a lot to do with this bill, as all of you know. (Applause.)

I want to thank Senator Dole, especially, and through him all the citizens who came forward and made it possible for this to be a genuinely American bill. I want to welcome the members of the Roosevelt family who are here today, particularly Jim and Ann Roosevelt, my longtime friends. And now Jim is a member of this administration, something I'm very proud of.

I want to thank you, Justin Dart, and the members of the disability community who are here, for this and every other issue that we've worked on for over seven years now. (Applause.) And I want to acknowledge -- James Sullivan really spoke for three others who are here -- Donna McNarnee, Paul Marshall, and Wesley Vinner. I thank them for being up here, because every one of them represents a different, slightly different story of someone who will benefit from this bill. And I thank them for sharing their stories with us. (Applause.)

I think it's kind of interesting, don't you, that Mr. Sullivan, from New Hampshire and Senator Jeffords, from Vermont, are the only two people up here without coats on? (Laughter.) This is a warm December day in New England. (Laughter.)

Senator Jeffords, you made that remark that President Roosevelt never carried Vermont. You know, my family communes with the Roosevelts on a regular basis -- (laughter) -- you may remember that. And Eleanor told Hillary last night you're forgiven, all is forgiven now. (Laughter.) This wipes the slate clean, this bill does. (Laughter.)

John Sweeney, we thank you for being here. And we thank the labor community for their support of this legislation, as well.

(Applause.)

I think it is wonderfully fitting that this is the last piece of legislation a President of the United States will sign in the entire 20th century. (Applause.) We do it at this magnificent memorial, the Franklin Roosevelt, who from his wheelchair lifted our nation out of depression and led the free world to victory in World War II; who laid the building blocks for world peace and security that we enjoy today, and accomplished it all as an American with a disability.

In his time, as we all know -- and we've had a lot of debates about that in this memorial context -- Roosevelt felt he needed to keep his wheelchair from public view. Most people believed being disabled meant being unable, though he proved them wrong every day. Today, in the spirit of his leadership and the wake of his accomplishments, we move further along on our nation's marvelous journey of equal opportunity for all. (Applause.)

This is a good time for our country. We're ending the century on a high note, with 20 million new jobs since 1993; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; in February, the longest economic expansion in our entire history. But in spite of this good economic news, we know that three out of four people with significant disabilities are not working. They're ready to work, they're willing to work, and they are very able to work. But as we have heard, they face the daunting barrier of losing their Medicare or Medicaid coverage if they get a job.

For many Americans with disabilities, medical bills, as you just heard from our previous speaker, may cost thousands more than what is typically covered by an employer's private health insurance. For some, including some on this stage, those medical bills, because of the attendant care services, may add up to more than any reasonable salary a person with disabilities could ever hope to earn.

And, yet, quite beyond the human cost of denying people the dignity of work, this defies common sense and economic logic. It doesn't make sense for people to be denied the dignity of work and for the taxpayers to pay the bills, whether they're working or not, and, therefore, losing the benefit of the productivity, the contributions to our economy and society and, as you just heard, the tax receipt of working Americans.

Secretary Summers is here. You wouldn't believe how much time we spend arguing over how much longer this economic expansion can go on. How can we keep it going without inflation? How many expansions in the past have been broken because inflation finally burst through and had to be taken down and that led to a recession?

Well, one way we can keep this economic expansion going is to take it to people and places who aren't part of it. That's what our New Markets Initiative to poor areas of America is all about. And make no mistake about it, that will be one big objective of this bill. This is an inflation-free way to keep America's economy growing. You are helping every single American -- not just Americans with disabilities -- every single American will be helped by this legislation today. (Applause.)

But, of course, even more compelling than the economic argument is the human one. Today, we say with a simple, but clear voice, no one should have to choose between taking a job and having health care. (Applause.)

This legislation reorients our policy by saying health care

ought to be a tool to getting a job, earning a salary, paying taxes, and living up to one's God-given potential. You don't have to worry about losing Medicare or Medicaid anymore.

This landmark measure will also make a real difference to people who are facing the early onset of diseases like AIDS, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's or diabetes. Right now, they may be able to work, but their work conditions are not deemed severe enough to qualify for Medicare. In other words, they may only become eligible for health care when they're no longer able to work. Now, the problem is they're uninsurable because of the conditions they have, even though they're not disabled. So they're also in a different kind of double-bind.

With this bill -- thanks again to bipartisan support in Congress, and to the fact that the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee found a way to fund it -- we are going to have a \$250 million demonstration program that will allow these Americans to buy into the Medicare program, so they can stay on the job and don't have to give it up to get health care when they're perfectly capable of working. This is also a very important feature of this bill. (Applause.)

And finally, both Senator Kennedy and Senator Jeffords mentioned the Ticket to Work legislation that's a part of this bill. This creates long-overdue reforms of the job-training program, so people with disabilities can make their own choices about vocational rehabilitation services, the ones that are best for them. (Applause.)

Taken together, clearly, this is the most significant advancement for people with disabilities since the Americans with Disabilities Act almost a decade ago. It continues our administration's efforts to replace barriers to opportunity with policies based on inclusion, empowerment and independence.

That's why we reformed welfare, to reward the dignity of work; why we doubled the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income working people, particularly those with children; raised the minimum wage; enacted the Family and Medical Leave law. This bill takes us another huge step in the right direction of both liberating and rewarding the creative energies of all Americans. (Applause.)

