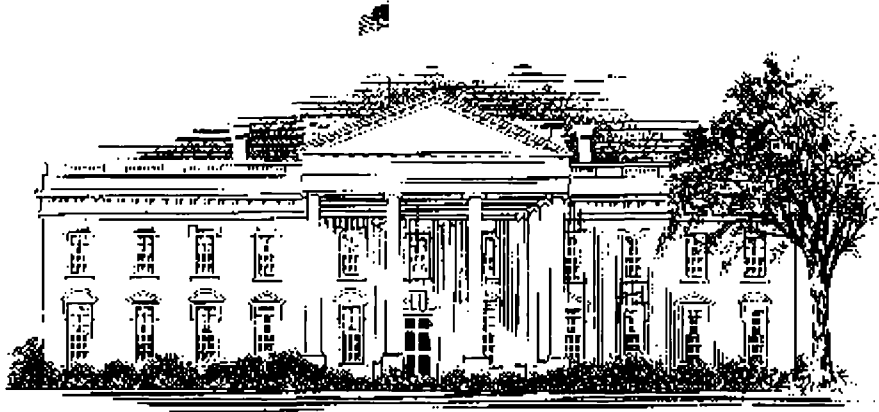


**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**



Accomplishment Documents For Hillary Rodham Clinton

1. Children's Health and Education
2. The Economy
3. Education
4. General Accomplishments
5. Children's health
6. Health Care General
7. Senior Citizens
8. Choice and Family Planning

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON A HISTORY OF COMMITMENT TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

For the last 30 years, Hillary Rodham Clinton has demonstrated support for policies in health and education that promote the well being of children. As First Lady, she has advocated for the needs of America's working families and their children on a variety of issues including:

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- **Urging Drug Companies to Provide Adequate Testing for Children.** In 1997, the First Lady began to fight for appropriate testing and labeling of prescription and over the counter drugs for children. As a result of her efforts, new pediatric labeling regulations and the FDA Modernization Act were enacted by the Clinton Administration in 1997. In the 18 months since these initiatives have been implemented, the information available to both parents and physicians about the appropriate use of medications for children has improved. Research has been completed on 19 drugs, resulting in new safety information being added to six drugs with changes expected for the other 13. Studies of an additional 125 drugs are already underway.
- **Leading Efforts to Enact State Children's Health Insurance Program.** The First Lady led efforts to create the \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program – the single largest investment in health care for children since the passage of Medicaid in 1965. This new program will provide meaningful health care coverage for up to five million currently uninsured children – including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, and mental health services.
- **Working to Ensure that Uninsured Children are Enrolled in Medicaid and S-CHIP.** The First Lady was personally involved in the launch of a broad-based, bipartisan, public-private coalition called Insure Kids Now to use a variety of means to educate and assist families in insuring their children through either Medicaid. Initial activities included: unveiling the "1-877-KIDS NOW" hotline, a national toll free number developed to provide state-specific information about Medicaid and CHIP to families in all 50 states; running public service announcements on national television and radio about Insure Kids Now; and printing the Insure Kids Now toll free number on commonly used products.
- **Working to Raise Child Immunization Rates to An All Time High.** The First Lady has worked hard to make sure that vital children's vaccines are available and affordable. Mrs. Clinton helped launch the Childhood Immunization Initiative and helped secure passage of the Vaccines for Children Program in October 1994, designed to provide free vaccines to uninsured and under-insured children.
- **Supporting Children's Hospitals.** The First Lady advocated for funding in last year's budget to support the training of physicians at freestanding children's hospitals, and worked to double the funding for the graduate medical education program in the Administration's FY 2001 budget.
- **Promoting Research and Funding on Specific Children's Health Issues.** The First Lady has advocated for increased research on juvenile diabetes and epilepsy. Last year, Mrs.

Clinton launched the Administration's comprehensive childhood asthma initiative and helped secure funding for the EPA to study the causes of asthma and promote awareness of the disease. She also inaugurated a public outreach campaign for Pediatric AIDS at the White House.

CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Promoting Child Care and Early Learning.** The First Lady has worked tirelessly to improve access to safe, affordable, high quality child care for America's working families and to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. She chaired the White House conferences on Child Care and Early Childhood Brain Development, which led to the Administration's proposal for substantial and historic new investments in child care, Head Start, and other programs serving young children.
- **Supporting the Neediest of Children.** As the Administration's most prominent advocate on foster care and adoption, the First Lady has worked on behalf of the over 500,000 children who live in foster care because of abuse and neglect. She has promoted the adoption of children living in foster care and worked for passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, and the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, two pieces of landmark legislation which reformed our nation's child welfare system by putting considerations of children's health and safety first.
- **Keeping Schools Safe.** The First Lady has urged Congress to pass legislation that would keep guns out of the hands of children, co-hosted the White House Conference on School Safety, and helped to launch the National Campaign Against Youth Violence.
- **Giving Parents the Tools They Need To Protect Their Children.** The First Lady has long believed that parents should have control over their children's exposure to media. She hosted a White House convening on children's television, advocated for increased educational programming for children, led a round-table discussion with the President and Vice President on the V-Chip, and strongly advocates the establishment of a voluntary uniform ratings system for all forms of media.
- **Expanding School Choice.** The First Lady has long encouraged the establishment of public charter schools to give parents more choice in schooling, has and worked to secure funding for charter schools in Washington DC.
- **Expanding After-school and Summer Learning Opportunities.** Recognizing the importance of out-of-school hours, Hillary Clinton has fought for the Administration's most recent proposal to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

DRAFT Promoting Financial Security and Economic Growth DRAFT

February, 2000

Working to Save Social Security. The First Lady has advocated for the Administration's policies of fiscal discipline which will extend the program's solvency to 2050 by paying down the national debt and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security -- a down payment on truly strengthening Social Security. She has also worked to ensure that the Administration's reform proposals incorporate the particular concerns women face with Social Security.

Promoting Economic Development. The First Lady has long believed that a key component to growth of poor communities is extending access to capital and training to non-traditional, underserved borrowers. For over 15 years, she has worked to develop community lending institutions and the innovative policies to support them in the U.S. and abroad. Over the course of this Administration, she has:

- developed a Presidential awards program to honor excellence in microenterprise development, and coordinated all microenterprise programs within the U.S. government;
- laid the groundwork for the creation of the Community Development Financial Institution Fund which Fund increases the availability of credit, investment capital, financial services, and other development services in distressed communities;
- joined Senators Kennedy and Domenici for the launch of the PRIME Act -- a program to provide grants to organizations that provide planning, marketing and financial management training to microentrepreneurs;
- worked with USAID to launch a new international Microenterprise Development Initiative and visited countless international micro-lending efforts in poor communities worldwide.

The First Lady strongly supports the Administration's New Markets Investment Initiative which seeks to spur new capital investment in businesses in economically distressed areas through a package of tax credits and loan guarantees, as well as efforts to bridge the "digital divide" -- unequal access to technology by income, education level, race, and geography -- and continues to fight for the expansion of the Administration's microenterprise initiatives.

Advancing Women's Economic Security and Empowerment. The First Lady has worked hard to ensure that the Administration's economic policies include a focus on women. She has advocated for the Administration's policy on ensuring equal pay for women and supports the newest \$27 million budget proposal, has worked to ensure that bankruptcy reform does not adversely impact women and families, particularly in terms of child support collection, and in the Social Security debate she has focused her attention on ensuring that the features of Social Security that are important to women are preserved and strengthened.

Making Welfare Reform Work. The First Lady was a strong supporter of welfare reform, and now the number of Americans on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 -- 30 years ago -- as millions of people move from welfare to work. She also knows how important it is to support working families as they transition from welfare to work, which is why she has actively sought to increase access to affordable, safe, high quality child care, has to expand health care coverage, and raise the minimum wage.

Supporting an Increase in the Minimum Wage. The First Lady believes that parents who work hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty, and that's why she has advocated the Administration's proposal to increase the minimum wage one dollar over the next two years, which would mean an additional \$2,000 each year for families struggling to make ends meet.

Fighting for Targeted Tax Relief. The First Lady has always supported efforts to provide targeted tax relief to the hard-pressed Americans and as well as middle class Americans. She has fought for efforts to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, and strongly supports the Administration's current expansion proposal which would deliver tax relief for 6.8 million families. The First Lady has also been the Administration's foremost advocate for targeted tax relief for middle-income Americans such as a new proposal to help make college affordable for millions of American families.

February, 2000

"Our greatest task is to make sure that the American Dream stays alive and vibrant for every American. And those of us who understand what it will take . . . know we must do everything in our power to make a quality public education a reality for every single American. . . ." [Hillary Clinton, 7/5/99]

HELPING CHILDREN LEARN

Mrs. Clinton has worked for three decades to ensure that every child receives a good education. As a young lawyer with the Children's Defense Fund, she did groundbreaking work to establish the right of all children, including those with disabilities, to attend school. In Arkansas, she chaired the Committee to . . . , which led to major reforms, including high standards and systems of accountability. And as First Lady, she has encouraged education reform initiatives designed to improve the quality of the public education our children receive.

Improving Schools for Our Children. Hillary Clinton has encouraged education reform initiatives designed to improve the quality of the public education our children receive, by fighting for high academic standards and strong accountability. She has been a strong advocate for policies that turnaround failing schools, reduce class size, and ensure that children are mastering the basics.

Supporting High Quality Teachers. The First Lady has advocated for initiatives that will improve teacher quality by attracting new teachers, supporting professional development opportunities, rewarding master teachers, and ending the practice of assigning teachers outside of their field.

Increasing School Choice. Hillary Clinton has called for the establishment of more public charter schools and worked to secure funding for charter schools in Washington, DC.

Making Schools Safe. Hillary Clinton has urged Congress to pass legislation that would keep guns out of the hands of children, co-hosted the White House Conference on School Safety, and helped to launch the National Campaign Against Youth Violence.

Promoting Early Learning. To ensure that children enter school ready to learn, Hillary Clinton has worked to raise awareness of the importance of early learning. She chaired White House conferences on early brain development and childcare, which led to the Administration's proposals for substantial new investments in Head Start, childcare and other programs serving young children and their families. She has also recruited private sector partners to support early learning through the Prescription for Reading partnership and other initiatives.

Expanding After-school and Summer Learning Opportunities. Recognizing the importance of out-of-school hours, Hillary Clinton has fought for the Administration's most recent proposal to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

Modernizing school facilities. Hillary Clinton has worked to call attention to crumbling school buildings and overcrowded classrooms to win support for increased funding for school facilities.

February, 2000

The First Lady has fought for policies that help parents balance work and family, strengthen America's public schools, and provide greater opportunities to children and youth of all backgrounds, particularly those who are most vulnerable. She has worked to expand access to quality health care for all Americans, and to increase the economic security of working families.

SUPPORTING WORKING PARENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

"Today... more of America's parents are working, by choice or by necessity. More than ever, parents rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of the day. We all have a stake in making sure that every child in care is safe and nurtured. This is part of America's unfinished business..." [The First Lady, 1/7/98]

Promoting Child Care and Early Learning. The First Lady has worked tirelessly to make child care better, safer, and more affordable for America's working families and to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. She chaired the White House conferences on child care and early childhood brain development, which led to the Administration's proposal for substantial new investments in child care, Head Start and other programs serving young children.

Supporting A Family-Friendly Workplace. The First Lady supported the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, which has enabled millions of Americans to take job-protected leave following the birth or adoption of child, or for the care of a sick relative, and continues to promote the expansion of the FMLA to millions more American workers.

Helping Families Meet Their Responsibilities. Recognizing that many Americans find themselves responsible for the care of their elderly or disabled relatives, The First Lady has worked on behalf of initiatives to meet the long-term care needs of families including the Administration's proposed \$3,000 tax credit.

Giving Parents the Tools They Need To Protect Their Children. The First Lady has long believed that parents should have control over their children's exposure to media. She hosted a White House convening on children's television, advocated for increased educational programming for children, led a round-table discussion with the President and Vice President on the V-Chip, and strongly advocates the establishment of a voluntary uniform ratings system for all forms of media.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

"I don't think there are any more important missions that we can undertake...than to be sure we raise the next generation of learners." [The First Lady, 3/18/99]

Expanding School Choice. The First Lady has long encouraged the establishment of public charter schools to give parents more choice in schooling, has and worked to secure funding for charter schools in Washington DC.

Improving Schools for Our Children. The First Lady has encouraged education reform initiatives designed to improve the quality of the public education our children receive, by fighting for high academic standards and strong accountability. She has been a strong advocate for policies that turn around failing schools, reduce class size, and improve teacher quality, and has led efforts -- such as the Prescription for Reading literacy initiative -- to ensure that children are mastering the basics.

Working to Reduce Youth Violence. The First Lady has championed significant new investments in programs to prevent violence. She fought for the Administration's most recent proposal to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to give children most in need a safe place to learn during the after school and summertime hours. The First Lady has urged Congress to pass legislation to keep guns out of the hands of children, co-chaired the White House Conference on School Safety and spurred the creation of the National Campaign Against Youth Violence.

Assisting the Neediest of Children. As the Administration's most prominent advocate on foster care and adoption, The First Lady has worked on behalf of the over 500,000 children who live in foster care because of abuse or neglect. She has promoted the adoption of children living in foster care and worked for passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, and the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, two pieces of landmark legislation which reformed our nation's child welfare system by putting considerations of children's health and safety first.

WORKING TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

The health of our citizens should not be a partisan issue...Americans deserve quality care.... This country is capable of

providing the highest-quality health care in the world. Congress should put politics aside and pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights to give all Americans confidence in their health care system and patients the protections they deserve." – The First Lady, July 22, 1998

Working to Expand Access to Health Care. The First Lady has long championed a broad array of health initiatives, from reform of our health care delivery system to prevention programs that help Americans lead longer, healthier lives. The First Lady traveled the country to listen to Americans talk about their health care concerns and testified before five Congressional committees on health reform. While she now works to expand access to health insurance through smaller steps, she continues to believe that we must make progress to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

Working to Improve, Strengthen and Modernize Medicare. The First Lady has been a strong supporter of the Administration's comprehensive plan to reform and modernize Medicare by making the program more efficient and competitive, extending the solvency of the Health Insurance trust fund, and modernizing benefits -- including adding a long overdue, voluntary prescription drug benefit. Additionally, with The First Lady's strong leadership, the Administration proposed and Congress adopted, the expansion of Medicare coverage to help pay for annual mammogram screenings for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, screening tests for both colorectal and cervical cancer, and a diabetes self-management benefit.

Meeting Prescription Drug Needs of Patients. The First Lady strongly supports the Administration's proposed prescription drug benefit under Medicare which would be voluntary, available and affordable to all beneficiaries, including those with low-incomes who would pay low to no costs for coverage.

Addressing Children's Health Care Needs. The First Lady helped to create and promote the Children's Health Insurance Program, which now provides health insurance for two million low income children who would otherwise be uninsured. In addition, The First Lady has promoted research and funding to address specific health problems, including pediatric AIDS, childhood asthma, juvenile diabetes and epilepsy. The First Lady also launched the Childhood Immunization Initiative and helped secure passage of the Vaccines for Children program.

Ensuring the Privacy of Medical Records. As information technology transforms our government and our economy, a growing challenge is how to gain the benefits from the new technology while preserving one of our oldest values "privacy," which is why The First Lady strongly supports the Administration's efforts to improve the privacy of medical records.

Working to Protect Americans with a Strong Enforceable Patient's Bill of Rights. The First Lady has repeatedly called on Congress to pass a Patient's Bill of Rights that includes critical protections such as: guaranteed access to needed health care services; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections so that patients do not have an abrupt transition in care if their providers are dropped; access to a fair, and independent appeals process to address health plan grievances; and an enforcement mechanism that ensures recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of a health plan's actions.

PROMOTING FINANCIAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

"We are in the midst of the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history. For the first time in three decades, the budget is balanced. Violent crime is dropping, and our environment is the cleanest it's been in a quarter century. Now, though, is not the time to be complacent.." [The First Lady, 1/ 20/99]

Working to Save Social Security. The First Lady supports proposals to extend the program's solvency to 2050 by paying down the national debt and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security -- a down payment on truly saving Social Security. She has also worked to ensure that the Administration's reform proposals incorporate the particular concerns women face with Social Security and amplified that message in a White House forum she held on Women and Social Security.

Supporting an Increase in the Minimum Wage. The First Lady has advocated the Administration's proposal to increase the minimum wage one dollar over the next two years, which would mean an additional \$2,000 each year for families struggling to make ends meet.

Promoting Economic Development. The First Lady is a foremost proponent for microcredit in the US and around the world to help low-income people, especially women, to achieve economic self-sufficiency. She has promoted administration policies to establish Presidential Microenterprise Awards in the US and helped establish an interagency task force to better coordinate microenterprise programs.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Working to Meet Children's Health Care Needs

April, 2000

Addressing Children's Health Care Needs. The First Lady has been a longtime champion of meeting the special health needs of children. As First Lady, Mrs. Clinton has been a vocal advocate for expanding health insurance to all children. She was the leading advocate for the Children's Health Insurance Program -- a program that will expand health coverage to five million children -- urged its passage in Congress, traveled around the country promoting the initiative, and has worked tirelessly to inform parents of the ways they can provide their children with health insurance coverage. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also launched the Administration's Childhood Immunization initiative, has fought hard to support the work of children's hospitals, and has promoted funding for research to better address diseases that affect children.

Insuring More Kids Through The Children's Health Insurance Program. The First Lady helped to create and promote the Children's Health Insurance Program -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965 -- which now provides health insurance for two million low income children who would otherwise be uninsured. The five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will provide health care coverage for up to five million children, enabling states to cover children from working families whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private health insurance.

Improving Outreach to Insure More Children. Recognizing that one of the key reasons that so many eligible children go uninsured is a lack of awareness of Medicaid and CHIP options, Mrs. Clinton convened several meetings with corporate leaders, volunteer organizations, and media groups to develop an outreach campaign. The First Lady was personally involved in the launch of a broad-based, bipartisan, public-private coalition called Insure Kids Now to use a variety of means to educate and assist families in insuring their children through either Medicaid. Initial activities included: unveiling the "1-877-KIDS NOW" hotline, a national toll free number developed to provide state-specific information about Medicaid and CHIP to families in all 50 states; running public service announcements on national television and radio about Insure Kids Now; and printing the Insure Kids Now toll free number on commonly used products.

Improving Efforts to Diagnose and Treat Children with Emotional and Behavioral Conditions. This March, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, together with Secretary Shalala and representatives of parents and a broad range of health professionals, launched an unprecedented public-private effort to ensure that children with emotional and behavioral conditions are appropriately diagnosed, treated, monitored, and managed by qualified health care professionals, parents, and educators. Federal actions she outlined included: (1) the release of a new, easy to understand fact sheet about treatment of children with emotional and behavioral conditions for parents; (2) a new \$5 million funding commitment by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to conduct additional research on the impact of psychotropic medication on children under the age of seven; (3) the initiation of a process at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to improve pediatric labeling information for young children; and (4) a national conference on Treatment of Children with Behavioral and Mental Disorders to take place this fall.

Urging Drug Companies to Provide Adequate Testing for Children. In 1997, the First Lady urged that there be appropriate testing and labeling of prescription and over the counter drugs for children. As a result of her efforts, new pediatric labeling regulations and the FDA Modernization Act were enacted by the Clinton Administration in 1997. In the 18 months since these initiatives have been implemented, the information available to both parents and physicians about the appropriate use for children of medications commonly prescribed to adults has improved. Research has been completed on 19 drugs, resulting in new safety

information being added to six drugs with changes expected for the other 13. Studies of an additional 125 drugs are already underway.

Working to Raise Child Immunization Rates to An All Time High. The First Lady has worked hard to make sure that vital children's vaccines are available and affordable. Mrs. Clinton helped launch the Childhood Immunization Initiative and helped secure passage of the Vaccines for Children Program in October 1994, designed to provide free vaccines to uninsured and under-insured children.

Supporting Children's Hospitals. For years Hillary Clinton served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital helping the hospital develop expanded and improved services. As First Lady, Mrs. Clinton advocated for funding in last year's budget to support the training of physicians at freestanding children's hospitals, and worked to double the funding for the graduate medical education program in the Administration's FY 2001 budget.

Promoting Research and Funding on Specific Children's Health Issues. The First Lady has advocated for increased research on juvenile diabetes and epilepsy. Last year, Mrs. Clinton launched the Administration's comprehensive childhood asthma initiative and helped secure funding for the EPA to study the causes of asthma and promote awareness of the disease. She also inaugurated a public outreach campaign for Pediatric AIDS at the White House.

THE FIRST LADY

DRAFT Working to Improve Health Care for All Americans DRAFT

February, 2000

Working to Expand Access to Health Care. The First Lady has long championed a broad array of health initiatives, from reform of our health care delivery system to prevention programs that help Americans lead longer, healthier lives. In 1993, she traveled the country to listen to Americans talk about their health care concerns and testified before five Congressional committees on health reform. While she now works to expand access to health insurance through smaller steps, she continues to believe that we must make progress to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

Working to Improve, Strengthen and Modernize Medicare. The First Lady has been a strong supporter of the Administration's comprehensive plan to reform and modernize Medicare by making the program more efficient and competitive, extending the solvency of the Health Insurance trust fund, and modernizing benefits -- including adding a long overdue, voluntary prescription drug benefit. Additionally, with The First Lady's strong leadership, the Administration proposed and Congress adopted, the expansion of Medicare coverage to help pay for annual mammogram screenings for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, screening tests for both colorectal and cervical cancer, and a diabetes self-management benefit.

Meeting Prescription Drug Needs of Patients. The First Lady strongly supports the Administration's proposed prescription drug benefit under Medicare which would be voluntary, available and affordable to all beneficiaries, including those with low-incomes who would pay low to no costs for coverage.

Addressing Children's Health Care Needs. The First Lady has been a longtime champion of meeting the special health needs of children:

- The First Lady helped to create and promote the Children's Health Insurance Program -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965 -- which now provides health insurance for two million low income children who would otherwise be uninsured. The five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) will provide health care coverage for up to five million children.
- The First Lady launched the Childhood Immunization Initiative and helped secure passage of the Vaccines for Children program.
- The First Lady has fought hard to support children's hospitals. She secured funding in last year's budget to support graduate medical education at free-standing children's hospitals, a move much hailed by advocates, and worked to double the funding for this program in the Administration's proposed FY 2001 budget.
- The First Lady has promoted research and funding of specific health problems such as juvenile diabetes and epilepsy. Last year, she launched the Administration's comprehensive childhood asthma initiative and helped secure funding for the Environmental Protection Agency to study the causes of asthma, and promote awareness. She also inaugurated a public outreach campaign for Pediatric AIDS at the White House and received an award from the Pediatric AIDS Foundation for her commitment to the issue.

Fighting for Women's Health Care Needs. The First Lady has helped bring women's health needs to the forefront of Administration's health care efforts:

- The First Lady has always fought for comprehensive reproductive health services for women, working to protect a woman's right to choose and to promote safe reproductive health services for women in the U.S. and around the world.
- The First Lady has championed budget increases for the National Cancer Institute and other agencies to support research on breast cancer detection, treatment, and cures; she launched the Medicare Mammography Campaign to urge older women to get mammograms and to promote the use of Medicare coverage for mammography, implemented by this Administration; she helped develop and implement the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, a public-private partnership coordinated at the Department of Health and Human Services; and advocated for legislation pending before the Congress to ensure that women who have mastectomies are entitled to sufficient hospital stays from their HMOs.

- The First Lady was a lead advocate for 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 Cesarean section.

Ensuring the Privacy of Medical Records. As information technology transforms our government and our economy, a growing challenge is how to gain the benefits from the new technology while preserving one of our oldest values "privacy," which is why The First Lady strongly supports the Administration's efforts to improve the privacy of medical records. [do we want a broader privacy section?]

Working to Protect Americans with a Strong Enforceable Patient's Bill of Rights. The First Lady has repeatedly called on Congress to pass a Patient's Bill of Rights that includes critical protections such as: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections so that patients will not have an abrupt transition in care if their providers are dropped; access to a fair, unbiased and timely internal and independent external appeals process to address health plan grievances; and an enforcement mechanism that ensures recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of a health plan's actions.

HILLARY CLINTON

Working to Support Senior Citizens

January, 2000

Hillary Clinton has always been a strong voice for the needs of older Americans. She has spoken out about saving Social Security and increasing pension security for men and women. Hillary has long been a proponent of strengthening and modernizing Medicare including adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare, and extending long term health insurance coverage to families who need it. Hillary has also been a steadfast advocate for the particular medical and financial challenges women face as they reach retirement.

ENSURING LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SECURITY

Working to Save Social Security. This Administration has coupled fiscal discipline with a commitment to preserve and protect Social Security, and now, the life of the Social Security trust fund has been extended to 2034. Hillary Clinton supports proposals to extend the program's solvency to 2050 by paying down the national debt and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security. This would be a down payment on truly saving Social Security. Hillary Clinton raised the particular importance of Social Security to women in a forum she held on Women and Social Security, and has worked to ensure that the Administration's reform proposals take into account their special circumstances.

"We are in the midst of the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history. For the first time in three decades, the budget is balanced. Violent crime is dropping, and our environment is the cleanest it's been in a quarter century. Now, though, is not the time to be complacent. To strengthen our families for the 21st century, saving Social Security will be our first priority." [Hillary Clinton, 1/20/99]

"I have seen firsthand how it serves as a lifeline – not only for our parents and grandparents as they retire and grow older – but for generations, Social Security has been a rock-solid guarantee of lifetime benefits. It's been our nation's historic commitment to ensuring that Americans can grow old with dignity." [1/23/99]

Increasing Pension Security. Hillary Clinton has been a strong supporter of legislation designed to protect pension benefits for American workers such as the Retirement Protection Act, which the President signed in 1994, protecting the benefits of more than 40 million American workers and retirees and the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provided a tax credit to small business that adopt pension plans, created a simplified and better defined contribution plan for small businesses, and promoted portability.

Cost of Living Increase for Social Security Beneficiaries. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase 2.4 percent in the year 2000. The average monthly benefits for retired workers will rise from \$785 to \$804, while the maximum monthly SSI payment will rise to \$512 for an individual and \$769 for a couple.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR OLDER AMERICANS

Protecting, Modernizing and Strengthening Medicare. At the start of this Administration, Medicare was expected to run out of money in 1999. Now, because of a hard won fight against the unwise and excessive

plan proposed by the Republicans in 1995 and for sound legislation in 1993 and 1997, strong management improvements, and a major reduction in fraud, the life of the Medicare Trust Fund has been extended until 2015. Hillary Clinton has been a strong supporter of the Administration's comprehensive plan to reform and modernize Medicare by making the program more efficient and competitive, extending the solvency of the Health Insurance trust fund, and modernizing benefits -- including adding a long overdue, voluntary prescription drug benefit.

"Medicare and Medicaid are examples of government that works. These programs, with their combined help for older Americans, have lifted millions of older Americans out of poverty, and have helped millions more manage to pay for needed health care services like longterm care" -- May 4, 1995

Adding New Preventive Services to Medicare. Hillary Clinton has been an especially powerful voice for the special needs of older women. In 1995, Hillary Clinton launched the Medicare Mammography Campaign to urge older women to get mammograms and to promote the use of Medicare coverage for mammography. She traveled the country and worked to raise awareness on the importance of screening. With Hillary Clinton's strong leadership, the President proposed and Congress adopted, the expansion of Medicare coverage to help pay for annual mammogram screenings for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, screening tests for both colorectal and cervical cancer, and a diabetes self-management benefit.

We have made sure that Medicare helps pay for mammograms for women, and we have launched an education campaign to convince older women to take advantage of the Medicare benefit, and get a mammogram.... But one the most gratifying experiences I have had was convincing women to have a mammogram, and I recently received a letter from one who heard about the campaign and got a mammogram; the screening revealed two malignant tumors, and she was lucky because they were caught before they spread.

We have a great challenge facing us because the incidence of breast cancer does go up as women get older, and there is a gap in the coverage that many women have before they are eligible for Medicare. We have to be sure that they can have access to the health care they need. 1/28/99

Easing the Burden of Long-Term Care. Hillary Clinton has long spoken about the growing need to support families who have long-term care needs. To meet these challenges, this Administration has proposed a historic new initiative to support the long-term care needs of the over five million Americans, most of whom are elderly, who have significant limitations due to illness or disability. The initiative includes a \$3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their caregivers and other measures to ease the burden of long-term care.

"Today, too many people are forced into nursing homes, when a little bit of help would enable them to stay with their families or in a community-based setting... You shouldn't have to spend your way into poverty to take care of a family member in need. And you shouldn't only have the choice of putting your loved one in a n institution, which is often the most expensive thing to do -- and the last thing you want to do." -- May 18, 1994 [internal]

Working to Protect Seniors in Managed Care Plans with a Strong Eforceable Patient's Bill of Rights.

Hillary Clinton has repeatedly called on Congress to pass a Patients's Bill of Rights guaranteeing the protections for all Americans that have already been extended to Medicare recipients in HMOs by a Presidential Executive order.

"The Patients' Bill of Rights would guarantee access to needed health care specialists and emergency room services. It would promise continuity of care, a timely and independent appeals process and limits on financial incentives that encourage doctors to limit care. It would ensure full disclosure of treatment options, direct access for women to OB-GYNs and an enforcement mechanism that would hold a health plan accountable if a patient is maimed or dies as a result of its actions... The health of our citizens should not be a partisan issue. Whether it's traditional care or managed care, Americans deserve quality care.... This country is capable of providing the highest-quality health care in the world. Congress should put politics aside and pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan Patients' Bill or Rights to give all Americans confidence in their health care system and patients the protections they deserve." – Talking It Over, July 22, 1998

Implementing Comprehensive Nursing Home Quality Initiative. This Administration issued the toughest nursing home regulations in the history of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, including increased monitoring of nursing homes to ensure that they are in compliance; requiring states to crack down on nursing homes that repeatedly violate health and safety requirements; and changing the inspection process to increase the focus on preventing bedsores, malnutrition and resident abuse. The President won \$43.5 million increase in FY00 to fund more rigorous inspections of nursing facilities and improved federal oversight and enforcement of nursing home quality and the FY01 budget includes a nearly 30 percent budget increase proposal to ensure the delivery of high quality care.

Fighting Medicare Fraud and Waste. This Administration has assigned more federal prosecutors and FBI agents to fight health care fraud than ever before -- increasing convictions by more than 410% and saving more than \$50 billion in health care claims. For the FY01 budget, the Administration has proposed a \$48 million initiative to fight waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare program. This initiative includes new teams of "fraud-fighters" to swiftly respond to suspected fraud.

Taking Care of Our Veterans. This Administration's 1999 budget gave the Department of Veterans Affairs the largest increase in six years. The Administration has also expanded the VA health care system to include more than 600 ambulatory and community based clinics, providing better access to quality health for more of our veterans. The VA now treats over 18 percent more patients than it did four years ago.

Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform. Hillary Clinton strongly supported the passage of the the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which helps individuals keep health insurance when they change jobs, guarantees renewability of coverage, and ensures access to health insurance for small businesses. As many as 25 million people will benefit from this law. The Administration's FY01 budget also includes proposals for a new 10 year, \$110 billion initiative that would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, this

Administration met its commitment to fund an additional 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase community policing in high-crime and underserved neighborhoods. To help keep crime at record lows, the President won funding in the FY 2000 budget for the first installment toward his goal to hire up to 50,000 more officers by 2005.

Fighting Telemarketing Fraud. Under this Administration, the Justice Department has lead efforts to crack down on telemarketing fraud -- charging nearly 2,000 individuals with dishonest practices. As part of their efforts, the FBI trained and supervised senior citizens, recruited through the AARP, to help catch dishonest telemarketers. This Administration also launched "Project No Fraud," a collaborative nationwide public education campaign to education consumers on how to recognize and prevent telemarketing fraud.

Targeting Criminals Who Target Seniors. Hillary Clinton strongly supports the 21st Century Crime Bill proposed by the President, which would protect seniors from crime, fraud and abuse by: (1) shutting down the telephone service of illegal telemarketing schemes; (2) enacting new criminal and civil penalties for nursing home operators who engage in serious neglect or abuse of seniors in their care; (3) implementing new prosecutorial tools to stop false health care claims and illegal kickback schemes; and (4) increasing penalties on individuals who rip off retirement plans and try to cheat seniors of their pensions.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITY

Providing Opportunities to Serve. Hillary Clinton took an active role in the establishment of AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service, which includes Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired Volunteer Program. Through this National Senior Service Corps, nearly half a million Americans age 55 and older share their time and talents to help.

"It may not make headlines when an older person through RSVP is there to help a small not-for-profit group get started or working with some community agency to expand its outreach. It may not make the evening news when a foster grandparent takes the hand of a child who has never had anyone raise a hand to her, except in violence. It may not be what people write about, when seniors understand that they too have something to continue to give, but I see it every single week... Each and every one of our 51 million fit and active seniors need to contribute, and we need to make it possible for all of them to do that." July 17, 1996

Supporting the Older Americans Act. President Clinton has repeatedly called on Congress to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, which provides Meals on Wheels, transportation, senior community employment and ombudsman services. The Older Americans Act's authorization expired in September 1995. [HAS HRC EVER COMMENTED ON THIS?]

HILLARY CLINTON:

A STRONG RECORD SUPPORTING CHOICE AND FAMILY PLANNING

Hillary Clinton has worked to make abortion safe, legal and rare in our country, helping to ensure that all women have access to family planning services and building a public-private partnership to prevent teen pregnancy.

Supporting A Woman's Right To Choose and Promoting Family Planning. Hillary Clinton has always supported a woman's right to choose, and believes that the best way to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, and abortions, is to support comprehensive family planning services.

IMP FAM PLANNING: Now, I am always amazed -- as I was during the debates on this issue last year -- that those who oppose family planning try to link family planning to increases in abortion. Now we know that it is, on the contrary, by refusing to fund family planning programs that we force women to fall back on abortion. We know that contraception reduces the probability of having an abortion by 85 percent. We know that every year, U.S. family planning programs prevent 1.2 million unintended pregnancies and 516,000 abortions in our country alone. And we have seen the same results the world over.

Objective:

To continue the Administration's efforts to improve family planning and to make abortion safe, legal and rare.

Accomplishments:

Events highlighting family planning, and decreasing abortion and teen pregnancy rates

- Participated in 1999 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awards (4/28/99)
- Atlanta Teen Pregnancy Video Address (2/5/99)
- NARAL 33rd Anniversary Celebration Speech (1/22/99)
- Meeting with media executives at *People Magazine* Teen Pregnancy Luncheon (12/1/98)
- Call to action meeting with family planning and abortion rights advocates (1/20/98)
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy event at White House (5/2/97)
- Column (1/29/97)

Leadership role in policy development

- Helped secure \$24 million increase in Title X for family planning
- Met with family planning advocates to announce FY2000 budget initiatives (1/22/99)
- Supported legislation to require Federal Employee Health Benefits Program to cover prescription contraceptives (1998)
- Pushed for budget increases for family planning (1993- present)

Future Focus:

Work with groups to change focus of abortion debate building on recent significant success in reducing teen pregnancy and abortion rates
Develop plan to improve safety for doctors and patients at clinics
Continue to advance budget increases for family planning service

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION: MEETING THE NEEDS OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Clinton-Gore Administration has developed and implemented new policies, and expanded on existing policies that have helped parents balance their responsibilities at home and at work, helped move millions of Americans out of poverty, and helped build strong families and safe communities.

I. Helping Parents Balance Their Responsibilities At Home And At Work

Providing Quality Care for America's Children

Expanding Head Start. Head Start is a national program which provides comprehensive developmental services for America's low-income, pre-school children ages three to five and social services for their families. This year, President Clinton is proposing to boost Head Start and Early Head Start funding by \$1 billion -- the largest funding increase the program has ever experienced -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start slots to approximately 950,000 children, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Since 1993, the Clinton-Gore Administration has increased funding for the Head Start program by 90 percent, and in FY 2000, the program will serve approximately 880,000 children -- over 160,000 more children than in 1993.

Created Early Head Start. Created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, the Early Head Start program brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women. The purpose of this program is to enhance children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development; enable parents to be better caregivers of and teachers to their children; and help parents meet their own goals, including that of economic independence. In FY 2000, the program will reach nearly 45,000 children. The President's new FY 2001 funding request would serve approximately an additional 10,000 children.

Improved Access to Affordable and Quality Child Care. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, federal funding for child care has more than doubled, helping parents pay for the care of about 1.5 million children in 1998. The 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years to provide child care assistance to families moving from welfare to work. For FY 2000, the President succeeded in securing \$453 million in funds for after-school care -- more than double the 1999 funding level -- \$173 million for child care quality activities, and \$10 million for child care research.

Promoting Affordable, Reliable, Quality Child Care. Building on existing programs that work and creating new policies to better meet the needs of working families the Clinton-Gore Administration developed a comprehensive child care proposal for FY 2001. This proposal includes an additional \$817 million for child care subsidies for low-income working families which -- combined with child care funds provided in welfare reform -- will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001; broadening tax relief to help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses by 1) making the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable for

the first time; 2) increasing the level of the credit; and 3) extending the credit to parents who stay at home with their children. Despite the Republican Majority's refusal to support these vital investments over the last two years, the President remains committed to address this critical need for America's working families.

Ensuring Job Protection for Parents

Signed Family and Medical Leave Act. In 1993, President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) – the first bill he signed into law – mandating that public and private employers with at least 50 workers provide their employees with 12 hours of unpaid leave without risking their jobs. This law enables parents to participate in school activities, such as parent-teacher conferences, or care for a sick child or elderly relative. In 1997, the Clinton Administration expanded the law to cover 24 hours of unpaid leave for federal workers. The FMLA currently provides protected leave to 90.7 million American workers, about 71 percent of the American workforce, and millions of American workers have taken advantage of it. The Administration's current proposal would expand FMLA to cover workers in businesses with 25 or more workers – reaching an additional 12 million American workers.

Making Parental Leave More Affordable. A 1996 study by the Commission on Family and Medical Leave found that the most significant reason why parents did not choose to take some leave during the important days after the birth or adoption of a child was because of the expected loss of income. To help address this problem, President Clinton has announced that his FY 2001 budget includes \$20 million in grants for states or regions to make parental and family leave more available and affordable for those who need it. Under the President's proposal, states will be able to: 1) identify workers who face the greatest financial barriers to taking family leave, and 2) use Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance, or other mechanisms to offer these workers paid leave. This proposal builds on a November announcement by the President and Labor Secretary Herman of a new proposed regulation allowing states to use their Unemployment Insurance systems to provide paid leave for new parents.

Expanding Paid Leave for Federal Workers. In an effort to set an example for all employers, President Clinton developed a proposal that would enable Federal workers to use up to 12 weeks of accrued paid sick leave each year to care for sick family members. Currently, the amount of sick leave that can be used to care for a family member who is ill is limited to 13 days each year for most federal employees. By enabling federal workers to use more of the sick leave they have earned, according to conditions established by the FMLA, this measure will remove a significant barrier to caring for an ill family member. The President previously has taken other actions to ensure that federal government is a model employer, including: allowing federal employees to donate annual leave to other employees; expanding flexible family-friendly work arrangements, such as job sharing, career part-time employment, alternative work schedules, telecommuting, and satellite work locations; and directing improvements in the quality of federally sponsored child care.

Prohibiting Discrimination Against Parents. The President proposed new federal legislation to protect parents from discrimination in the workplace. Building on laws in Alaska, Michigan, New Jersey and other states, this legislation would protect workers from unfair assumptions

about their commitment to their job that can affect hiring, advancement, and other employment decisions. This law would not prohibit employers from making hiring and promotion decisions on the basis of job performance, but would ensure that workers are not unfairly discriminated against simply because they are parents.

II. Meeting the Health Care and Nutrition Needs of America's Families

Enacted Single Largest Investment in Children's Health Care Since 1965. The 1997 Balanced Budget included \$24 billion for the Children's Health Insurance Program -- the single largest investment in health care for children since the passage of Medicaid in 1965. This new program will provide meaningful health care coverage for up to five million currently uninsured children -- including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, and mental health services. The Administration is engaging in a significant public outreach campaign to reach out to children who are eligible for health coverage under CHIP. Approximately 2 million children have already been enrolled in CHIP, and all 50 states and territories have plans approved that will extend health insurance to an additional 2.5 million children with family incomes that are too high for Medicaid but too low to afford to purchase private insurance.

Supporting Families with Long Term Care Needs. Over five million Americans have significant limitations due to illness or disability and thus require long-term care, and as the number of elderly Americans grows, more people will need long-term care options. To meet the growing needs of the elderly or disabled and their families, the President's FY 2001 budget includes a \$3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their caregivers -- tripling the credit over last year's proposal and increasing the total investment in long-term care to \$28 billion over 10 years. In addition to the (1) tax credit, the initiative will (2) provide funding for services which support family caregivers of older persons; (3) improve equity in Medicaid eligibility for people in home- and community-based settings; (4) encourage partnerships between low-income housing for the elderly and Medicaid; and (5) encourage the purchase of quality private long-term care insurance by Federal employees.

Providing Health Care to Low-Income Working Families. The President has insisted on maintaining the Medicaid guarantee and has successfully fought to increase low-income families' access to health care. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, states have expanded Medicaid coverage to working families who cannot afford health insurance, allowing Medicaid to be a freestanding health insurance program for low-income families. With bipartisan support from the Congress, the President created the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 1997, allocating \$24 billion dollars over the next five years to extend health care coverage to uninsured children through state-designed programs. In August 1998, the President eliminated a vestige of the old welfare system by allowing all states to provide Medicaid coverage to more than 130,000 working, two-parent families who meet state income eligibility requirements, eliminating disincentives to marriage and work. And, in March 1999, the Administration released guidance encouraging states to reach out to children and families who leave welfare but are still eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. The guidance also clarifies state responsibilities to provide Medicaid applications upon request, process them without delay, and maintain Medicaid eligibility for families leaving welfare.

The President and Vice President strongly believe we should continue to expand access to affordable health care. The budget proposes a 10-year, \$110 billion initiative that would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more. It addresses the nation's coverage challenges by building on and complementing current private and public programs. Specifically, the initiative: (1) provides a new, affordable health insurance option for families called "FamilyCare," which builds on the State Children's Health Insurance Program to provide higher Federal matching payments to parents of children eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or S-CHIP; (2) extends transitional Medicaid for up to a year for those losing it due to increased earnings; (3) accelerates enrollment of uninsured children eligible for Medicaid and S-CHIP; (4) expands state options for people ages 19 and 20 and legal immigrants; (5) helps small businesses afford insurance; and, (6) strengthens programs that provide health care directly to the uninsured. If enacted, this would be the largest investment in coverage since Medicare was created in 1965.