But our task isn't done. I often think it's ironic that when we have these bill signings the Presidents get to make the speeches and sign the bills, but the members of Congress must be sitting out there thinking they did all the work. (Laughter.) And, in truth, they did the lion's share, and I was proud to support them.

But now it's our turn. We have to make it work in the lives of real people. I have instructed Secretary Shalala, Secretary Herman and Commissioner Apfel to take immediate action to implement this legislation, to team up with the states, advocates, businesses and others who are crucial to make this bill work. (Applause.)

Now, all of you here who had a hand in this know that the way it's set up, states have a vital role to play. We want to take every opportunity to help every single state in America take maximum advantage of the new options provided under this legislation. We want to encourage employees to reach out and tap the talented pool of potential workers that are now available. We want to work with all of you to ensure that we effectively get the word out to people who have disabilities so they actually know about the benefit of this legislation.

This is about more than jobs or paychecks -- I'll say it again -- it's about more than keeping our recovery going. It's fundamentally

about the dignity of each human being; about the realization of a quality of opportunity; about recognizing that work is at the heart of the American Dream.

In the end, the counsel of Franklin Roosevelt that's etched in the walls of this memorial guides us still. He said, "No country, however rich, can afford the waste of its human resources." That is ever more true as we cross the threshold into the new millennium.

I think Mr. Roosevelt would be proud of all of you today. I think we have honored his life and his legacy. In the new century, America will realize even more of it's promise because we have unleashed the promise of more Americans.

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

I'd like to ask the members of Congress and the administration to come up for the bill signing now.

(The bill is signed.)

END

10:07 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 17, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO BOOST THE EMPLOYMENT OF
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
December 17, 1999

Today, in a ceremony at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, President Clinton will sign into law the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. This landmark legislation makes it possible for millions of Americans with disabilities to join the workforce without fear of losing their Medicaid and Medicare coverage. It also modernizes the employment services system for people with disabilities. Enactment of this legislation is a major achievement for President Clinton, who championed the proposal in last year's budget. The President today will praise Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth and Moynihan, as well as Congressmen Lazio, Waxman, Bliley and Dingell, for their Bipartisan efforts on this historic legislation. Finally, he will direct his Cabinet to move swiftly to implement the Act.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES FACE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT. Since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office, the American economy has added over 20 million new jobs. Unemployment is at a 29-year low of 4.1 percent. But the unemployment rate among working-age adults with severe disabilities is nearly 75 percent. While people with disabilities bring tremendous energy and talent to the American workforce, outdated institutional barriers often limit their opportunities to work. Under current law, people with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work, putting them in the untenable position of choosing between health care coverage and work.

THIS NEW LAW HELPS BRING DOWN THOSE BARRIERS, AND PRESIDENT CLINTON PLEDGES SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION. The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 will break down these barriers and help the nation tap the full talents of the millions of Americans who are disabled. The President today will:

Highlight the important provisions of the Work Incentives Improvement Act. This landmark new legislation creates two new options for states to offer a Medicaid buy-in for workers with disabilities. It also provides \$150 million in grants to encourage states to take this option; creates a new \$250 million Medicaid buy-in demonstration to help people whose disability is not yet so severe that they cannot work; extends Medicare coverage for an additional 4-and-a-half years for people in the disability insurance system who return to work; and enhances employment-related services for individuals with disabilities through the new "Ticket to Work" Program.

Direct his Cabinet to move swiftly to implement this legislation. Today, President Clinton will instruct Secretary Herman, Secretary Shalala, Secretary Riley, and SSA Administrator Kenneth Apfel to work with states, providers, advocates and employers nationwide to implement this important legislation rapidly. He will call for effective collaboration to ensure that the Medicaid and Medicare programs work closely with agencies overseeing worker retraining and rehabilitation services.

Encourage states to take advantage of the new health care coverage options under this legislation. The President will challenge states to take advantage of these new options to offer Medicaid to individuals who

are not eligible under existing options, including people with disabilities who take advantage of the options provided under the new law. He also will encourage states to apply for the new \$250 million demonstration program that tests whether early medical intervention, made possible through an affordable Medicaid benefit, will enable people with early symptoms of HIV, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's Disease, or diabetes to stay healthier and keep working.

Commend the work of the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. The first report of the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults laid the foundation for the Work Incentives Improvement Act legislation. At the ceremony, the President will thank the Task Force for all its work on this issue over the past two years and accept the Task Force's second report, which will be transmitted to him today.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have a longstanding commitment to opening the doors of the workplace to more people with disabilities. The Administration has taken a number of actions, including: creating the Task Force two years ago to coordinate national policy efforts to increase employment of people with disabilities; including in last year's budget a historic \$2 billion initiative to provide a \$1,000 tax credit for work-related expenses for people with disabilities, to invest in technology to help more people with disabilities work, and to fully fund the Work Incentives Improvement Act; putting in place new regulations in February to make work pay for people with disabilities receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), by allowing them to earn more and still receive critical cash and medical benefits; directing the federal government -- the nation's largest employer -- to take new steps to hire more people with disabilities; issuing an executive order in June expanding hiring opportunities for people with psychiatric disabilities; and directing all federal agencies to increase employment of individuals with disabilities.

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