Protecting Patients Through a Strong, Enforceable Patients Bill of Rights. The President once again is calling on Congress to pass a strong federally enforceable patients' bill of rights containing a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed specialists, access to emergency room services when and where the need arises, access to a meaningful independent and external appeals process for consumers to resolve differences with their health plans, and the right to be compensated when a health plan's decision causes a patient to be harmed or die. The President has already extended these protections to the 85 million Americans covered by Federal health plans.

Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform. In 1996, the President signed the Kassebaum-Kennedy Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage. As many as 25 million people will benefit from this law.

Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High. Since 1993, funding for the child immunization program has doubled and child immunization rates have reached an all time high with 90 percent, or more, of toddlers receiving the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines. In order to eliminate racial vaccination rate gaps by 2010, the Clinton Administration announced the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Initiative.

Supporting the Nutritional Needs of Women Infants and Children. The FY 2001 budget proposal provides over \$4.1 billion for nutrition assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, an increase of \$114 million over FY 2000. The additional funds will provide a monthly package of nourishing supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to 7.5 million low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children who are at nutritional risk, achieving the Administration's goal and a 39 percent increase in participation since FY 1992.

Supporting the Nutritional Needs of Working Families. The Clinton-Gore Administration is committed to ensuring that working families who are eligible for Food Stamps have access to them. In 1999, the President launched a nationwide public education campaign, took steps to make it easier for families receiving TANF to own a car and receive food stamps, and simplified

food stamp reporting rules to reduce bureaucracy and encourage work. The FY 2001 budget builds upon these efforts by providing funds to improve outreach and nutrition education to individuals who are eligible for food stamps. The budget also proposes to make it easier for 245,000 individuals in working families to own vehicles and receive food stamps by allowing States to conform their food stamps vehicle policy with a more generous TANF policy.

Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families. The Clinton-Gore Administration has issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry, and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.

III. Lifting American Families Out of Poverty and Making Work Pay

Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit. Expansions in the EITC included in the President's 1993 Economic Plan are making work pay for 15 million working families, including former welfare recipients. A study conducted by the Council of Economic Advisers reported that in 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million American out of poverty -- more than double the number in 1993. The findings also suggest that the increase in labor force participation among single mothers who received welfare is strongly linked to the EITC expansion. The FY 2001 budget proposes a \$21 billion plan to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), providing as much as \$1,200 in additional tax relief to an estimated 6.8 million hard-pressed working families.

Household Income Up 3.5 Percent -- Tied For the Largest Gain Since 1978. Income for the median household rose \$1,304, from \$37,581 in 1997 to \$38,885 in 1998, adjusted for inflation. Real median household income is now at the highest level ever recorded.

Typical Family Income Up Over \$5,000 Since 1993. Another measure of income -- family income, which excludes single individuals and counts only related members in any household -- shows a similar trend. In 1998, the median family's income, adjusted for inflation, increased 3.3 percent (or \$1,475) -- the fifth consecutive annual rise. Median family income is also at an all-time high. Since President Clinton's Economic Plan passed in 1993, median family income has increased from \$41,691 in 1993 to \$46,737 in 1998 -- that's a \$5,046 increase in income, adjusted for inflation. From 1988 to 1992, median family income *fell* \$1,864, adjusted for inflation.

Poverty Rate Fell To 12.7 Percent in 1998 -- Its Lowest Level Since 1979. In 1998, the poverty rate dropped to 12.7 percent from 13.3 percent the year before -- that's the lowest poverty rate in two decades. Since President Clinton signed his Economic Plan into law, the poverty rate has declined from 15.1 percent in 1993 to 12.7 percent last year -- that's the largest five-year drop in poverty in nearly 30 years (1965-1970). There are now 4.8 million fewer people in poverty than in 1993. (In 1998, the poverty threshold was \$16,660 for a family of four.)

In 1998, The Largest One-Year Drop in Child Poverty in More than Two Decades. While the child poverty rate remains too high, in 1998, it declined from 19.9 percent to 18.9 percent --

that's the lowest child poverty rate since 1980 and the largest one-year drop in child poverty since 1976. Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 18.9 percent -- that's the biggest five-year drop in nearly 30 years (1965-1970).

4.3 Million People Lifted Out of Poverty By EITC -- Double The Number in 1993. In 1993, President Clinton expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit, providing a tax cut for 15 million low-income working families. In 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people, including 2.2 million children, out of poverty -- that's double the number of people lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993.

Helping to Invest for the Future. In 1992, the President proposed to establish Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to empower low-income families to save for a first home, post-secondary education, or to start a new business. The 1996 welfare reform law authorized the use of welfare block grants to create IDAs. And in 1998, the President signed legislation authorizing a five-year \$125 million demonstration program. In FY 1999, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded nearly \$10 million to 40 grantees that will establish over 10,000 savings accounts for low-income workers. The FY 2001 budget provides \$25 million for IDAs in FY 2001 -- two and half times the FY 2000 enacted of \$10 million -- to create over 20,000 new accounts. The Administration will also propose to allow low-income working families to use IDAs to save for a car that will allow them to get or keep a job.

Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) To Help Families Save and Invest And Expand Pension Coverage for Small Businesses. The President's Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) proposal in the FY 2001 budget will give 76 million Americans the opportunity to build wealth and save for their retirement through a progressive tax cut. This proposal builds on the successful model of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), extending generous matches to all low- and moderate-income families to encourage them to develop savings and assets. A person who participated for 40 years in this savings program could accumulate over \$266,000 -- enough to produce \$24,000 a year of income in retirement. This proposal would cost \$54 billion over 10 years.

Millions Move from Welfare to Work. In 1992, President Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it, and now more than three years after the enactment of the welfare reform law, we've seen revolutionary changes to promote work and responsibility: the number of Americans on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 -- 30 years ago -- as millions of people move from welfare to work. Since January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.9 million. More than 1.3 million welfare recipients went to work in 1998 alone. The percentage of adults still on welfare who are working reached 27 percent in 1998, a nearly fourfold increase since 1992. The 12,000 businesses participating in the Welfare to Work Partnership launched by the President in 1997 have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients.

New Fathers Work/Families Win Grants. The Administration's budget contains \$255 million in new competitive grants in FY 2001 to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families, critical next steps in reforming welfare and reducing child poverty. The proposals include grants that will help approximately 40,000 non-custodial parents (mainly fathers) who

owe child support work and reconnect with their children and new grants to help about 40,000 hard-pressed working families get the supports and skills they need to succeed on the job and avoid welfare. An important part of these grants will be to improve families' access to food stamps, health care, child care, and other critical support for working families.

New Initiatives to Collect More Child Support. Since the President took office, child support collections have doubled from \$8 billion in 1992 to nearly \$16 billion in 1999. Today, parents who owe child support have their wages garnished, their bank accounts seized, their federal loans denied and their tax refunds withheld. To build on this success, the FY 2001 budget contains several new measures to get parents to pay the child support they owe and to ensure more child support goes directly to families. Increased enforcement measures include ensuring that parents who owe child support will have their vehicles booted, they will have a harder time obtaining or renewing a passport, and they will be prohibited from enrolling as a Medicare provider. The Administration is also proposing initiatives to ensure that families can rely on child support as a stable source of income, and create a clearer connection between what a father pays and what his family gets, giving parents more reason to cooperate with the child support system. The proposals will enable states to simplify distribution rules and provide incentives to states that pass through more child support payments directly to families, so that families leaving welfare can keep all the payments, and families still working their way off welfare can keep up to \$100 a month. In total, these initiatives will bring in nearly \$2 billion more for families.

Moving Families From Welfare-to-Work. Since enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law, millions of families have moved from welfare to work. To help more long-term welfare recipients and low-income fathers go to work and support their families, the Administration's budget will give state, local, tribal, and community- and faith-based grantees an additional two years to spend Welfare-to-Work funds, ensuring that existing resources continues to help those most in need. This will give grantees an opportunity to fully implement the \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative the Administration fought to include in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, as well as the program eligibility improvements enacted last year with the Administration's support.

New Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families. The Clinton-Gore budget includes \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These housing vouchers subsidize the rents of low-income Americans, enabling them to move closer to job opportunities – many of which are being created far from where these families live. Of the 120,000 new housing vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new housing vouchers secured through the President's leadership in the past two years.

Transportation: Helping Low-Income Working Families Get to Work. Transportation to work is a barrier for many low-income families. Existing public transit often doesn't link to suburban job opportunities, cover evening and weekend hours, or serve many rural communities. The Administration proposes a package of initiatives to help low-income families get to work by making it easier for working families to own vehicles and receive food stamps, allowing working

families to use Individual Development Accounts to save for a car that will allow them to get or keep a job, and doubling Access to Jobs transportation funding to \$150 million to expand grants to communities to develop innovative public transportation solutions that help more low-income workers and welfare recipients get to work.

Child Tax Credit for 26 Million Families. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included a \$500 Per-Child Tax Credit which in 2001 will help 26 million families with 44 million children under 17. Additionally, the President fought for and won a proposal allowing 13 million children from families with incomes below \$30,000 – including young teachers, police officers, farmers, and nurses who work hard and play by the rules – to be eligible for the child tax credit.

Increasing the Minimum Wage. In 1996, the Clinton-Gore Administration fought for and won a minimum wage increase of \$.90 over two years, raising it to \$5.15 per hour in September 1997. An estimated 10 million Americans received an increase in wages thanks to the President's leadership. The Clinton-Gore Administration's current minimum wage proposal, which was rejected last year by Congressional Republicans, would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15 over two years helping to restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was in 1982. This increase will help ensure that -- as costs continue to increase -- parents who work hard and play by the rules can bring up their children out of poverty. This minimum wage increase will mean an additional \$2,000 per year for over 11 million full-time minimum wage earners.

IV. Building Strong Families and Safe Communities

Reaching Out to Children in Need

Reforming and Improving Foster Care and Adoption. Since taking office, the Clinton-Gore Administration has championed efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent - from 28,000 to 36,000 - and is on track to meeting the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. In 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which expedited permanent placement decisions for children, ensured health insurance coverage for all special-needs children in subsidized adoptions, and created an incentive program for states to increase adoptions. The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, signed by the President in 1996, provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop Internet tools to link children in foster care more quickly to possible adoptive families. This Administration has also fought hard to remove racial and ethnic barriers to adoption by helping ensure that the adoption process is free of delays and discriminatory practices driven by race, culture and ethnicity with the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 and the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994.

Encouraging Youth Service. The President's FY 2001 budget includes over \$850 million to support community service and to empower more Americans to renew our civic life. This increase of nearly \$120 million for the Corporation for National Service keeps AmeriCorps on track for the President's goal of 100,000 members each year by the year 2004. The budget also

includes a new "AmeriCorps Reserves" program, modeled after the military reserves, and designed to engage former Corps members in times of need. Finally, this year's budget proposes \$15.5 million in new initiatives that reward innovations in youth service, as well as additional resources to encourage service by senior citizens, and to engage students in learning through community service.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. More than 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

Working to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The FY 2001 budget proposes \$25 million to support adult-supervised and supportive living arrangements, often called second chance homes, for unmarried teen parents and their children who cannot live at home or with other relatives. This new initiative will be latest of the Administration's efforts to break the cycle of dependency and reduce teen pregnancy, which have resulted in the lowest teen pregnancy rates on record and an 18 percent decline in teen birth rates from 1991 to 1998. States will be able to use these funds to support services provided by faith- and community-based organizations.

Keeping Children Safe at School and At Home

Protecting Our Children From Tobacco. Every day, 3000 children become regular smokers and 1000 have their lives shortened because of it. Almost 90 percent of all adult smokers began smoking by age 18 and today 4 million children – 37 percent of all high school students – smoke cigarettes. To end this public health crisis, the President believes that there must be a focused effort to reduce youth smoking and hold the tobacco industry accountable by: 1) raising the price of cigarettes, so fewer young people start to smoke, through a combination of excise tax increases on tobacco products and youth smoking assessments if youth smoking is not reduced by a half; 2) reaffirming the Food and Drug Administration's full authority to keep cigarettes out of the hands of children; 3) funding critical public health efforts to prevent youth smoking; and 4) protecting farmers and farming communities. The President also believes that states should be investing adequate resources from their tobacco settlement funds into efforts to prevent youth smoking. To help people quit smoking, the budget requires all states to cover smoking cessation programs under Medicaid.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and

programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. The Clinton-Gore administration has worked to successfully implement the COPS in Schools initiative which helps give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first. The COPS in Schools initiative hires and trains school resource officers using the community policing strategies that have made neighborhoods safer all over America. Under the COPS in Schools initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration has provided \$252 million for 1,060 communities to hire 2,250 police officers to work in schools, engaging students in problem solving and mediation, collaborating in safe school planning efforts, coaching sports and acting as mentors for kids.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration has provided \$30 million to 275 policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. The grants help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Launching a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative in 1999. The SS/HS Initiative is an unprecedented effort to provide students, schools and communities the benefit of enhanced comprehensive educational, mental health, social service, and law enforcement services. It is based on evidence that a comprehensive, integrated community-wide approach is an effective way to promote healthy childhood and youth development and address the problems of school violence and alcohol and other drug abuse. The Initiative has provided \$146 million to 77 local education authorities who have established formal partnerships with local mental health and law enforcement agencies. The grants support coordinated and comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more – helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private

sector matching contributions) is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

Requiring Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every Federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to Federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

Signed into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a Federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act. The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

Giving Parents the Tools They Need To Protect Their Children

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, President Clinton and Vice President Gore used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year Congress enacted the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology. With leadership from the First Lady, the President is calling on leaders in the industry to come together and adopt a voluntary uniform ratings system that will give parents more information about what media enters their homes.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

***Outline of President Clinton's State of the Union Address
January 27, 2000***

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- Paying Down the Debt by 2013
- Protecting and Strengthening Social Security
- Nearing the Longest Economic Expansion

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FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND NEARING THE LONGEST ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN U.S. HISTORY

Maintaining Fiscal Discipline

When President Clinton was elected seven years ago, America was burdened with a \$290 billion deficit, and our national debt had quadrupled over the previous 12 years. Interest rates were high and growth was low. The President and the Vice President set a new path of fiscal responsibility, opening markets, and investing in our people and new technologies. We passed strong deficit reduction packages in both 1993 and in 1997, and made tough choices in each and every budget. This has put the nation on a course of fiscal discipline, while continuing to invest in our people and our future.

Now we see the results of the last seven years: the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; last year's surplus of \$124 billion was the largest in our history. The latest numbers from the Treasury indicate the surplus for this year will be even larger. In just the last two years, we've already paid down \$140 billion of the national debt. Because we've resisted efforts to push our nation off the path of fiscal discipline with large and irresponsible tax cuts, our debt is \$1.7 trillion less this year than it was projected to be back in 1993.

Last year, the President asked the Congress to use every single dollar of our Social Security surplus to pay down the debt, and to use the interest savings from that debt reduction to lengthen the life of Social Security. This year the President has announced that because of the choices we have made, the budget he will submit for 2001 accelerates the date that we will be able to pay off our debt to 2013 -- two years earlier than we had originally planned. The President will do this by protecting Social Security funds, and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security, allowing us, in addition to paying off the debt, to extend the solvency of the Social Security trust fund to at least 2050. We will also be able to make Medicare secure now, through 2025. And we will be debt-free for the first time since 1835, when our nation just had 24 states and fewer than 15 million people.

Paying Down the Debt by 2013

In the State of the Union address, President Clinton will announce that his budget for 2001 would put America in a position to pay off the \$3.6 trillion debt by 2013 -- 2 years earlier than planned. The President will emphasize that this debt reduction would be accomplished by protecting Social Security

funds -- and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security, allowing the Social Security solvency to be extended until at least 2050. In contrast, the Republican lockbox plans in Congress fail to extend the life of Social Security by even one day. The President also will announce that his budget will make Medicare secure through at least 2025 by devoting a substantial fraction of the surplus to Medicare solvency and debt reduction. The President's plan to pay down the debt will result in lower interest rates and stronger investment. For typical families it will mean lower mortgage payments and car payments. By strengthening the economy and eliminating the debt, the President's plan will help prepare the government -- and the Nation -- to meet the challenge of the retiring baby boomers.

Protecting and Strengthening Social Security

As he did in his 1998 and 1999 State of the Union addresses, the President will call on Congress to enact his plan to save Social Security first -- and strengthen it. For almost 65 years, Social Security has been an unshakable covenant among generations, between workers and retirees, between the disabled and the able bodied. For many Americans, Social Security, along with savings and pensions, is the foundation of retirement security. In his 1999 State of the Union Address, the President proposed a plan that would, building on our historic period of prosperity and budget surpluses, use debt reduction to extend the life of Social Security without damaging and unnecessary benefit cuts or tax increases. In the last session of Congress, the President proposed specific legislation that reserves the entire Social Security surplus for Social Security and debt reduction and, in addition, devotes the interest savings from paying down the national debt to extending the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050. If the interest savings were prudently invested in equities, solvency would be extended to 2054.

Nearing the Longest Economic Expansion in U.S. History

The President's leadership on fiscal discipline and economic strategy has helped the put the economy on track for the longest expansion in American history. The strong economy has benefited Americans in the form of more jobs, higher wages, lower inflation, greater homeownership, and an increasing sense of optimism about the future:

America is currently in the longest peacetime expansion in its history. By the end of February, the U.S. will have enjoyed 107 consecutive months of expansion -- the longest economic expansion in history.

Since President Clinton took office in 1993, the economy has created 20.4 million new jobs -- the highest number of jobs ever created under a single President. These are overwhelmingly good jobs: according to a study by the Council of Economic Advisers and the U.S. Department of Labor, 81 percent of all new jobs are located in industry/occupation categories that pay above-median wages.

The vast majority of the new jobs -- 18.8 million or 92 percent of the total -- were created by the private sector, the highest private sector share of job creation since Harry S. Truman was President.

The unemployment rate in 1999 fell to 4.2 percent -- the lowest rate in 30 years. For African Americans, the unemployment rate fell to 8.0 percent -- the lowest on record. For Hispanics, the unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent -- the lowest on record.

The economy has expanded at 3.8 percent annually under President Clinton -- the fastest growth rate of any administration since President Johnson.

As a result of the strong economy and investments in people, 7.7 million people have been lifted out of poverty under President Clinton. The poverty has fallen to 12.7 percent -- the lowest rate since 1979. For African Americans and African American children, the poverty rate is the lowest on record. For Hispanics, the poverty rate is the lowest since 1980. For single mothers, the poverty rate has fallen to the lowest level in history.

In the third quarter of 1999, the homeownership rate rose to 67.0 percent -- the highest rate ever recorded. The homeownership rates for African Americans and Hispanics also reached record levels in 1999.

The underlying core rate of inflation was 1.9 percent in 1999 – the lowest rate since 1965.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History

The President's budget increases funding for Head Start by \$1 billion – the largest funding increase ever proposed for the program – to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children. This funding will bring within reach the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002 and builds the foundation for the long-term goal of universal pre-school. Head Start prepares low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, rigorous and comprehensive child development. Early Head Start, created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, brings these services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women. The President's FY 2001 proposal would increase funding for Early Head Start by \$143 million. Since 1993, this Administration has already increased funding for Head Start by 90 percent.

Promoting Early Learning

The President's budget includes \$3 billion over five years for the Early Learning Fund to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. The Early Learning Fund will provide community grants for activities that foster cognitive development, improve child care quality and promote readiness for school. Resources could be used to help child care providers get training or certification, facilitate licensing or accreditation of child care centers, and reduce child-to-staff ratios.

Fixing Failing Schools and Rewarding Success

Universal After-School for Students in the Most Need - The President and Vice President propose to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to help ensure that every child in every failing school can have a safe place to learn during the after school and summertime hours. This more than doubles the FY 2000 investment. The Administration's budget will maintain the commitment to serving all children, but will dedicate the increase to help those children most in need of academic assistance as part of a comprehensive approach to help low-achieving students meet high academic standards. The budget provides sufficient funding to make after school or summer school programs universally available to all students attending Title I school identified as low-performing, nearly tripling the number of children served by the program to 2.5 million.

Accountability Fund -- In November, the Congress appropriated \$134 million for the President's accountability fund. This year, the President will increase funding for this initiative to \$250 million to turn around failing schools. This funding is used by states and localities to turn around low-performing schools by overhauling curriculum, improving staffing, or even closing the school and reopening it as a charter school. The accountability initiative also includes provisions expanding public school choice for students in failing schools.

Rewarding High Performance and Closing the Achievement Gap - The President also proposes a \$50 million initiative to provide high-performance bonuses to states that make exemplary progress in improving student performance and closing the achievement gap between high and low performing groups of students. States would be eligible for bonuses based on substantial overall improvements in student performance and significant narrowing of the achievement gap as indicated by performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Class Size Reduction

The President's class size reduction initiative continues his commitment to reduce class size in the early grades by staying on a path to hiring 100,000 high quality teachers. The Administration's FY2001 budget will fund for this initiative to \$1.75 billion, an increase of \$450 million over current levels -- enough to fund about 49,000 teachers, nearly half way to our long-term goal. Smaller classes allow teachers to spend more time on instruction and less time on discipline, and provide more individualized attention. Research shows that students attending small classes in the early grades make more rapid educational progress than students in larger classes. New teachers hired under this program must be qualified and know the subjects they are teaching.

Small, Safe and Successful High Schools

Research shows that smaller schools can boost academic achievement and extracurricular involvement and lead to fewer discipline problems. The President's budget will include \$120 million for a Small Schools Initiative to reinvent high schools on a smaller scale and make them more responsive to student needs. School districts could use this money to create small schools or break up existing large schools into smaller learning communities. Districts would be expected to demonstrate increases in student achievement, graduation rates, and the number of students pursuing postsecondary options, and decreases in classroom disruptions and violence.

Teaching to High Standards

This initiative is a new \$1 billion teacher quality plan to recruit, train and reward good teachers. The Teaching to High Standards Initiative will give grants to states and districts to fund high-quality, standards-based professional development for teachers. It also includes several new proposals:

Higher Standards-Higher Pay for Teachers -- This \$50 million initiative will award grants to high-poverty school districts to help them attract and retain high-quality teachers through better pay and higher standards. Participating teachers would receive immediate pay increases and additional raises for exceptional work.

Teacher Quality Rewards -- This \$50 million program will reward school districts that have made exceptional progress in reducing the number of uncertified teachers and teachers teaching outside their subject area. The President has proposed requiring states to ensure that 95 percent of teachers are certified and 95 percent of secondary teachers are teaching within field by 2004.

Hometown Teacher Recruitment -- This \$75 million program would empower high-poverty school districts to develop programs to recruit homegrown teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers. Programs supported by this grant would make students aware, as early as middle school, of the opportunities available in the teaching profession; provide mentoring and teaching experiences as they progress through school; and provide financial assistance for students who enter college and pursue academic degrees with the goal of teaching in high-need communities after graduation.

Transition to Teaching -- This \$25 million initiative will build on the success of the Department of Defense's Troops to Teachers program by recruiting and preparing talented mid-career professionals from diverse fields to become teachers in high-need subject areas and high-need schools.

School Leaders Initiative -- This \$40 million program will fund non-profit partnerships designed to recruit, prepare and provide professional development for superintendents and principals, and other school leaders.

Charter Schools

The President's budget will increase funding for charter schools by \$30 million dollars from \$145 million to \$175 million. Charter schools are public schools started by parents, teachers, or community

groups that are open to all and given a great deal of flexibility in exchange for agreeing to meet defined goals for student performance. Charter schools are one way to increase competition, provide options and choices for parents, and increase accountability in public education. When the President was first elected in 1992, there was only one charter school in the country. Now, according to the Department of Education, there are approximately 1,700 and 36 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing the creation of charter schools. This proposed new funding will ensure that we can meet the President's goal of creating 3,000 public charter schools.

School Construction and Modernization

At least 2,400 new public schools will be needed nationwide by 2003 to accommodate rising enrollments and to relieve overcrowding. Thousands more will be needed in following years. To address this critical need, President Clinton is renewing his commitment to his School Modernization Bond proposal. It provides \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds over two years to modernize up to 6,000 schools. This proposal has an estimated cost of \$8 billion over ten years. Within this \$24.8 billion program, \$2.4 billion is reserved for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds. In addition, the 2001 budget includes a new \$1.3 billion school urgent/emergency renovation loan and grant proposal. This \$1.3 billion program could support nearly \$7 billion of renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Both loans and grants would be made available, with the smaller grant program directed toward the neediest districts.

Preventing Youth Violence

Over the past year, the country has been traumatized by a spate of school shootings. The President has taken leadership to address the issue of preventing youth violence by establishing a National Campaign Against Youth Violence. The National Campaign is beginning a public engagement campaign on how best to prevent youth violence and is working with the best minds in the field of youth violence to identify and replicate best practices of prevention in local communities. The President's budget includes over \$8.8 billion, \$875 million above FY 2000, for programs throughout the government that work to target youth violence and programs that support the healthy development of young people including developing smaller high schools; promoting safe after-school opportunities; cracking down on illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to youth; and, helping communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school and youth violence through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. The Safe Schools program joins principals, parents, police and others in the community to collaborate on comprehensive strategies to address violence problems confronting children in and out of school. The President's new budget will provide a \$100 million increase for his safe schools initiative, investing a total of nearly \$250 million in this signature program.

College Opportunity Tax Cut

Since 1993, the President has taken numerous steps to make college more affordable and accessible, including direct student loans, Pell Grant increases, as well as the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credits, producing the biggest expansion in college opportunity since the GI Bill. This year the President goes one step further and calls on Congress to pass his College Opportunity Tax Cut to expand on previous educational tax cuts and make college, graduate school, and job training more affordable for millions of families. The President's proposal would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or a 28 percent tax credit on tuition and fees to pay for college and other higher education. The proposal would cover up to \$5,000 of educational expenses in 2001 and 2002 and rise to \$10,000 of educational expenses from 2003 forward. When fully phased in, this proposal would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief annually to help American families pay for college, graduate work, or courses taken to improve job skills.

Nearly \$1 Billion In Increases To Pell Grants, SEOG, Work Study, And Other Programs:

Pell Grants. The Pell Grant program provides grants to economically disadvantaged young people to help pay the cost of a postsecondary education. The maximum Pell Grant in FY2000 is \$3,300. The President's FY2001 budget increases the maximum to \$3,500, more than 50 percent larger than the maximum grant in 1993, to make a college education more affordable for the nearly 4 million Pell Grant recipients. Funding for the Pell Grant program is increased by over \$716 million, bringing the total Pell Grant appropriation to \$8.356 billion.

SEOG. SEOG, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, provides campus-based grant assistance to needy undergraduate students. Generally, this program supplements the aid students receive from other sources, and leverages institutional aid by at least one dollar for every three federal dollars. The FY2001 budget provides \$691 million for SEOG, a \$60 million increase, the largest increase in 10 years. An estimated 1.2 million students (over 60,000 more than in 2000) will receive awards in 2001.

Work Study. Work Study provides students the opportunity to work their way through college. The FY 2000 budget achieved the goal of giving one million students the opportunity to participate in Work Study. The FY2001 budget includes \$1.011 billion for Work Study, an increase of \$77 million to continue this commitment to serve one million students.

College Completion Challenge Grants. The FY2001 budget creates a new initiative within the TRIO program called College Completion Challenge Grants (CCCG). Although college enrollment rates have risen, 37 percent of students that go on to post-secondary school drop out before they get a certificate or a degree. The problem is especially acute for minorities: 29 percent of African Americans and 31 percent of Hispanics drop out of college after less than one year, compared to 18 percent of whites. The CCCG program is designed to address this problem with a comprehensive approach including pre-freshman summer programs, support services and increased grant aid to students. This \$35 million initiative will improve the chances of success for nearly 18,000 students.

Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions. The FY 2001 budget proposes a new program to increase opportunities for students at minority-serving institutions that offer four-year degrees. Students would receive two degrees within five years: one from a minority-serving institution, and one from a partner institution in a field in which minorities are underrepresented. This new \$40 million program will serve an estimated 3,000 students.

Over \$400 Million In Increases To Keep Young People On The Track To Success:

GEAR UP. GEAR UP is a nationwide initiative to encourage more disadvantaged young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to and succeed in college. GEAR UP is funded at \$200 million in FY 2000, enough to provide services to over 750,000 students. The FY 2001 budget provides a 62.5% increase to \$325 million, enough to provide services to 1.4 million students.

TRIO. The TRIO programs seek to motivate and prepare students to go to and stay in college. The FY 2001 budget provides \$725 million for TRIO, an increase of \$80 million to help provide assistance to over 760,000 students, 37,000 more than in 2000.

Youth Opportunity Grants and Youth Training Formula Grants. Youth Opportunity Grants are an initiative to provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The program was passed as part of the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act. Funded at \$250 million in FY 2000, this program would serve up to 50,000 of the most

disadvantaged young people in central cities and rural communities across America. The President's FY2001 budget provides a 50 percent increase in funding to \$375 million, enough to serve an additional 25,000 youth in high poverty areas. In addition, the FY2001 budget provides a \$25 million increase (from \$1.001 billion to \$1.022), to the Youth Training Formula Grants, enough to provide job training and summer job opportunities to nearly 600,000 disadvantaged young people.

Youthbuild. The Youthbuild program, is targeted to 16-24 year old high school dropouts, and provides disadvantaged young adults with education and employment skills through rehabilitating and building housing for low-income and homeless people. The program also helps to expand the supply of housing in these categories. Funded at \$42.5 million, the Youthbuild programs will provides opportunities for approximately 2,000 trainees in 2000. The FY2001 increases funding by 76% to \$75 million, enough to serve approximately 3,330 trainees.

Job Corps. Job Corps is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential education and job training program targeted at impoverished young people. The FY2001 budget increases Job Corps funding by \$33 million, bringing the total Job Corps budget to \$1.392 billion.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

President Clinton will call on Congress to pass his \$21 billion plan to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit -- a key part of his opportunity, responsibility, and community agenda to reward work and family. According to estimates by the Department of the Treasury, the President's proposed EITC expansion would deliver tax relief for 6.8 million families, providing up to \$1,200 in additional tax relief for some of these hard-pressed, working families. The President's proposal would build on the EITC expansion that he signed into law in 1993 and which provided a tax cut for 15 million families. That expansion made the EITC even more effective at encouraging work and reducing poverty: In 1998, 4.3 million people were directly lifted out of poverty by the EITC -- more than double the number in 1993. The President's proposal would further increase the reward to work and family by: (1) increasing benefits for families with three children; (2) expanding the credit for married, two-earner couples; (3) rewarding families that are working hard to move into the middle class by lowering the phaseout rate; and (4) encouraging savings through simplification. To illustrate the effects of the President's proposed expansion: under current law, a married couple earning \$23,000 and with three kids qualify for a \$1,892 EITC; the President's proposed expansion would boost that amount to \$2,867 -- an increase of \$975.

Minimum Wage Increase

The President will call on Congress to pass a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and make ends meet. The President believes that parents who work hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. A working parent with two children earning the minimum wage in 1993 made \$10,559 with the EITC (in 1998 inflation-adjusted dollars) -- well below the poverty line. As a result of the expanded EITC and higher minimum wage, a similarly situated family in 1998 was above the poverty line -- making \$13,268 -- a 26 percent inflation-adjusted increase in their standard of living. The President's challenge to build on the success of these policies by raising the minimum wage by \$1 would help 11.4 million Americans -- 70 percent of whom are adults and 59 percent of whom are women. For a full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage, the President's proposal would mean an additional \$2,000 per year, enough to buy 7 months of groceries or pay 5 months of rent.

Ensuring Equal Pay

According to the Department of Labor, the average woman who works full-time earns approximately 75 cents for each dollar that an average man earns. For women of the color, the gap is even wider. This gap is attributable, in part, to differing levels of experience, education, and skill. However, even after accounting for these factors, a significant pay gap still remains between men and women in similar jobs. The President will announce a \$27 million Equal Pay Initiative in his Fiscal Year 2001 budget, an increase of \$12 million over Fiscal Year 2000. The Initiative requests \$10 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to provide training and technical assistance to about 3,000 employers on how to comply with equal pay requirements and to launch a public service announcement campaign on wage issues. The Initiative also dedicates \$10 million for the Department of Labor (DOL) to train women in nontraditional jobs, including high-tech jobs and other skill shortage occupations. Lastly, the Initiative provides \$7 million for DOL to help employers assess and improve their pay policies, support public education efforts, provide for projects in non-traditional apprenticeships, and implement industry partnerships. The President also will call on Congress again to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen wage discrimination laws, provide for new collection of data on wage issues, and provide for additional research, training, and public education efforts on this important subject.

New Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families

The President's budget will include \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These housing vouchers subsidize the rents of low-income Americans, enabling them to move closer to job opportunities -- many of which are being created far from where these families live. Of the 120,000 new housing vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new housing vouchers secured through the President's leadership over the past two years.

Homeless Initiative

Homeless persons do not participate fully in important health and other programs for which they are eligible. The President's budget proposes legislation for a new \$10 million initiative that would improve homeless individuals' access to mainstream programs that will help them move toward self-sufficiency. Demonstration grants would be awarded to several states to improve access to and provide coordination among mainstream programs such as Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, the Workforce Investment Act, and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants. The budget also proposes \$1.2-billion for homeless assistance programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including \$105 million for 18,000 homeless vouchers.

Millions Move from Welfare to Work

In 1992, President Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it, and now more than three years after the enactment of the welfare reform law, we've seen revolutionary changes to promote work and responsibility: the number of Americans on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 -- 30 years ago -- as millions of people move from welfare to work. Since January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.9 million. More than 1.3 million welfare recipients went to work in 1998 alone. The 12,000 business participating in the Welfare to Work Partnership launched by the President in 1997 have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. The federal government is also doing its share: in 1997, the President asked the Vice President to lead the federal hiring initiative to hire 10,000 welfare recipients over four years. Today, we've far exceeded that goal, hiring more than 16,000 people. At a time when the federal workforce is the smallest it has been in

thirty years, the Vice President has shown that you can both create a leaner government and one that leads by example.

New Initiatives to Collect More Child Support

Since the President took office, child support collections have nearly doubled. Today, parents who owe child support have their wages garnished, their bank accounts seized, and their tax refunds withheld. To build on this success, the budget contains several new initiatives to further increase child support collections and crack down on parents who owe child support. Parents who owe past-due child support will have their gambling winnings intercepted and their vehicles booted. They will have a harder time obtaining or renewing a passport, and they can be prohibited from enrolling as a Medicare provider. Finally, the budget will require that child support orders be updated more frequently and increase the amount of child support paid directly to families.

New Fathers Work/Families Win Grants

The President's budget will contain \$255 million in new competitive grants in FY 2001 to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families, critical next steps in reforming welfare and reducing child poverty. The Clinton-Gore Administration's budget will encourage responsible fatherhood through \$125 million in "Fathers Work" grants to put approximately 40,000 non-custodial parents (mainly fathers) who owe child support to work and help them connect with their children. As part of this effort, states will need to put in place procedures allowing them to require more parents who owe child support to pay or go to work. The President's budget will also contain \$130 million in "Families Win" grants to help about 40,000 low-income parents stay in their jobs, move up the career ladder, and remain off cash assistance. An important part of these grants will be to improve families' access to food stamps, health care, child care, and other critical support for working families. \$10 million will be set aside for Indian and Native American grantees. Fathers Work/Families Win competitive grants will be run by one-stop career centers, community groups, and faith-based organizations under contract to local and state workforce investment boards.

Helping More Long-Term Recipients Move from Welfare to Work

Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act contained \$3 billion for Welfare-to-Work grants to help long-term welfare recipients and certain non-custodial parents go to work and support their children. To fully implement these important efforts, the President's budget allows grantees an additional two years to spend these existing funds.

Second Chance Homes

The budget includes \$25 million in new funds to support "second chance homes," adult-supervised and supportive living arrangements, for unmarried teen parents and their children who cannot live at home or with other relatives. States will be able to use these funds, as they can other Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds, to support services provided by faith-based and community-based organizations. (Overall, the budget increases SSBG funds by \$75 million.) This new initiative will be latest of the Administration's efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, which have resulted in the lowest teen pregnancy rates on record and an 18 percent decline in teen births from 1991 to 1998.

Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care

The President's budget expands the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to afford child care. The President's budget request will increase funding for child care subsidies by \$817 million in FY 2001, enabling the program to serve nearly 150,000 more children next year. These new funds, combined with the child care funds provided in welfare reform, will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly one million since 1997. The block grant is part of the Child Care and Development Fund, the primary federal subsidy program that helps families pay for child care, thereby enabling low-income parents to work.

Today, millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs do not receive any help; in 1999, only about 12 percent of the 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law, received subsidies.

Tax Relief for Over 8 Million Families with Child Care Expenses

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) provides tax relief to those who, in order to work, pay for the care of a child under 13 or for a disabled dependent or spouse. The President's proposals, which cost \$30 billion over 10 years, broaden this tax relief and will help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses:

Making the Credit Refundable for Nearly Two Million Working Parents. Under current law, a typical family of four with an income under \$25,000 is ineligible for credits for child care expenses because it has no income tax liability. Many such families earn too little to claim the credit, but too much to get the full benefit of child care subsidies. To help these families, the President proposes to make the CDCTC refundable for the first time -- so that families with no tax liability can receive up to \$2,400 to help offset the cost of child care. This proposal will assist nearly two million families.

Increasing the Child Care Tax Credit. For families earning up to \$60,000, the President proposes to increase the maximum level of the CDCTC from 30 percent to 50 percent. This will provide an average additional tax cut of \$249 for these families and eliminating tax liability for nearly all families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. Under this proposal, a family of four with an annual salary of \$35,000, and child care expenses of \$3,100, would receive a tax credit of \$1,395 -- an increase of \$775 over current law. This expansion proposal will help over four million working families pay for child care.

Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home. The President will also propose enabling parents who stay at home with children under age one to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. This proposal will provide an average tax cut of \$154, benefiting almost two million parents.

Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses

In his budget, President Clinton will also propose a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. These services could include: building or expanding child care facilities, operating existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resource and referral services. The credit covers 25 percent of qualified costs (and 10 percent of resource and referral service expenses), but may not exceed \$150,000 per year per business. The President's budget includes \$539 million over five years for this tax credit.

Supporting High-Quality Early Childhood Educators

The President's budget includes \$30 million to ensure that well-trained professionals are teaching our young children. The Early Childhood Professional Development initiative will provide competitive grants to local partnerships that can pull together universities, local school districts and child care providers. The initiative would focus on equipping early childhood educators with the tools they need to help children develop vital language and literacy skills.

Encouraging the Pursuit of Higher Education by Offering College Campus Based Child Care

To encourage low-income parents to pursue higher education, the President's budget includes \$15 million -- a \$10 million increase over last year's funding level -- to provide an additional 150 college campuses with grants to support the establishment or expansion of child care services. States may also use a share of the Child Care and Development Block Grant for this purpose.

Retirement Savings Accounts To Help Families Save and Invest

The President's Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) proposal will give 76 million Americans the opportunity to build wealth and save for their retirement through a progressive tax cut. The President's proposal builds on the successful model of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), extending generous matches to all low- and moderate-income families to encourage them to develop savings and assets. A person who participated for 40 years in this savings program could accumulate over \$266,000 -- enough to produce \$24,000 a year of income in retirement. This proposal would cost \$54 billion over 10 years.

Expand Pension Coverage for Small Businesses

In an effort to encourage more small businesses to offer pensions for their employees, the President will also announce a proposal to provide a 50 percent tax credit for qualified contributions to employees' pensions. This provision would cost \$17 billion over 10 years.

Tax Relief for Working Families: Simplifying Taxes and Rewarding Marriage and Work

Today as part of his State of the Union Address, President Clinton will announce his plan to reduce the marriage penalty for married, two-earner couples by increasing the standard deduction by nearly \$2,000. The President will propose to increase the standard deduction for two-earner married couples to twice that of single filers, providing substantial tax relief for 9.1 million families. The President would provide an additional \$500 increase in the standard deduction for single-earner married couples that do not face a marriage penalty. He would also increase the standard deduction for single filers by \$250. The President's plan would cost \$45 billion over 10 years and benefit 42.1 million families.

HEALTH CARE

Patients' Bill of Rights

The President and Vice President continue to challenge the Congress to finally finish the overdue job of passing patients' rights legislation that includes critical protections such as: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections so that patients will not have an abrupt transition in care if their providers are dropped; access to a fair, unbiased and timely internal and independent external appeals process to address health plan grievances; and an enforcement mechanism that ensures recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of a health plan's actions. Last fall, over 60 Republicans joined virtually every Democrat in the House in voting for the Norwood-Dingell Patients Bill of Rights. This strong, enforceable, patient protections bill should not be watered down in a manner that makes it ineffective and unworthy of signing. It should also not include provisions that do little more than further segment healthy from unhealthy populations without significantly expanding coverage for the currently uninsured.

Health Insurance Coverage Initiative

The President and Vice President strongly believe we should expand access to affordable health care coverage to more Americans. The budget proposes a 10-year, \$110 billion initiative that would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more. It addresses the nation's coverage challenges by building on and complementing current private and public programs. Specifically, the initiative: (1) provides a new, affordable health insurance option for families called "FamilyCare," which builds on the State Children's Health Insurance Program to provide higher Federal matching payments to parents of children eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or S-CHIP; (2) accelerates enrollment of uninsured children eligible for Medicaid and S-CHIP; (3) expands health insurance options for Americans facing unique barriers to coverage, including a

Medicare buy-in with a new 25 percent tax credit; a new 25 percent tax credit for COBRA continuation coverage; an initiative to help small businesses afford insurance, and new Medicaid options for vulnerable groups of Americans (people ages 19 and 20; people leaving welfare for work; legal immigrants); and (4) strengthens programs that provide health care directly to the uninsured. If enacted, this would be the largest investment in coverage since Medicare was created in 1965.

Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare

The President's budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform and modernize Medicare. This plan will: (1) make the program more efficient and competitive; (2) extend the solvency of the Health Insurance (HI) trust fund to at least 2025; (3) modernize benefits including adding a long-overdue, voluntary prescription drug benefit; and (4) create a reserve fund to be used for debt relief or to create bipartisan consensus to further strengthen the proposed drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. Building on the President's successful fight against fraud and waste, the plan would dedicate over \$300 billion in savings and surplus over 10 years to the HI trust fund, helping to meet the inevitable financing and health challenges that result from the aging of the baby boom. The proposed prescription drug benefit would be voluntary, available and affordable to all beneficiaries, including low-income beneficiaries who would pay low to no costs for coverage. It would be administered by private organizations like pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs) and would give financial incentives to employers who currently offer retiree prescription drug benefits to maintain coverage. Finally, a reserve fund would be created for debt reduction or, if there is bipartisan consensus, to strengthen the Administration's drug benefit by adding protections against the cost of catastrophic drug expenses.

Long-Term Care Initiative

The budget proposes a 10-year, \$28 billion initiative that helps address the nation's multifaceted long-term care challenge. It includes: (1) a \$3,000 tax credit to compensate people with long-term care needs or their caregivers for the cost of care; (2) a major new investment in the Older Americans Act for information and referral as well as direct support services for family caregivers; (3) a new Medicaid option to increase income eligibility levels for home and community based services to the same levels as nursing home residents; (4) a Housing and Urban Development program to encourage assisted living facilities for low-income elderly; and (5) a new option for Federal employees to purchase quality private long-term care insurance. The FY 2001 budget also includes an additional \$16.8 million to help states strengthen nursing home enforcement tools and increase Federal oversight of nursing home quality and safety standards.

Increasing Federal Support for Improving the Mental Health of All Americans

According to the December 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, one in five Americans is living with a mental health disorder. This report states that the fundamental components of effective service delivery are broadly agreed upon, but in short supply. The President will highlight his new investment of \$100 million for mental health services, an increase of 16 percent over last year's funding level and a 90 percent increase since 1993.

Preventing Medical Errors and Improving Quality of Care

Late last year, the Institute of Medicine reported that as many as 98,000 Americans die from preventable medical errors each year. In response, the President instructed that the over 300 health plans serving Federal employees institute patient safety initiatives as a condition of participating in the program and directed all Federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of the steps they could take to reduce medical errors. In the coming weeks, the President will announce further actions we should take to help eliminate all preventable errors.

Major New Investment to Combat HIV and AIDS in the United States

The President has proposed to invest an additional \$125 million in the Ryan White Program, an increase of almost 8 percent over last year's funding level, to provide primary medical care, pharmaceuticals critical to treatment, and other critical support services for people living with HIV and AIDS. The budget also includes an additional \$50 million for HIV prevention, the largest increase ever in funding for these activities, to encourage individuals at risk to avoid behaviors that can result in the transmission of the disease.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

21st Century Policing Initiative

In order to keep crime rates down to record low levels, and officers on the beat at all time highs, the President is committed to continuing the second year of his 21st Century Policing Initiative. The 21st Policing Initiative, builds on his successful COPS program that has funded 100,000 more community police for our streets, by: (1) providing resources for communities to hire and redeploy up to 50,000 more police for our streets by FY 2005 with an effort to target new police officers to crime "hot spots"; (2) giving law enforcement access to the latest crime-fighting and crime-solving technologies, such as improved police communications, crime mapping software, laptop computers, and crime lab improvements; and (3) funding new state and local prosecutors to work with local law enforcement and the community to combat local crime problems; and (4) engaging all sectors of the community to prevent and fight crime by funding partnerships with probation parole officers, schools, and faith-based organizations.

Fighting Gun Crime with New National Gun Enforcement Initiative

Building on his successful strategy of combating gun violence that has helped lead to a 35 percent decline in gun crime, the President proposed \$280 million to fund the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history that specifically includes:

500 New ATF Agents and Inspectors - The President's initiative includes the largest increase ever in ATF agents and inspectors, with new agents to crack down on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers at gun shows, gun stores and on the streets, and more firearms inspectors to target unscrupulous gun dealers who supply firearms to criminals and juveniles.

Over 1,000 New Federal, State and Local Gun Prosecutors - The proposal will fund 1,000 new state and local prosecutors to combat gun crime and violence, 100 new federal gun prosecutors, and new gun enforcement teams to coordinate efforts with local law enforcement to remove gun criminals from our communities and put them behind bars.

Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing - To move toward tracing every crime gun in America, 250 local law enforcement agencies will receive training and tracing equipment to facilitate comprehensive tracing, and the Administration's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) will be expanded from 38 to 50 cities across the country.

New National Integrated Ballistics Information Network - The President's initiative will triple current funding for ballistics testing programs to launch the first-ever national ballistics network -- to support the deployment of 150 ballistics imaging units to law enforcement, helping to link bullets and shell casings to the criminal guns they were fired from.

Local Anti-Gun Violence Media Campaigns - To help communities send a strong message to combat gun crime and violence, the initiative funds matching grants to support local media campaigns highlighting penalties for breaking gun laws, proper storage of firearms and preventing child access.

Funding Innovative Smart Gun Technology

The accidental gun death rate for children under 15 in the U.S. is nine times higher than 25 other industrialized nations combined. To help prevent accidental gun death and injuries of children who obtain access to guns, gun theft, and other unauthorized uses, the President committed to fund the expansion, testing and replication of "smart" gun technologies. These state-of-the-art gun safety precautions can limit a gun's use to its adult owner or other authorized users.

Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation

In addition to pressing the Congress to pass his aggressive gun enforcement budget to give communities more and better tools to fight gun crime, President Clinton urged the Congress to make passage of pending common sense gun safety measures the first order of legislative business. Among the reforms he called on the Congress to enact include: closing the gun show loophole by requiring background checks and records at gun shows; requiring child safety locks for handguns sold; banning the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; and banning violent juveniles from owning guns for life.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

The New Markets Initiative

The United States is currently in the midst of the longest peacetime expansion in its history. The strength and duration of this expansion has helped bring economic opportunity to millions of people once cut off from the economic mainstream. But too many urban and rural areas have not participated in this growth. These areas have tremendous potential as New Markets. The President's expanded New Markets initiative will spur \$22 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these economically distressed areas through a package of tax credits and loan guarantees. The package includes the following components:

More Than Doubling the New Markets Tax Credit -- The President proposes to more than double the New Markets tax credit to spur \$15 billion dollars in new investment in community development in economically distressed areas. An entity making new equity investments in a selected community development project would be eligible for a tax credit worth 25 percent of the cost of the investment. A variety of vehicles providing equity and credit to businesses in underserved areas would be eligible. The total cost of the tax credits amounts to about \$5 billion over 10 years.

Expanded Empowerment Zone Tax Incentives - These tax credits will extend and improve economic growth in the 31 existing urban and rural Empowerment Zones, administered by HUD and USDA, and support a third round of 10 new empowerment zones to be designated in 2001. The total cost of these proposals will be \$4.4 billion over 10 years.

America's Private Investment Companies (APICs) - Modeled after the Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) successful investment fund program, APICs would provide guaranteed debt to private investment companies, licensed by HUD, to help leverage private equity capital and lower the cost of capital for investments in low- and moderate-income communities. For every dollar that private investors provide, the government will guarantee two dollars in debt to expand the APIC's pool of capital available for making investments and enhance the return on those investments to the private investors. APICs will make equity investments in larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner cities and rural areas.

New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs) -- The President is asking for \$51.7 million in his 2001 budget to allow SBA to match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20

new investment partnerships – New Markets Venture Capital Firms -- selected to provide both long-term growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.

Other Elements of New Markets - Other elements include: increasing the funding for SBA's microenterprise lending program; creating PRIME-- a program providing technical assistance to low-income entrepreneurs; boosting CDFI funding; expanding support for BusinessLINC to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets; and establishing a New Markets University Partnerships pilot project which, under the auspices of HUD, would provide Universities with funding to develop local community partnerships, assistance to intermediaries, and technical and business development assistance to new and existing firms. In addition, to better serve Native American communities, the President will provide additional funding to expand the New Markets initiative to Indian Country.

Delta Initiative

In the Mississippi Delta, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average. The President has proposed the creation of a new Delta Regional Authority, modeled after the successful Appalachian Regional Commission, to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help bring the infrastructure and job training needed to make the Nation's prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Native American Initiative

In order to better serve Native American communities in this millennium and to honor the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes, the President's budget includes an increase of \$1.2 billion over Fiscal Year 2000 for key new and existing programs assisting Native Americans and Indian reservations. This initiative brings together several agencies in order to address the needs of Native American communities comprehensively. Some of the highlights of this initiative include: \$300 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction and repair; \$349 million through the Department of Transportation for roads in Indian Country; \$650 million to provide rental and homeownership assistance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and \$2.6 billion for the Indian Health Service. Other key components of the Native American initiative include: "New Markets" economic development initiatives such as funding to create Native American Small Business Development Centers at the Small Business Administration; funding to create a Native American Economic Development Access Center at HUD; addressing the "digital divide" by creating a new program, in conjunction with the tribal colleges, to encourage Native Americans to enter information technology fields; funding 500 new Native American school administrators; increased funding for tribal colleges; \$49 million to fund technology, infrastructure, planning, and public works projects at the Economic Development Administration; and increased funding of \$103 million for the third year of the joint Department of Justice/Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement initiative.

Strengthening the Farm Safety Net

As the President has noted on numerous occasions since its passage, the 1996 Farm Bill fails to provide America's farmers with an adequate safety net. As prices have remained depressed for the past two years, the Federal government has provided over \$15 billion in emergency assistance. In order to provide American farmers and ranchers with the critical assistance that they need and deserve, the President's budget includes \$11 billion to strengthen the farm safety net until the next farm bill in 2002, with three key components: conservation, supplemental income assistance, and crop insurance. The budget includes for FY 2001:

- \$1.3 billion to help family farmers take steps to protect water quality and the environment and to preserve farmland, including \$600 million for a new conservation security program that will assist

farmers who voluntarily adopt comprehensive plans to curb erosion and protect water supplies from pesticide and nutrient runoff.

\$3.1 billion for a new targeted supplemental income assistance program that will provide payments to producers whose farm revenue falls more than 92 percent below its 5-year average.

\$640 million to subsidize the cost of crop insurance premiums, to allow farmers to purchase higher levels of coverage than are included in the basic catastrophic coverage.

From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, social and political life. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" -- unequal access to technology by income, education level, race, and geography. In 1998, those with a college degree were more than *eight times* more likely to have a computer at home and nearly *sixteen times* as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education. And the gap is widening. This growing divide also cleaves our community along income, ethnic, and geographic lines, with affluent, white, and urban/suburban households enjoying better computer and Internet access than their African-American, Hispanic, less affluent and more rural counterparts. To address this troubling trend, the President will shortly unveil a comprehensive program that relies on all levels of government working in partnership with the private sector and non-profit organizations and also will lead high-tech executives and others on a New Markets tour focused on closing the Digital Divide.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Benefits of Expanding International Trade

Trade has been crucial to American prosperity. Since World War II, as the U.S. has led eight separate rounds of multilateral trade negotiations and signed hundreds of trade agreements, global trade has increased 15-fold, contributing to the most rapid, sustained economic growth ever recorded. Real production in the United States is up 5-fold and real average American per capita income is up 3-fold over this period. Still, there remains much work to be done. Ninety-six percent of the world's consumers live outside the US, many in countries that are only now achieving the means to become significant purchasers of American products.

Forging a New Consensus on Trade

American leadership over the last 50 years has helped develop a world trading system in which the United States is now the world's largest exporter and importer with over \$2 trillion worth of goods and services in trade each year. Since the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1948, Democratic and Republican Administrations, working in partnership with Congress, have concluded eight negotiating Rounds, opening markets for American goods, and helping advance basic principles of rule of law, transparency, and fair play in the world economy. Most recently, since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994, a more open world economy has helped American exports to rise by well over \$200 billion. This has contributed significantly to the rapid economic growth we have enjoyed over the past five years, and the continuation of the longest peacetime expansion in America's history. At the same time, it has helped us to gain high-skill, high-wage jobs, reverse a 20-year period of decline in wages, and in fact increase wages by 6% in real terms. Nevertheless, as President Clinton has said, we need to build a new consensus on trade by putting a human face on the global economy. The five years since the WTO was founded as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have revealed areas where the institution can be further strengthened in this regard -- including greater transparency, a greater role in addressing workers' concerns about globalization through the establishment of a Working Group on Trade and Labor, and a commitment to sustainable development, including protection of the environment, as enshrined in the WTO's Preamble.

Trade Agreements Enforcement Initiative

The President is committed to ensuring that trade is free and fair and that American companies and workers benefit fully from our bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. He is proposing in FY 2001 that the Department of Commerce and related agencies have the resources necessary to monitor and enforce international trade agreements.

Child Labor

In his 1999 State of the Union address, President Clinton pledged: "[W]e will lead the international community to conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world." In June, he spoke to the ILO before it adopted the new convention and in December, with Senate advice and consent, he signed the convention on behalf of the United States. Now we must do more to help countries around the world make the convention's aspirations a reality, bringing education -- not hard labor -- to millions of children and preventing the loss of future generations of youth to abusive work. In the last two budgets, the United States became the world's largest contributor to the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). This year, the President proposes to expand support for international efforts to eliminate child labor.

African Growth and Opportunity Act

In the State of the Union, President Clinton called upon Congress to pass the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), an important and groundbreaking piece of legislation, which recognizes African countries' efforts to institute sound economic policies and reform. The House and Senate passed different versions of the legislation last year. The philosophy of the legislation is simple: America stands ready to help those African countries that undertake difficult reforms to build a better future. Effective aid, combined with strong reform and increased trade and investment, will help bring Africa into the global economy and create new markets for U.S. exports. American businesses, farmers, and workers all stand to benefit from expanding our trade with one of the largest underdeveloped markets in the world.

Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative

The President will work with Congress toward swift passage of legislation expanding our Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) trading relationship with Caribbean and Central American countries. As part of a package including the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, the Senate passed legislation last fall similar to that which the Administration has proposed. The President's CBI enhancement legislation will create opportunities for American companies and workers as it provides enhanced market access and economic stimulus for countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The Administration is strongly committed to conclude, by 2005, negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will expand U.S. export opportunities throughout Latin America, and views CBI enhancement as a useful bridge to this initiative.

Promoting Democracy and Advancing Human Rights

Promoting democracy and advancing human rights has been a central priority of the Clinton-Gore Administration's foreign policy, one that he will again stress in his State of the Union address. Over the past seven years, the Clinton Administration has succeeded in ending bloodshed and reducing tensions in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, East Timor, Bosnia, Kosovo, Haiti, Sierra Leone and elsewhere has offered new hope for peace, democracy and prosperity. This year the President will reaffirm his commitment to advance this cause by calling for continued support for his efforts to broker peace, promote democracy, protect human rights, defend religious freedom, and fully fund our diplomacy.

Leading the Global Campaign Against AIDS and Other Deadly Diseases

Although much progress has been made in the fight against AIDS and other deadly diseases, much more still needs to be done. To that end, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have stepped up the international battle to prevent, treat, and search for a cure for AIDS, which has disproportionately afflicted our poorest nations. The FY2001 budget that the President will send to Congress next month calls for an additional \$100 million investment in AIDS prevention, care, public health infrastructure, and education in the African and Asian countries that have been hit the hardest by the disease. Vice President Gore announced this additional funding during an address to the UN Security Council in early January. The President has also called for a new tax credit for sales of vaccines for malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS to accelerate the development of these vaccines, creating an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to invest in the development of vaccines for poor countries, which often cannot afford to buy the vaccines they need. This would build upon a proposed \$50 million investment in the vaccine purchase fund of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. Finally, the President will call upon the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to dedicate an additional \$400 million to \$900 million annually of their low-interest-rate loans to expand immunization, prevent and treat common diseases, and build sound delivery systems for other basic health services.

U.S.-China Trade Agreement

Under the terms of the agreement, China has agreed to grant the United States *significant new access* to its rapidly growing market of over one billion people, while we have agreed simply to maintain the market access policies we *already* apply to China by granting it permanent Normal Trade Relations (NTR). The agreement slashes Chinese tariffs on our goods, opens China's markets to our services, and contains safeguards against unfair trading practices. The agreement also advances critical national security goals. WTO membership will spur China's economy, adding impetus to reforms there; introduce China to global economic competition and accelerate a process that is removing the government from vast areas of the country's economic life; open China's telecommunications market, including to Internet and satellite services, and thus expose China to information, ideas and debate from around the world; and oblige the government to publish laws and regulations and subject pertinent decisions to review of an international body, all of which will strengthen the rule of law in China and increase the likelihood that it will play by global rules as well. While WTO membership will not by itself or overnight transform China's human rights record, it will move the country in the right direction. The United States must grant China permanent NTR or risk ceding the full benefits of the agreement we negotiated to our Asian and European competitors. For all these reasons, the President will make passage of this historic legislation a high priority in the coming year.

Building Peace in the Middle East

After days of intense negotiations at Wye Plantation in November 1998, President Clinton brokered an historic agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that strengthens Israel's security, expands the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhances economic opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. And in December of last year, President Clinton ended years of stalemate between Syria and Israel by achieving a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks and hosting the highest level meeting ever between Israel and Syria after months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The United States has helped broker agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Jordan, and led the efforts toward a resumption of the Israeli-Syrian talks. The United States has stood firmly by those who have taken risks for peace, providing them with strong political, economic and material support; and demonstrated to the enemies of peace that violence and terror will not succeed in disrupting the peace process. At the same time, the United States has maintained its long-standing commitment to the security of Israel, strengthened its ties with Egypt and Jordan, and built a new relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people.

Bringing Peace to Northern Ireland

President Clinton's intensive diplomatic efforts helped achieve the landmark Good Friday Accord in April 1998, bringing new governing structures and a new era of cooperation to Northern Ireland. And in December of last year, both sides made historic progress towards implementation of the Accord, forming of an inclusive government in Northern Ireland, accepting the principle of consent with respect to any change in the territorial status of Northern Ireland, launching new institutions for North/South cooperation on the island, and taking the first steps to address the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his support for full implementation of the agreement, so Northern Ireland can pursue a prosperous, democratic course, free of violence and terror. The United States will also continue to support the International Fund for Ireland, which promotes reconciliation through economic regeneration projects targeting disadvantaged Irish border counties and Northern Ireland.

Reversing Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo

This past year, President Clinton led the NATO Alliance in a 79-day air war that expelled Serb forces from Kosovo and restored self-government to the province, ending a decade of repression and reversing Slobodan Milosovic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the face of Allied unity, American military superiority, and strong Presidential leadership, the Serb dictator capitulated, withdrawing his troops and permitting international peacekeepers to secure the peace for returning refugees. The President is now committed to winning the peace, joining European leaders in strengthening democracy and civil society in Kosovo, enhancing economic development and regional integration through the Stability Pact, and supporting opposition within Serbia to complete the democratization of the Balkans.

Protecting Our Computer Networks from Cyber Attack

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to strengthen America's defense against the emerging threats cyber terrorists pose to our critical infrastructure, computer systems, and networks. Earlier this month, he launched the National Plan for Information Systems Protection and announced new budget proposals to protect our computer networks from cyber attack, including \$621 million to enhance federal research and development in computer security; \$50 million to create a new Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection; \$25 million to recruit, train and retain federal information technology experts; and \$10 million to design a Federal Intrusion Detection Network (FIDNET) which alerts the federal government to cyber attacks. President Clinton has increased funding on critical infrastructure substantially over the past three years, including a 16% increase in the FY2001 budget proposal to \$2.03 billion. He has also developed and funded new initiatives to defend the nation's computer systems from cyber attack. To jumpstart the FY01 program initiatives, the President will also propose a \$9 million supplemental this spring.

Combating International Crime

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton highlighted new measures to combat international money laundering, which facilitates illegal money flows, fosters corruption, and undermines democracy. Combating international money laundering has become an increasingly important issue for the United States. The last decade has seen an explosive proliferation of offshore banking centers that facilitate international criminal money flows. This proliferation also works against U.S. developmental goals by allowing easy placement of funds obtained from official corruption. There is also a growing concern that these offshore centers can contribute to significant financial destabilization, by providing new avenues for unregulated capital flight and new opportunities for financial management entities incorporated in these jurisdictions to take advantage of the absence of supervisory authorities to engage in activities that would be prohibited in the United States.

Aiding Colombia to Fight Drugs and Strengthen Democracy

Eighty percent of the cocaine entering the U.S. is either processed, transported, or grown in Colombia. For the first time in years, a new administration, led by President Andres Pastrana, is taking the tough steps necessary to crack down both on narcotics traffickers and human rights violators. The President recently announced his support for a bold new plan developed by President Pastrana to both stem the tide of drugs entering the United States and to strengthen the Colombian economy and democracy. To assist the Colombians in this effort, the President has proposed a total of \$1.6 billion in funding over two years to help fight narcotics trafficking, provide economic alternatives for Colombian farmers who now grow coca and poppy plants, improve the judicial system, increase the protection of human rights, and crack down on money laundering. A portion of the investment will go to help train and equip special counter-narcotics battalions and to improve the Colombian capability to interdict traffickers by improving radar, aircraft, airfields, and intelligence-gathering equipment. The Administration will also propose \$95 million to purchase equipment to enable the Colombian National Police to eradicate more coca and poppy fields, and \$93 million for new programs to help the judicial system and promote the peace process. Most of the effort will be financed from the Colombian government's own resources. The aid from the United States is expected to be supplemented by multilateral agencies and our allies.

International Debt Relief

At their Summit last June, G-7 leaders endorsed a new initiative spearheaded by the President to enable Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC's) to receive deeper, broader and faster debt relief. Under the so-called Cologne Initiative, international financial institutions are developing a new framework for linking debt relief with poverty reduction. The goal is to boost resources for priority social expenditures, including health, child survival, AIDS prevention and education, as well as improve transparency in government budgeting and consultation with civil society in the development and implementation of economic programs. Together with earlier debt relief commitments, the Cologne Initiative provides for reduction of up to 70 percent of the total debts for these countries, decreasing the stock of debt from about \$127 billion today to as low as \$37 billion with the cancellation of official development assistance (ODA) debt by G-7 and other bilateral creditors. As part of the initiative, the President announced in September that the U.S. would seek to write off all of the \$5.7 billion it is owed by as many as 36 heavily indebted poor countries. Last fall, Congress passed part of the funding and authority necessary for the United State's full participation in the initiative, and the President is seeking approval of the remainder this year.

Leading the Way in Global Non-Proliferation

The Clinton-Gore Administration has led the effort to reduce the international threat of weapons of mass destruction. Over the past six years, the Administration has made unprecedented progress in curbing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the missiles that deliver them, in reducing the dangerous legacy of Cold War weapons' stockpiles and in promoting responsible conventional arms transfer policies. President Clinton was the first world leader to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and has proposed a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus that will lead to its eventual ratification. The United States has also ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention and is working to strengthen the 1972 treaty outlawing biological weapons and to achieve a positive Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Strengthening Military Readiness

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have remained committed to ensuring that America's military remains the best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world, ready to face the continuing challenges posed by the post-Cold War world and the challenges of a new century. He has matched new commitments with new resources, requesting and receiving from Congress billions in additional defense spending in 1999, reversing declines that began a decade ago. The FY2000 budget proposed a six-year increase of \$112B for military readiness and modernization

through a combination of new spending and budgetary savings, assuring the first sustained real (after inflation) increase for defense spending in over a decade. This plan increased military pay by the largest percentage since the early 1980s, and increased the 20-year retirement benefit from 40% to 50% of average base pay over the last three years of service. The President's 2001 Defense budget builds on this plan, ensuring military readiness remains first-rate for years to come. Moreover, significant increases are proposed for weapons modernization to guarantee the continued technological superiority of U.S. forces.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Lands Legacy

To meet the conservation challenges of a new century, President Clinton is proposing a new category of dedicated, discretionary funding to protect America's land, coastal and wildlife resources. In FY 2000, the President secured \$652 million for Lands Legacy, a 42 percent increase. For FY 2001, the President is proposing another substantial increase and creation of a new budget category to preserve this higher level of funding in future years. The proposed FY 2001 funding would dramatically increase support for state, local and tribal efforts to protect farmland, forests, urban parks and other local green spaces. It also would provide significant increases for federal, state, local and tribal efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources. In addition, Lands Legacy would support federal protection of natural and historic lands across the country, with priorities including Civil War battlefields, the Florida Everglades, the Mojave Desert, and New England forests and wildlife refuges.

Climate Change

Against a backdrop of growing scientific consensus that the Earth is warming -- and that human activity is at least partly to blame -- the President is proposing a series of new initiatives to address global climate change. The President's FY 2001 budget will propose a new effort to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies in developing countries; increased funding for the research and development of bio-based technologies that use crops, trees and agricultural waste to make fuels and products; and start-up funding for a Clean Air Partnership Fund to support state and local efforts that achieve early reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level air pollutants. Other elements of the Administration's climate change strategy include continued increases in both investments and tax incentives to spur the development and deployment of clean energy technologies and energy-efficient cars, homes, and appliances; cutting energy use by the Federal government; working with Congress to reward companies taking early, voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; restructuring the electricity industry; and continued diplomatic efforts to fill in key details of the Kyoto Protocol and secure more meaningful participation by key developing countries in the fight against global warming.

Tax credits for energy-efficient cars, homes and appliances

Cars and light trucks (including minivans, sport utilities, and pickups) currently account for 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The President's FY 2001 budget will propose tax incentives to help curb these emissions by moving advanced technologies for electric, fuel cell, and hybrid vehicles from the laboratory to the highway. Tax credits would be offered for the purchase of qualifying hybrid vehicles from 2003 through 2006; and the current tax credit for electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles would be extended through 2006. The President also is proposing a tax credit for the purchase of energy-efficient homes; for solar energy systems; for the purchase of energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment; and for wind and biomass power.

Clean Energy for the 21st Century

Energy technology markets in developing countries are projected to total \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion over the next 20 years. To accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies

around the world, President Clinton is proposing the Clean Energy for the 21st Century: International Initiative -- a multi-agency effort to encourage remove market barriers to clean energy technologies in developing and transition countries and to provide new incentives for clean energy technology innovation and export. This initiative, which builds on a set of recommendations by the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), will create as much as \$5 billion in new export revenues for U.S. companies and up to 100,000 new U.S. jobs, and will assist developing countries in powering their economic development while fighting air pollution and climate change.

Livable Communities

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to strengthen the Livable Communities initiative, which expands the choices available to communities to help them grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. The Administration's FY 2001 budget will propose record funding for public transit and other programs to ease traffic congestion while reducing air pollution; matching grants to help neighboring communities develop collaborative "smart growth" strategies; and funding to provide communities with new information tools, and improve public safety by sharing crime data. The Administration also will propose tax credits for Better America Bonds, a new financing tool generating billions in bond authority for investments by state, local and tribal governments to preserve green space, create or restore urban parks, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields (abandoned industrial sites). By delivering tools and resources to the local level, where issues of growth management are most appropriately addressed, this initiative helps empower citizens to build more "livable communities" for the 21st century.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Major New Investments in Science and Technology Research

President Clinton has announced that he will include a nearly \$3 billion increase in the "Twenty-First Century Research Fund" in his FY2001 budget, including a \$1 billion increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health and double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50 year history. These investments will ensure that science and technology will continue to fuel economic growth and allow Americans to lead longer, healthier lives. The funding includes increased support in all scientific and engineering disciplines, including biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. The President's budget includes:

\$1 billion increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health. The President's FY 2001 budget includes almost \$19 billion, an increase of \$1 billion over last year's funding level, for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health. In addition, the President will eliminate the delays in releasing \$4 billion in research funds as required in last year's appropriations bill. This increase will support research in areas such as diabetes, brain disorders, cancer, genetic medicine, disease prevention strategies, and development of an AIDS vaccine. It will also help researchers complete in the near future a first draft of the entire human genome -- the very blueprint of life. This and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease. If Congress passes the President's proposal, funding for NIH will increase by over 80 percent -- nearly twice what the NIH budget was when President Clinton came into office.

A new \$495 million National Nanotechnology Initiative. Nanotechnology - the ability to manipulate individual atoms and molecules - could revolutionize the 21st century in the same way that the transistor did the 20th. Increased investments in nanotechnology could lead to breakthroughs such as molecular computers that can store the contents of the Library of Congress

in a device the size of a sugar cube, and new materials ten times stronger than steel and a fraction of the weight.

A \$675 million increase in the National Science Foundation -- double the largest dollar increase in NSF's history. This increase will boost university-based research and ensure balanced support for all science and engineering disciplines. NSF accounts for half of all non-health, university-based research.

An almost \$600 million increase in information technology research. This increase in information technology research could lead to advances such as high-speed wireless networks that can bring distance learning and telemedicine to isolated rural areas; and supercomputers that can more accurately predict tornadoes and hurricanes and more rapidly develop life-saving drugs.

Protecting Americans' Personal Privacy

As information technology transforms our government and our economy, a growing challenge is how to gain the benefits from the new technology while preserving one of our oldest values "privacy" in a variety of different settings:

Medical Records: This year the Clinton-Gore Administration will issue historic, final rules that will legally guarantee the key privacy protections: notice of data uses; consent before records are used for non-medical purposes; patient access to records; proper security; and effective enforcement. President Clinton also will support legislation to expand the scope and enforcement of those rules

Financial Information: Financial modernization legislation signed by President Clinton last year included important privacy protections, but more needs to be done. This year, the President will seek further protections, including consumer choice before financial firms can share their information within a corporate family.

Genetic Information: As the human genome project nears completion, genetic testing and information will be increasingly common to help predict, prevent, and treat diseases. However, there are real concerns that as this information becomes increasingly common that it will be used not to promote health in a protected manner, but will be used as a basis for discrimination. There are already examples of employers using this type of information as a basis not to hire or promote individuals and studies are showing that Americans fear that this information will be misused. The President will stress the need for strong action on this issue.

On-line: In the on-line world, the Clinton-Gore Administration has encouraged self-regulatory efforts by industry to address privacy issues posed by emerging technologies and will work with consumers, industry, and interested public officials to explore how best to address the growing practice of building detailed profiles of every action consumers take online.

COMMUNITY

Service And Philanthropy

AmeriCorps and Encouraging Community Service

Since the start of his Administration, the President has encouraged and facilitated community service. Over 150,000 young people have participated in AmeriCorps -- they have helped to immunize more than a million people; taught, tutored or mentored 4.4 million children; helped build some 11,000 homes; and truly sparked a new spirit of public engagement across the land. The President's budget

includes over \$850 million for the Corporation for National Service. This increase of nearly \$120 million keeps AmeriCorps on track for the President's goal of 100,000 members each year by the year 2004. The budget will also include a new "AmeriCorps Reserves" program, modeled after the military reserves, and designed to engage former Corps members in times of need. The budget also includes \$15.5 million in new initiatives that reward innovations in youth service, as well as additional resources to encourage service by senior citizens, and to engage students in service through a new "Community Coaches" program.

Increasing Involvement of Interfaith Partnerships and Community Organizations

Already many faith and community-based organizations partner with government to help our nation's families, but the President and Vice President believe we should do more, and their budget proposes to increase the involvement of interfaith and community-based organizations in after school, housing, community development, criminal justice, welfare reform, teen pregnancy prevention, and juvenile justice programs, consistent with the constitutional line between church and state.

Increasing Charitable Giving

In his State of the Union address and his new budget, President Clinton today will unveil a package of new tax proposals to encourage philanthropy. First, he will propose allowing nonitemizers to take a tax deduction for charitable giving. Second, he will propose new rules to make it easier for charitable foundations to make gifts in times of need. And third, he will propose making it easier for individuals to donate appreciated assets like securities and real property. Last October, the President and First Lady convened the first-ever White House Conference on Philanthropy. The conference highlighted the unique American tradition of charitable giving, and emphasized that at a moment of great prosperity, we must preserve and expand this tradition. These proposals will help do just that

One America

Civil Rights Enforcement

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget proposes a significant increase for civil rights enforcement to help ensure equal opportunity for all Americans. These funds will help to ensure that no American is discriminated against at work, at home, or in school. The President's budget request of \$698 million for civil rights enforcement agencies represents a \$81 million, or 13 percent increase, over last year's funding levels of \$617 million. Highlights of the President's package include: (1) \$98 million Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice -- a 20 percent increase over the 2000 enacted level -- to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct), promote compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and review redistricting plans; (2) \$322 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- an increase of 15 percent over the 2000 enacted level -- to support the agency's effort to reduce the backlog of private sector cases to 28,000 by the end of 2001; (3) \$76 million for Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) -- an increase of 4 percent over the 2000 enacted level -- to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance, including providing contractors with the necessary tools to evaluate their equal employment practices; (4) \$50 million for Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) fair housing efforts -- an increase of 14 percent over the 2000 enacted level -- to reduce housing discrimination, including funding for the final year of a three-year audit-based enforcement initiative and training for housing providers to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to housing.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA")

This bill would outlaw discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotions based on sexual orientation. It is designed to protect the rights of all Americans to participate in the job market without fear of unfair

discrimination. The Act provides an exemption for small businesses, the Armed Forces, and religious organizations, including schools and other educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. The bill specifically prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation, including quotas. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are the first President and Vice President ever to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians. President Clinton originally announced his support for the legislation in October 1995.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

The President has urged Congress to pass, as one of its first orders of business, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would strengthen the existing federal hate crimes law by expanding the situations in which the Department of Justice can prosecute defendants for violent crimes based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Further, it would expand existing law to cover cases of hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. The President's budget includes \$20 million for training for federal, state, and local law enforcement to prevent and respond to hate crimes, and to promote police integrity.

English Literacy/Civics Initiative

Like generations of immigrants past, today's immigrants are driven by a dream -- and to achieve that dream, they seek to learn the ways of this land and become full participants in American society. To this end, President Clinton is proposing an increase for the English Language/Civics Initiative an innovative program to help states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction linked to civics and life skills instruction, including understanding and navigating the U.S. government system, the public education system, the workplace, and other key institutions of American life. This important initiative is a powerful tool in building a stronger American community. For FY 2001, the Administration's budget request \$75 million for this initiative, a nearly \$50 million increase from FY 2000 enacted level.

Fairness to Immigrant Families

The Administration is committed to improving the way the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) conducts its business, particularly the naturalization process that bestows United States citizenship. The Administration's FY 2001 budget provides additional funds to INS to improve the naturalization process and reduce the application backlogs and to expand the process to ensure that all immigration benefits and services are provided in a fair, efficient, and timely manner. Furthermore, the Administration will continue to urge Congress to pass legislation that provides fairness for immigrant families by restructuring the INS; approving the Administration's proposal to support the process of democratization and stabilization now underway in Central American and Haiti by ensuring equitable treatment for migrants from these countries; and changing the registry date to permit long-term migrants to adjust their status.

GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL REFORM

Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

The President and the Vice President remain committed to the enactment of bipartisan campaign finance reform. Last year, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan reform. Tonight the President is challenging the Senate to follow suit and enact real reform early this year. Acceptable campaign finance reform legislation must meet five criteria: 1) it must be bipartisan; 2) it must be comprehensive; 3) it must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections; 4) it must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents; and 5) it cannot favor one party over the other.

Reinventing Government

Three months into our Administration, the Vice President took charge of our reinventing government initiative. Seven years later, the government is the smallest it's been in nearly 40 years -- over 350,000 fewer employees. And it's focused on giving Americans customer service equal to the best in business by getting results they care about. We're tossing aside outdated bureaucratic binders and red tape that too often kept us from making a real difference in people's lives. But this is not just another exercise in "good government" -- our goal is nothing short of restoring the American people's trust in their government. When we started, only 21% of the American people trusted government to do the right thing all or most of the time -- down from 76% under President Kennedy. Today, that figure is back up to 40% -- a dramatic turnaround. But it's not nearly good enough. And we won't rest until "change" and "customer service" become a permanent part of the landscape and a majority of Americans trust their government again.

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**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT

Hillary Clinton brought to the White House her own significant expertise on supporting children and youth in their development and a commitment to use her position as First Lady to advance the position of young Americans, particularly those in need. As a result, she has worked behind the scenes and before the public on such issues as youth violence, national service, after school care, and teen pregnancy. She has been a key player in legislation in these and other areas affecting youth, and by organizing or appearing at hundreds of public events on these issues, she has helped to raise their visibility and make positive youth development a national priority.

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The First Lady began her work on the development of children and youth during her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved in to the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. Her experience there would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children and family issues.

While she was First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Children's Defense Fund, and as a board member of other influential national organizations concerned with youth, including the "I Have a Dream" Foundation, Children's Television Workshop, and Public/Private Ventures, whose mission is to improve the effectiveness of social policies, programs and community initiatives, especially as they affect youth and young adults. She also played a leadership role in Arkansas on behalf of youth, founding Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, serving as president of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund Program and as a board member of the Arkansas Children's Hospital and New Futures for Little Rock Youth.

In 1988, Mrs. Clinton served on the William T. Grant Foundation Commission on Work, Family and Citizenship, best known for its seminal report, *The Forgotten Half*. This report was widely circulated on Capitol Hill, and brought to the attention of Congress the situation faced by the more than 50 percent of youth who do not go on to college. The report advocated for family leave policies, school-to-work programs, expanded youth service opportunities, increased student aid, Job Corps expansion, and the development of mentoring programs. These recommendations all became significant policy achievements of the Clinton administration, often with the First Lady as the most prominent advocate working to make these recommendations into national policy.

She also served on the board of directors of the National Center on Education and the Economy and as co-chair for implementation of the Center's Commission on Skills of the American Workforce. In this position, she worked closely with a bipartisan group of prominent experts, including former Reagan Secretary of Labor Bill Brock, calling for changes in the way America trained its workforce to prepare for a rapidly evolving global economy. After she and her

colleagues traveled across the country advocating for the recommendations in the Commission's report, "America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages!", and with the help of the new Clinton Administration, many states and the federal government adopted the report's proposals. Federal legislation included the Workforce Investment Act, creating one-stop shops for job training, the National Skills Standards Board, which established training standards in major industries, and the School to Work Partnership Act of 1994, designed to help students make the transition into the work force. This legislation provided \$1.6 billion to states for school-to-work pilot programs.

After President Clinton's election, Hillary Clinton continued her work on behalf of youth. She encouraged work to begin during the transition period on the national service initiative that would become AmeriCorps. Once she became First Lady, she asked her policy staff to help design the national service bill in a way that would allow young people of all backgrounds to participate, including the assurance of child care and health care benefits for AmeriCorps members. She helped to shepherd the legislation through Congress, playing an important behind the scenes role. Once the legislation was signed into law in September 1993, she monitored its implementation, ensured that it received continued White House attention, and continued to appear at events that would raise the program's visibility. In 1999, she encouraged the planning of a fifth anniversary celebration of AmeriCorps and helped launch an effort to endow City Year, a flagship national service program. Her domestic policy council staff is currently handling the AmeriCorps reauthorization legislation.

Mrs. Clinton was an early voice concerned about youth violence. In August of 1994 she spoke at the National Conference on Youth Violence, speaking about the "culture of violence" facing youth in the media and on the streets. In 1998 and 1999, she hosted a White House Conference on School Safety, wrote three columns on the topic, and spoke at more than a dozen events relating to youth violence. Following the Columbine High School shootings, Mrs. Clinton met with victims' families, hosted a strategy session at the White House on Children, Violence, and Responsibility, and stepped up her long-standing efforts to promote handgun control. Mrs. Clinton also worked with the President to launch the National Campaign Against Youth Violence, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about youth violence and working with local communities to prevent youth violence. The First Lady was an early supporter of the Million Moms March and joined the thousands of women who marched on Washington this year to call for sensible gun control laws.

Preventing teen pregnancy has also been a priority for Mrs. Clinton. In 1997, she encouraged the creation of a bipartisan Campaign for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy, hosted the Campaign's first honors ceremony in the East Room of the White House, and participated in several key events to build support for the effort. She encouraged those concerned about teen pregnancy to work together toward the goal they shared, even if they disagreed on the means to the goal, helping to unite liberal and conservative organizations to advance the cause. These efforts to promote abstinence and personal responsibility, have provided more teens with mentors and access to college or jobs, and developed local prevention strategies reaching out to both girls and boys. With Mrs. Clinton's leadership, a third of all communities now have HHS-funded teen pregnancy prevention activities – exceeding the goal of 25 percent set in the 1996 welfare reform law. These activities include strong partnerships with states, communities, families, religious

leaders, the media, and teens themselves. This year, Mrs. Clinton has been a vocal advocate for the Administration's proposal to support second-chance homes, an innovative approach to help teen parents who cannot live at home. These adult-supervised living arrangements offer parenting skills, job counseling, education and other referrals that help reduce repeat pregnancies and improve the prospects for young mothers and their children, and many also involve young fathers in parenting and employment activities. In 1998, the rate of teen pregnancy reached a record low, with a particularly large drop in births to African American girls.

Mrs. Clinton's longstanding work on behalf of children in foster care led her to focus on youth who leave foster care when they become eighteen with limited supports to help them make the transition to independence. Few of these youth go on to college and a significant number become homeless after they lose important benefits they had received before they turned eighteen. Legislation developed by Mrs. Clinton and her staff and signed into law in 1999 provided for these young people to remain on Medicaid until the age of 21, and gives them extra help in finishing high school, going to college, and finding work and a place to live.

The First Lady has also been a leader within the Administration in support of afterschool care. Knowing that high quality afterschool programs can both lower risk behaviors and increase school success, she pushed for funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program and has visited afterschool programs around the country. Funding for afterschool has provided nearly 850,000 children with after school opportunities.

Mrs. Clinton, who led the planning of the White House Conference on Philanthropy, ensured that the conference included a focus on teaching young people the giving tradition. As a result of that conference, a group of foundations are now working together to create a national initiative that will give young people of all backgrounds the opportunity to contribute to funds in their own communities, and to make decisions about what local organizations will receive these resources.

Most recently, Mrs. Clinton initiated and her staff planned and implemented the May 2, 2000 White House Conference on Teenagers. This historic event brought together parents, teens, policy makers and other experts to discuss the importance of the teenage years in the social and intellectual development of children. Like the White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development in 1997, the teen gathering underscored some of the common misconceptions that parents have about the teenage years and offered strategies for raising responsible and resourceful youth. Initiatives that emerged from the conference included a "Time with Teens Campaign," a public awareness campaign about the importance of adult-teen interaction; a website to provide teenagers with information available through the federal government – americasteens.gov; a focus on improving media resources for teenagers and their parents; and, a call for more after-school and community service opportunities for teenagers.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION
MAKING CHILD CARE BETTER, SAFER, AND MORE AFFORDABLE FOR
AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

January 27, 2000

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget includes a comprehensive child care initiative to address the struggles our nation's working parents face in finding child care they can afford, trust and rely on. Through unprecedented tax relief and subsidy support, the President's balanced budget includes a package of proposals to help working families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, expand after-school programs and promote early learning.

Today More Than Ever, Working Families Struggle with Child Care. The number of children with parents who work outside of the home is higher than ever before. In 1996, three out of four mothers with young children worked outside of the home, compared to one in four in 1965. Additionally, studies have shown that that child care expenses are often the second or third largest item in a low-income working family's household budget. During the Clinton-Gore Administration, funding for child care has more than doubled. Still, many eligible children do not receive assistance. In FY 1999, states provided child care assistance to approximately 1.75 million children, or only 12 percent of the roughly 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law.

The President's Initiative Significantly Expands Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care and Early Learning Programs by:

Helping Over 8 Million Families Pay Child Care Expenses. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) provides tax relief to those who, in order to work, pay for the care of a child under 13 or for a disabled dependent or spouse. The President's proposals, which cost \$30 billion over 10 years, broaden this tax relief and will help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses by 1) making the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable for the first time; 2) increasing the level of the credit; and 3) extending the credit to parents who stay at home with their children.

- **Making the Credit Refundable for Nearly Two Million Working Parents.** Under current law, a typical family of four with an income under \$25,000 has no tax liability and therefore is ineligible for relief from their often significant child care costs. Many such families earn too little to claim the credit but too much to get the full benefit of child care subsidies. To help these families, the President proposes to make the CDCTC refundable for the first time - so that families with no tax liability can receive up to \$2,400 to help offset the cost of child care. For example, a single mother who has one child, earns an annual salary of \$15,000, and spends about \$2,400 per year on child care, will receive a tax credit of \$1,200, an increase of \$817 over current law. This proposal will assist nearly two million families.
- **Increasing the Child Care Tax Credit for 4.4 Million Working Families.** For families earning up to \$60,000, the President proposes to increase the maximum level of the CDCTC from 30 percent to 50 percent boosting the amount of allowable child care expenses a family can claim. This will provide an average additional tax cut of \$249 for these families and

eliminate tax liability for nearly all families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. Under this proposal, a family of four with an annual salary of \$35,000, and child care expenses of \$3,100, would receive a tax credit of \$1,395 -- an increase of \$775 over current law. This expansion proposal will help over four million working families pay for child care.

- **Providing Tax Relief to Nearly 2 Million Parents Who Stay at Home.** The President will also propose enabling parents who stay at home with children under age one to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. This proposal will provide an average tax cut of \$154, benefiting almost two million parents.

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History. The President's budget boosts funding for Head Start by \$1 billion -- the largest funding increase ever proposed for the program -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start slots to approximately 950,000 children, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Head Start is our nation's premier early childhood development program preparing low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services. Early Head Start, created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women, and works to enhance children's overall development and enable parents to be better caregivers of and teachers to their children. Since 1993, this Administration has already boosted funding for Head Start by 90 percent.

Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care. The President's budget boosts the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$817 million in FY 2001, enabling the program to provide child care subsidies to nearly 150,000 more children next year. These new funds, combined with the child care funds provided in welfare reform, will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly one million since 1997. The block grant is part of the Child Care and Development Fund, the primary federal subsidy program that helps families pay for child care, thereby enabling low-income parents to work. Today, millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs do not receive any help; in 1999, only about 12 percent of the 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law received subsidies.

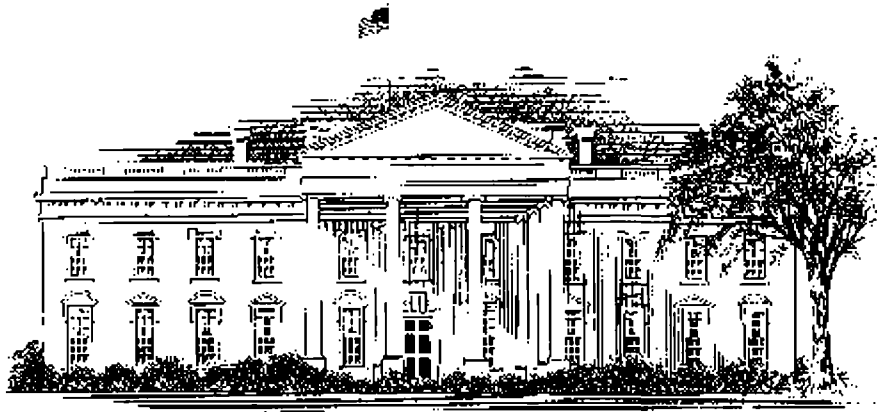
Doubling After-School to Help Every Child in Every Failing School Meet High Standards. The President's budget includes \$1 billion to expand after-school and summer school for students across the nation -- more than doubling the \$453 million enacted last year, and representing the largest expansion ever proposed. With this increase, the program can provide every child in every failing school with the chance to participate in quality extended learning programs and work toward higher academic standards. Studies have shown that extended learning programs such as after-school and summer school help improve student achievement in reading and math, as well as increase student safety and reduce juvenile crime. Under the President's proposal, the number of children served will nearly triple, from 850,000 to 2.5 million children.

Promoting Early Learning. To ensure that children have access to early childhood programs that promote their cognitive development, the President's budget includes \$3 billion over five years for the Early Learning Fund to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. The Early Learning Fund will provide community grants for activities that foster cognitive development, improve child care quality and promote readiness for school. Resources could be used to help child care providers get training or certification, facilitate licensing or accreditation of child care centers, and reduce child-to-staff ratios -- factors associated with positive developmental outcomes for young children.

Supporting High-Quality Early Childhood Educators. The President's budget includes \$30 million to ensure that well-trained professionals are teaching our young children. We know that the training and education of early childhood educators and caregivers are directly related to the quality of the early education they provide, and the quality of their service, in turn, is directly related to children's readiness for school. As a result, early childhood educators with more education and training provide the higher-quality language stimulation and literacy experiences that are critical for children's success in schools. The Early Childhood Professional Development initiative will provide competitive grants to local partnerships that provide professional development for teachers such as universities, local school districts that provide pre-school, and child care providers such as Head Start. The initiative would focus on equipping early childhood educators with the tools they need to help children develop the language and literacy skills that are the foundations for academic success.

Encouraging the Pursuit of Higher Education by Offering College Campus Based Child Care. To enable low-income parents to pursue higher education, the President's budget includes \$15 million -- a \$10 million increase over last year's funding level -- to provide an additional 150 college campuses with grants to support the establishment or expansion of child care services. States may also use a share of the Child Care and Development Block Grant for this purpose.

Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses. In his budget, President Clinton will also propose a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. These services could include: building or expanding child care facilities, operating existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resource and referral services. The credit covers 25 percent of qualified costs (and 10 percent of resource and referral service expenses), but may not exceed \$150,000 per year per business. This tax credit costs \$1.4 billion over 10 years.



Narratives of Accomplishments

By

Hillary Rodham Clinton

1. Foster Care and Adoption
2. Breast Cancer and Women's Health
3. Gulf War Illness
4. Children and Media Accomplishments
5. Economy
6. Child Care
7. Youth and Development
8. Clinton/Gore Child Care

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO REFORMING FOSTER CARE AND
PROMOTING ADOPTION

The First Lady has worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to reform our nation's foster care system and promote adoption. She has devoted her time to numerous child advocacy groups, including the Carnegie Council on Children, the Children's Defense Fund, and Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and as an attorney she has represented both prospective parents and foster children. As First Lady, she has been the Administration's most prominent advocate on these issues, and her leadership has been instrumental to the passage of groundbreaking legislation to make it easier for children to move from foster care to permanent homes and to increase the number of adoptions. Her deep commitment to children in foster care also has been key to raising public awareness of the importance and rewards of adoption.

The First Lady's interest in foster care and adoption dates to her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved into the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. Her experience there would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children's and family issues.

Returning to New Haven for her second year of law school, Mrs. Clinton volunteered at Yale's Child Study Center and the New Haven Hospital, where she worked with the staff to draft guidelines for the treatment of abused children. She also volunteered at Legal Services, a legal aid group that provided free assistance to the poor.

One of Mrs. Clinton's first legal aid cases left an indelible imprint on her thinking about the needs of children in foster care. The case involved a black child and her low-income, white foster mother, who wanted to adopt the girl. Mrs. Clinton argued successfully that the mother should not be denied permanent custody simply because of racial or financial reasons. She argued that the child's best interest was to stay with her foster mother, who had provided a safe, stable home and family for more than two years. The many foster care cases she handled at Legal Services would give her a deep appreciation for the importance of ensuring the best interests of the child remain paramount during placement proceedings.

During a postgraduate year at Yale's Child Study Center, Mrs. Clinton wrote a chapter for a family law professor's book, *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child*, that documented her conviction that America's judicial system had failed abused and neglected children. She also challenged deeply rooted traditions about the factors that should inform adoption decisions, presenting a legal argument that a child's happiness should outweigh considerations such as wealth, race or birth family.

After her husband was elected governor of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton continued to press forward to protect children from abuse and neglect. In 1977, she founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, an organization dedicated to providing parenting skills and health and education services for Arkansas children. She also joined the Board of Directors of the Children's Defense Fund in 1976, and chaired the board from 1986 to 1992.

Throughout her husband's presidency, Mrs. Clinton has used her position as First Lady to champion a host of children's and family issues, focusing on some of our nation's most vulnerable children – those trapped in the foster care system. In the summer of 1995, she convened a meeting of policy experts to examine some of the most pressing issues surrounding adoption, including long-term foster care and institutional barriers within the child welfare system, including cross-racial adoptions.

That year, Mrs. Clinton, together with the President, launched a national public awareness campaign to promote the benefits of adoption and improvements to foster care. During National Adoption Month in 1995, she hosted the first in a series of events on the issue at the White House. She held numerous meetings and public events with adoptive families and children in foster care, and devoted a significant number of speeches and writings to the cause of adoption. Her efforts during this period would culminate in one of her most rewarding achievements, passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, landmark legislation that reformed our nation's child welfare system by putting considerations of children's health and safety first.

Throughout 1995 and 1996, Mrs. Clinton quietly convened a series of meetings with officials at the Department of Health and Human Services, foundation leaders and other policy experts to discuss ideas for reforming foster care and speeding up adoption procedures. Publicly, Mrs. Clinton also pressed for passage of new tax credits for those who adopt and the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, which would remove race or ethnicity as an obstacle to adoption. She also strongly supported an extension of Family and Medical Leave Act benefits to adoptive parents who wished to take time off work to care for their children. Her vocal advocacy helped usher these key bills through Congress.

As a result of her meetings with adoption policy experts, Mrs. Clinton and her staff in 1996 began to formulate specific proposals for legislative reforms. In November, she held a White House forum on adoption that was broadcast live from the Oval Office. At the event, she announced that the President would sign an Executive Order directing his administration to develop a plan to double the number of adoptions by 2002.

Mrs. Clinton was deeply involved in the development of the report and worked closely with Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to craft policies that would ensure the health and safety of the child remained the guiding principles during placement proceedings. The formal report, "Adoption 2002," was unveiled on Valentines Day 1997 and included a series of incentives for states to expedite adoption procedures and limit the amount of time children spend in foster care. The goal was to double the number of children moving into permanent homes from 27,000 a year in 1996 to 54,000 a year by 2002. The report was based on three key principles; that every child deserves a safe, permanent family; that children's health and safety should be the paramount concern; and that foster care is by definition temporary.

With the unveiling of the report, Mrs. Clinton turned to Capitol Hill to pursue legislative reforms. The White House secured bipartisan co-sponsors in the House who introduced a bill based on Mrs. Clinton's recommendations, and she began holding numerous private meetings with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to generate support for the measure. The legislation, backed by Reps. David Camp, R-Mich., and Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., easily passed the House that summer.

Throughout the fall of 1997, Mrs. Clinton continued to work quietly behind the scenes, holding countless meetings and personally lobbying lawmakers to ensure the bill had bipartisan sponsors in the Senate. She also continued to deliver speeches and hold other events to draw public support for the measure. The First Lady's strong leadership on behalf of the Adoption and Safe Families Act led to its passage on November 14, and it was signed into law four days later. The bill took historic steps to prevent children from languishing in foster care by dramatically speeding up adoption procedures, limiting the amount of time children can spend in foster care to 12 months, removing institutional barriers to adoption and including innovative financial incentives for states to improve adoption rates each year.

Shortly after the signing of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the First Lady traveled to California where she met with young people from the California Youth Connection, a group of current and former foster care children who work to educate the public about the unique needs of Foster Care youth. The First Lady was struck by the unique challenges faced by older, unadopted foster children as they age out of the system and she committed to work on addressing these challenges back in Washington. Mrs. Clinton provided key leadership in the development and enactment of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, a bill designed to assist older teens in foster care as they transition into independent living as adults. She worked very closely with Republican and Democratic sponsors in the House and Senate to shepherd the legislation through Congress. The bill, signed into law in December 1999, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care have the tools they need to succeed, including better educational opportunities, access to health care, training and housing assistance, counseling and other services.

Mrs. Clinton's efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption have transformed our nation's child welfare system. Between 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent and is on pace with the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
PROMOTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AS AN ADVOCATE FOR BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS

First Lady Hillary Clinton has long been a champion of breast cancer research, detection, prevention and awareness. Like most women, she has been personally touched by breast cancer, having lost friends and family, including the President's mother, Virginia Kelley, to the disease. Based on her personal experience and her travels during her work on health care reform, the First Lady has gained a deep understanding of the need to combat breast cancer on multiple fronts. She has worked tirelessly to increase scientific research into the causes of cancer, expand research into technologies to better detect and treat breast cancer, improve efforts to provide women with insurance coverage, and increase public awareness of the need for prevention and detection.

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Prior to President Clinton's election in 1992, the First Lady was regularly meeting with advocates and planning ways to improve the federal response to breast cancer. In fact, during the 1992 Presidential campaign, the First Lady had a memorable meeting with representatives of the National Breast Cancer Coalition that would shape her views about the extraordinary commitment and resiliency of breast cancer survivors. The bus the advocates took to meet with the First Lady in Williamsburg, Virginia, broke down, requiring them to hitchhike, getting rides in sheriff's cars and trucks, to make it to the meeting on time. Since that time, Mrs. Clinton has developed a close working relationship with the National Breast Cancer Coalition, which has twice honored her for her efforts to eradicate the disease.

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER

In October 1993, setting the tone for the aggressive efforts the Administration would take against breast cancer, the First Lady and President met with 300 advocates from the National Breast Cancer Coalition in the East Room of the White House. The President and First Lady discussed actions the Administration had taken to increase the federal commitment to combating breast cancer, including the creation of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the largest increase ever in funding for breast cancer research. They also committed to a National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, which would bring together health professionals, activists and government officials to develop a comprehensive strategy to eradicate breast cancer.

At that meeting, the President and First Lady also discussed how the Administration's health reform efforts were designed to change the fight against breast cancer, by making sure that women were no longer treated as second-class citizens, and emphasizing disease prevention and detection. The Health Security plan – crafted by Mrs. Clinton, who served as the President's point person on health care reform – included a comprehensive benefits package would have covered, at no cost to the patient, routine clinician visits, including clinical breast exams. The mammography benefit, based on the consensus scientific evidence at the time, would have covered mammograms every two years – also at no cost to the patient – for all women over 50,

and more frequent mammograms for women of high risk at any age. The plan itself provided flexibility for updating the benefits package to reflect new or better studies.

Later that same month, the First Lady met with the President's Cancer Panel Special Commission on Breast Cancer to receive their final report and recommendations, which would provide part of the basis of the National Action Plan. In 1995, the First Lady attended the first meeting of the steering committee for the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, which included consumer advocates, government officials and scientists, and was chaired by Fran Visco, President of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, and Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health. The First Lady and her staff remained involved in the planning and execution of the Action Plan, which has been implemented through Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF MAMMOGRAMS AND MEDICARE COVERAGE

During her health care reform efforts, the First Lady traveled the country meeting with patients, health professionals, and providers to discuss America's health care needs. She learned that even though a mammography benefit was added to Medicare in 1991, fewer than 40 percent of women on Medicare used it. And, sadly, it was estimated that 30 percent of breast cancer related deaths among Medicare-age women could have been prevented by early detection and treatment. During 1995, Mrs. Clinton traveled to numerous senior centers and hospitals, conducting "listening sessions" on the Medicare mammography benefit -- meeting and listening to many older women. She learned that some women were reluctant to get screened because they were afraid the procedure would be painful or embarrassing; others didn't realize the test was covered under Medicare; and still others had never been told by their doctors that a mammogram was one of the most effective ways of detecting malignant breast lumps. After learning about these barriers, the First Lady dedicated herself to developing strategies for outreach and education on prevention and detection of breast cancer.

Soon after, Mrs. Clinton and her staff began working with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a public-private campaign to encourage women to get mammograms, as well as to highlight the Medicare benefit that far too few women took advantage of. She hosted a meeting in March 1995 with government officials, public relations specialists, and corporate representatives to discuss the structure for the campaign and ways to develop public and private support for it. About this time, a new report from the New England Journal of Medicine confirmed that fewer than half the eligible women over 65 were getting mammograms despite Medicare coverage, underscoring the need to encourage and educate older women about the benefits of mammograms and Medicare coverage.

The First Lady's work culminated in an historic national public awareness campaign. Corporations across the country joined the effort, creating a powerful partnership between private industry and the government. In a May 1995 White House event, the First Lady kicked off the Medicare Mammography Awareness Campaign with participants from the listening sessions, corporate sponsors of the campaign, public relations professionals, officials from HHS, and representatives of consumer groups. Called the "Mama-gram" campaign, it included a number of promotion efforts centering around Mother's Day, such as greeting and floral card

inserts, department store and drug store billing inserts, store displays, grocery store bags, and public service announcements (PSAs). At the event, the First Lady unveiled two new PSAs – one voiced by her and another by President Clinton – with the slogan “Get a mammogram. It’s a picture that can save your life.”

This event marked just the beginning of the First Lady’s commitment to raising breast cancer awareness. The campaign continued after Mother’s Day with additional PSA’s and outreach efforts through Medicare carriers and state health departments, local aging agencies, and advocacy and professional groups. The campaign has continued to be a top priority for the First Lady, who has taped PSAs, and used her syndicated column to promote awareness. Later that spring, the First Lady participated in a forum on Medicare and Mammography as part of the White House Conference on Aging, a listening session designed to educate the conference attendees about the Medicare benefit and encourage them to take the mammography campaign back to their communities.

In May 1996, one year after kicking off the successful mammography campaign, the First Lady hosted a White House meeting to highlight the efforts of the campaign and amplify the public-private partnership. The meeting included advocates, government officials, and corporate representatives, and featured renewed commitments from the campaign’s corporate partners, including worksite mammography initiatives, new PSAs, and retail messages.

In February 1997, the First Lady again continued her support for the Medicare Mammography Campaign, inviting corporate representatives to the White House to meet and discuss increased private sector support for the campaign. During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in October 1997, the First Lady joined the President in his weekly radio address to launch another year of the campaign, including new PSAs and new outreach to communities with low mammography utilization rates. She and the President also announced new regulations to ensure the safety and quality of mammograms. In July 1998, she again met with corporate sponsors of the campaign to encourage their ongoing support for the campaign and their worksite efforts to encourage employees to get mammograms.

Throughout her efforts to increase public awareness, the First Lady has been inspired by the memory of women across the country she has met who struggled with the disease, and by the spirit of White House volunteer Miriam Alpert, who – before she lost her life to breast cancer – continually encouraged others to get mammograms.

INCREASING RESEARCH

The First Lady has continually championed significant increases for the National Cancer Institute and other agencies to support research on breast cancer detection, treatment, and to seek a cure for the disease. From fiscal years 1993 to 2001, discretionary funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has more than doubled – from \$283 million to a projected \$660 million in 2001. Investment in research has led to historic advances, including the identification of new breast cancer genes, and promising new treatments.

In October of 1998, to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the President and Mrs. Clinton hosted an East Room event with advocates and survivors to announce significant increases in breast cancer research and new efforts in the fight, including a major clinical trial of two new drugs with the potential to reduce the risk of breast cancer, and an expanded mammography outreach and education campaign, building on the public-private efforts the First Lady launched in 1995.

In addition to working within the White House to ensure that the Administration's budget included increases for vital breast cancer research, the First Lady has also worked to garner support for privately funded research. She hosted a White House event in 1996 for the Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer Research, and has participated in many fundraisers, including serving as Honor Chair of the Fashion Footwear Association of New York "Shoes on Sale," which has raised over \$1 million for the Virginia Clinton Kelley Research Center Foundation, in honor of the President's mother.

In July 1998, the First Lady launched the new Breast Cancer Research stamp, the first "semipostal" stamp in U.S. history, a stamp from which the net proceeds above the cost of postage are earmarked for breast cancer research. She continues to support the stamp, which she uses for all her personal correspondence.

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

The First Lady has been a strong advocate for legislation to ensure that women who have mastectomies are entitled to sufficient hospital stays from their HMOs, an issue the President championed in his 1997 State of the Union Address. In February 1997, she hosted a White House event with breast cancer advocates, survivors, and members of Congress and their staff to bring attention to the problem and build support for the legislation. She invited a Connecticut physician and a breast cancer survivor to talk about the problems of women who were forced to endure mammograms on an outpatient basis, or sent home from the hospital too soon, still groggy from anesthesia, in pain, and with drainage tubes still in place. She also announced, with Secretary Shalala, steps that Medicare was taking to protect Medicare patients and ensure that a doctor, not a Medicare managed care plan, decides what is appropriate care after surgery.

In addition, the First Lady was a key voice behind the scenes within the Administration for inclusion in the President's FY 2001 budget of a new initiative to cover more low-income, uninsured women. The initiative would provide a new Medicaid option to the thousands of uninsured women whose breast and cervical cancer is detected through federally supported screening programs.

NEW MEDICARE BENEFIT

In her many conversations with women about mammograms, the First Lady learned that the deductible for Medicare coverage was a significant barrier to women getting screened. In addition, Medicare only covered mammograms every other year. The First Lady began working to improve Medicare coverage, and as a result, in 1997 the Administration proposed expanding the Medicare benefit to cover annual mammograms, without deductible. The new benefit,

enacted as part of the 1997 Balanced Budget and effective in 1998, now covers annual mammograms for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, without deductible.

HONORED FOR HER WORK TO COMBAT BREAST CANCER

The First Lady has received numerous awards for her efforts to fight breast cancer:

July 16, 1993 – **Iris Cantor Humanitarian Award**, which recognizes contributions to women's health. HRC was the first recipient of the award. The award luncheon supported the Iris Cantor Center for Breast Imaging at UCLA Medical Center.

October 2, 1995 – **Government Leadership Award** from the **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Board of Sponsors and Zeneca Pharmaceuticals** for her "outstanding initiative in launching efforts to educate all women about mammography, especially women eligible for Medicare."

October 20, 1997 – **SELF Magazine's Pink Ribbon Award**. Awarded to both the President and First Lady, "in recognition of extraordinary contributions and dedication to the fight against breast cancer."

September 28, 1999 – **Public Leadership Award** from the **National Breast Cancer Coalition** for her work to eradicate breast cancer.

March 28, 2000 – **"Woman of Courage" Award** from **Cedars-Sinai Research for Women's Cancers and Saks Fifth**. The First Lady was honored for her commitment to eradicating women's cancers, including breast and ovarian.

August 2000 – **National Breast Cancer Coalition Honoree** at Democratic Convention Reception for her efforts to eradicate breast cancer.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WORKING TO ADDRESS THE SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS
OF GULF WAR VETERANS**

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has always believed that we have a special obligation to our nation's veterans, who have made great sacrifices to keep our country safe and to uphold our most cherished ideals. She has given particular attention to health care issues, focusing especially on the needs of Gulf War veterans.

OUTREACH

In the first two years of the Administration, the President and First Lady received many heart-wrenching letters and personal appeals from Gulf War veterans and their families. Thousands of brave men and women suffered from undiagnosed and unexplained illnesses after service in the Persian Gulf War. Many of these ill veterans were having difficulty receiving appropriate care and felt their country had forgotten them. In many cases, doctors could not determine the cause of the illnesses or even prescribe treatments; in some instances, children of Gulf War veterans were born with birth defects or other serious illnesses.

In response to the health concerns of Gulf War veterans and their families, the First Lady looked into the federal government's health programs and research activities in this area. She met with officials from the Department of Defense, the Veterans' Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services to determine if the federal government was doing all that it could to address the veterans' serious health needs and to facilitate further research into the causes of their illnesses. At the time, there was a strong public perception that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs were not responsive to the needs and concerns of Gulf War veterans. The First Lady met with representatives of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who shared their own frustrations and observations and told her of their attempts to bring more serious, national attention to these illnesses. She also visited with individual veterans, active-duty soldiers and their families, and consulted extensively with Members of Congress.

Accompanied by high-level government officials, including the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Pentagon officials, she visited Walter Reed Hospital and the Veterans Hospital in Washington, listening to veterans trying to describe what it was like to live day after day, year after year, not knowing why they were sick. She heard stories of hard-working men and women who could no longer keep steady jobs and support their families. One veteran officer, who had been diagnosed as 100 percent disabled, described the healthy and active life he had led before his tour in the Persian Gulf, and talked about his frustration in seeking effective treatment for his symptoms.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT

After many consultations, the First Lady in February 1995 presented a memorandum to the President describing the issue of Gulf War illnesses as “a complex and elusive problem, frustrating both to those who suffer from debilitating illnesses and to the government officials working to address their problems.” She described her discussions with officials at HHS, DOD, and VA regarding the Administration’s response to Gulf War illnesses, and detailed the concerns of veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses. She highlighted problems relating to the lack of effective treatment for these illnesses. She noted that as a result of legislation the President signed in 1994, Gulf war veterans with undiagnosed illnesses would, for the first time, be eligible for compensation and free medical care – important first steps. Because of the longstanding perception that the government was unresponsive to the veterans’ concerns – a problem that predated the Administration -- the First Lady also underscored the need for open, coordinated federal response to the needs of Gulf War veterans.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The First Lady’s key recommendation, which the President adopted, was the appointment of an independent, blue ribbon panel to investigate the issues raised by the undiagnosed illnesses and concerns about treatment veterans received. In March 1995, at a speech before the VFW Annual Washington Conference, the President announced the creation of a Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses, a fully independent expert panel of our nation’s best doctors, scientists, and Gulf War veterans, tasked to review and make recommendations on the federal government’s efforts related to Gulf War illnesses. The Committee was directed to make sure that the federal government was doing everything possible to provide effective medical care to those who are ill, to ensure the effective coordination of research and other efforts aimed at determining the causes of the undiagnosed illnesses, and to make information about these issues publicly available as soon as possible. The President also announced new research projects on anti-nerve gas drugs and pesticides, research into and medical evaluations of the possible transmission of illnesses to spouses and children, and new plans to release information about reports of detections of biological and chemical weapons.

The First Lady testified at the Committee’s first meeting, noting that the Committee was “an important example of the President’s commitment to leave no stone unturned in the Administration’s efforts to understand Gulf War veterans’ illnesses and to make sure that the government is responsive to veterans’ needs.” She told the Committee:

[N]o issue is off limits and every reasonable inquiry should be pursued There are many unanswered questions, and we are counting on you to make sure that this Administration is doing all it can to catalog relevant questions and, in so far as possible answer them Perhaps your most important tool as you serve on this Committee is your ability to be open-minded, to take advantage of our open-door policy to seek out the information you need to evaluate all existing programs and policies, and to make recommendations to ensure that this Administration will continue

to be responsive and responsible to our veterans. We owe them that much, and more.

The Committee delivered an interim report to the President in February 1996, which reviewed government activities in four of the areas within the Committee's mandate: outreach, clinical care, research, and chemical and biological weapons. The President directed federal agencies to develop an action plan to implement the Committee's recommendations to improve the government's approach to addressing the concerns of veterans who served during the Gulf War.

In January 1997, the President and First Lady received the Committee's final report, which included recommendations designed to ensure that Gulf War veterans receive the care and benefits they deserve, that we learn as much as we can about the possible causes of undiagnosed Gulf War illnesses, and that we act on the lessons learned to better safeguard our forces in future deployment. The Committee's recommendations resulted in three significant Administration initiatives: 1) the initiation of rulemaking to extend the eligibility period for compensation of Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses; 2) the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs developed an integrated Action Plan, to implement the Committee recommendations across the full range of issues relating to the health of Gulf War veterans; and 3) the initiation of a process to ensure that all agencies promote "Health Preparedness for and Readjustment of Veterans and Their Families After Future Deployment."

The President extended the life of the Committee for 10 additional months, to allow it to monitor the implementation of its recommendations, and amended its charter to encompass independent oversight over the Department of Defense investigative process. To restore public trust, in February 1998 the President appointed Warren Rudman as Chair of the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents. This board was created to provide independent oversight of Department of Defense Investigations into possible detections of, and exposures to, chemical or biological weapons agents, and environmental and other factors that may have contributed to Gulf War illnesses.

Before, during and after the Committee's work, the First Lady and her staff were actively involved in a White House interagency task force, working with the National Security Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Cabinet Affairs to ensure that the Committee's recommendations were implemented and to further address the needs of Gulf War veterans. Throughout the process, the First Lady continued to reach out to veterans, scientists, government officials and others, and remained a voice for veterans' concerns.

RESULTS

As a result of the efforts the First Lady spearheaded, critical attention has been focused on the previously-ignored concerns of Gulf War veterans, and the federal government has been more responsive to their health needs. To date, Gulf War veterans have been provided with 117,819 free medical exams. DOD and VA established toll-free help lines. 143,138 disability claims have been approved. HHS, DOD and VA have sponsored 192 research projects to identify possible causes of the undiagnosed illnesses, determine appropriate treatments, and develop ways to protect personnel on future deployments. The Persian Gulf War Veterans' Health

Registry now includes information about ill spouses and children, including information about birth defects, miscarriages, and stillbirths.

In addition, helping to reverse public distrust and increase accountability, DOD, with the CIA, launched a review of more than 6.4 million pages of Gulf War documents, de-classifying more than 46,000 pages of material and putting them on the Internet. Through this effort, important information concerning the possible exposure of our troops to chemical agents in the wake of our destruction of an arms depot in Khamisiyah in Southern Iraq was discovered. That new information demanded a new approach – focusing on what happened not only during but also after the war, and what it could mean for our troops. As a result, DOD restructured and intensified its efforts, increasing tenfold its investigative team, tracking down and talking to veterans who may have been exposed to chemical agents, and devoting millions of dollars to research on the possible effects of low-level chemical exposure.

As the focus of the government has shifted from investigating possible exposures to various risk factors to improved health care and compensation, the First Lady and her staff have continued working to ensure that research on health effects translates into improved health care for our veterans, that veterans are receiving the compensation they deserve, and that the lessons learned are implemented by our government.

HRC – Children and Media Accomplishments

Awards

International Broadcasting Award, Hollywood Radio and Television Society, April 26, 1994 – Given annually to individuals who “have contributed to the betterment of radio and television.” The IBA is HRTS’s highest honor and is presented annually.

Boards

Children’s Defense Fund, Chair of Board of Directors (1986-1991) and member (1976-92)
Wal-Mart Stores, Board of Directors (1986-92)
Children’s Television Workshop, Board of Directors (1989-92)

Work on Issue:

1994

- ***Children NOW, National Conference on Children and the News Media*** – Participated via satellite in this conference on how coverage of violence affects children. Expressed grave concern that American children are immersed in a culture of violence, media violence is excessive, we need to begin having the debate about what to do about it. (March 4)

1995

- ***Hosted White House East Room Event on Children’s Programming on Public Television*** – The First Lady hosted a roundtable discussion with children’s television experts on the importance of public television to children’s education. The event was organized by the Citizens Committee for Public Television, a group formed by PBS in response to Congressional threats to funding for public television. The First Lady followed this discussion with a speaking event in the First Lady’s garden with popular children’s television characters, including Big Bird. (June 26)
- ***Column on Importance of Public Television*** – Hillary wrote about the benefit of public television for children’s education development. (August 12-13)

1996

- ***Led V-Chip roundtable discussion with the President, Vice President and Families***
- ***Column Applauding Television Industry for Agreeing to Develop Rating System*** – Talked about the importance of information for parents on what their children are watching. Also, wrote that we need better programming in addition to rating system (February 29).
- ***Co-Hosted White House Conference on Children’s Television*** – President, Vice President, First Lady, and Mrs. Gore hosted this conference that brought together leaders of the

television networks with nation's pre-eminent children's programming developers to discuss availability of children's programming. The President announced support for the FCC the rule to require broadcasters to air a minimum of three hours of educational programming a week for children – support from the four major networks, the National Association of Broadcasters, and advocates for educational television.

- ***It Takes A Village*** – In her book, the First Lady dedicated an entire chapter to the issue of the influence of media on children where she:
 - praised Tipper for her 1987 book, "Raising PG Kids in an X Rated Society," where she stood up to say that some of the media our kids are exposed to is doing them harm
 - lauded Tipper and watchdog group, Parents Music Resource Center for being the leading forces behind the effort to get record companies to put warning labels on music with violent and sexually explicit lyrics
 - said it was time for the media and entertainment industry, as well as government, to address concerns about the effects of the media on children and society
 - stated that we should do more to refine the movie rating and look to Great Britain and Australia who have stricter codes for violent content
 - wrote about the years of studies showing that viewing violence increases violence and children who watch violence become desensitized to violence
 - "Bill and I restricted both the amount and the kind of television Chelsea watched as a child, and even now we check up for time to time on her TV and movie watching."
 - Called for tools for parents to "defend themselves and their children from the excessive influence of television."
 - said we Need TV V-Chip and rating system – but putting it to good use will be the hard part
 - called for parents to boldly turn the television, VCR, and video games off for a day or a week
 - applauded the Children's Television Act of 1990 that directs the FCC to review, as part of licensing procedures, whether stations air shows that "serve the educational and information needs of children"
 - called for the FCC to take action and accept the proposal to require each network to broadcast three-hours a week of children's educational television
 - praised cable channels dedicated to children's programming – Disney, Discovery, Nickelodeon, and A&E
 - recognized that many households can't afford cable and we need public television
 - praised the Children's Television Workshop, which was founded in 1968 to explore television's potential as an educational medium
 - talked about the fact that everyone has a role: educators/community leaders/church groups/others can join together to demand support for public television and better commercial programming; teachers and parents can work together to educate children on how television manipulates them and undermines values like compassion and kindness; journalists and news reporters can report balanced news about children and youth; commercial television execs could promise to "do no harm"

Great quote:

“Television, movies, video games, and music are here to stay and will continue to be influential in shaping opinions and behaviors in the years to come. As parents, we must be willing to reassert our authority over what enters our households. As creators and consumers of the media, and as citizens of the village, we must be willing to join with one another to press for improvements in what our children see and hear.”

1997

- ***Launched the “Taking Charge of Your TV” campaign as part of the Family and Community Critical Viewing Project*** – The First Lady launched this campaign with Rosie O’Donnell to help families make informed decisions about the programs they watch and how they watch them.

1999

- ***President and First Lady hold WH Event on Media and Youth Violence*** – The President and First Lady announced that the FTC and Justice Department would study the marketing of violence to children in the media and entertainment industry. In addition, they called for the entertainment industry distributors to enforce the ratings.
- ***Hillary Clinton calls for Voluntary Uniform Rating System*** – As part of her unofficial work, Mrs. Clinton called for the media and entertainment industry to voluntarily come together to develop a uniform rating system. This system would provide clarity to parents and be more easily enforced.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WORKING TO BRING THE TOOLS OF PROSPERITY TO ALL

Hillary Rodham Clinton has long believed that equipping people with the tools of opportunity, will enable them to gain a stake in the mainstream economy and develop the means to strengthen their families and build up their communities. One important way to unlock the potential of impoverished communities is by making available small loans – with microloans or microcredit – thereby extending access to capital and training to non-traditional, underserved borrowers, especially women, who lack the collateral for traditional small business loans. That is why for over 15 years, Mrs. Clinton has worked to develop community lending institutions and the innovative policies to support them in the U.S. and abroad. Microcredit is such a powerful concept because it is a pragmatic approach to poverty alleviation that gives its beneficiaries the tools to improve their lives by building their own microenterprises; or as Mrs. Clinton had said, a helping hand, as opposed to a handout.

Mrs. Clinton first heard about microcredit over 15 years ago when she and then Governor Clinton were looking for ways to create economic opportunity in the poorest sections of what was then one of the poorer states in the U.S. Mrs. Clinton had heard about the groundbreaking work of both the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and the Shore Bank in Chicago, and reached out to representatives of both to learn about the impressive impacts small loans could make on communities. As she learned about microcredit, she envisioned it as a way of developing the economy from the “inside-out” rather than looking to the outside to make investments in poor regions.

In 1986, Mohammed Yunus, an economist who received his Ph.D. in the United States and later founded the Grameen Bank, met with the Clintons to offer advice on how such loan funds operate. By 1988, Mrs. Clinton helped create, and served on the board of, the Southern Development Corporation and its non-profit affiliate, the Arkansas Enterprise Group (AEG). AEG developed the Good Faith Fund – one of the first rural microenterprise funds in the United States. Modeled after the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, the Good Faith Fund provides small loans, training and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs in rural communities in Arkansas. Several U.S. foundations have partnered with the Good Faith Fund. Mrs. Clinton was one of the first and only policy makers in the United States who recognized the powerful impact microcredit – a concept that was working in third world countries – could have on improving domestic economic development and alleviating poverty in this country.

Mrs. Clinton’s successful implementation of a microenterprise fund in Arkansas inspired one of the key platforms of the 1992 Clinton campaign – to establish a nationwide network of small community development banks. In 1994, the President proposed and signed into law the Community Development Financial Institutions fund (CDFI fund), which, through grants, loans, and equity investments, is helping to create a network of community development institutions in distressed areas across the United States

Microcredit became a major element of the Administration's community empowerment and development agenda, and served as a catalyst for the Administration's subsequent domestic and international microcredit initiatives including the Administration's New Markets Initiative. In addition to her work behind the scenes to promote the microcredit agenda within the White House, Mrs. Clinton also visited a number of microcredit programs throughout the country and made several public announcements of the Administration's microcredit agenda, including the unveiling of the Administration's microcredit legislation on Capitol Hill.

As a lead Administration proponent for domestic microcredit programs, Mrs. Clinton additionally sought to promote the concept of microcredit throughout the world. In her travels to impoverished communities in South and Central America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and newly independent states in Eastern Europe, Russia and central Asia, Mrs. Clinton met with small lending groups and their beneficiaries, as well as government officials to promote the efficacy of microloans, announce grants to many of these programs, and to encourage the governments of these countries to develop an infrastructure that would support these programs.

INTERNATIONAL MICROCREDIT

Mrs. Clinton has long recognized and promoted microcredit as an effective means towards empowering women. This is especially true in developing nations where women have not traditionally enjoyed the same rights as men, or worse, have been doubly oppressed by a political system that does not support them, and an economy that does not enable them to support themselves. Microcredit gives women world-over the tools they need to be self sufficient, self respecting and able to build futures for themselves and their families. Throughout her travels, Mrs. Clinton made an effort to meet with women who had benefited from microcredit programs in their countries and to then to bring their stories and concerns to the international stage as well as to government officials. Whether in small, undeveloped villages in developing nations, or at renown venues including the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Mrs. Clinton always impressed upon her listeners that the economic well-being of women in developing nations was an essential priority to ensuring the social and economic health of emerging democracies.

Mrs. Clinton repeatedly met with women microentrepreneurs and loan agents worldwide, heard their stories, and then shared those stories with others. Some highlights include the following:

- In March 1995, Mrs. Clinton visited the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India and the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh to highlight these important microcredit programs enabling poor women to become self-sufficient. In India she met women who had gained a stake in their economies, as well as political force in their communities, because microcredit programs had given them the economic means to band together and have an impact. In Bangladesh, she only had time in her schedule to visit one site, a Hindu women's bank, however, Muslim women also

wanted to have the opportunity to meet with her. Rather than remain divided because of their historic cultural animosity, the Muslim women joined the Hindu women for the session, and each woman there learned that despite their cultural differences, they shared much in common in their quest to improve the lives of their families and communities.

- In September 1995, Mrs. Clinton spoke in Beijing, China, at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) panel discussion on "Women's Economic Empowerment."
- In October 1995, Mrs. Clinton visited a FINCA bank, "Mothers United," in Nicaragua (which was subsequently re-named "Mothers United *with Hillary*"), and an Accion microenterprise project, "PenaSol," in Santiago, Chile. Both projects serve very poor women and have been successful in providing economic opportunity. The women she met in Nicaragua told her that they had seen pictures of her microcredit events in India, and asked her for tips they could learn from the Indian women. In Chile, she met a seamstress who told her that the small loan she received enabled her to buy a sewing machine, and that she felt like a caged bird set free.
- In December 1996, Mrs. Clinton visited BancoSol in La Paz, Bolivia -- Bolivia's largest commercial bank and the world's only commercial bank dedicated solely to micro lending. (The BancoSol borrowing group that Mrs. Clinton met with re-named itself the "Hillary" group in honor of her.)
- In March 1997, Mrs. Clinton met with borrowers from the Zambuko Trust Microfinance Program, a microenterprise institution supporting 4,000 Zimbabwean businesses -- 75% of them owned by women. There she announced a USAID grant to the Zambuko Trust. Also in March 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited a FINCA microenterprise borrowing group outside Kampala, Uganda.
- In May 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited with indigenous and peasant women involved in various microenterprises in Mexico, who displayed their products and discussed their work. Mrs. Clinton also participated in a roundtable in Costa Rica with microcredit entrepreneurs and Mrs. Figueres, the First Lady of Costa Rica. Eight microentrepreneurs from throughout Costa Rica spoke with the First Lady and displayed their merchandise. Mrs. Clinton spoke to the Regional Consultative Forum on Microenterprise Development in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Forum brought together 70 entrepreneurs from Central America to exchange ideas, share best practices, and ask for support from the region's political leadership. Mrs. Clinton participated in the Caribbean Regional Microenterprise Forum in Bridgetown, Barbados. The event was sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Caribbean Development Bank. Mrs. Clinton announced \$500,000 in assistance for microenterprise assistance to the four Windward Islands of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Dominica.
- February 2, 1998 Mrs. Clinton made remarks at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where she discussed the need for corporate responsibility and her support for microcredit as a development tool.
- In March 1998, Mrs. Clinton and the President traveled to a FINCA program in Uganda with Yoweri Museveni, the President of Uganda. Mr. Museveni noted that he had not even heard of the program in his own country until Mrs. Clinton drew his attention to it.

- In October 1998, Mrs. Clinton attended the Central and Eastern Europe Regional Forum on Women in the 21st Century in Sofia, Bulgaria, where she encouraged the cultivation of women as business leaders.
- In December 1998, Mrs. Clinton announced USAID grant recipients at the Women's Empowerment Center in Beach Camp, Gaza. In March 1999, Mrs. Clinton toured the Enda Inter-Arabe Urban Development Center in Tunisia. In November 1999, Mrs. Clinton and Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan presented the first annual Jordan Microenterprise Awards in Amman, Jordan.

DOMESTIC MICROCREDIT

At the fourth United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, where Mrs. Clinton delivered a groundbreaking address on the rights of women worldwide and held a summit on microcredit, the First Lady highlighted the international and domestic community development commitments the United States was undertaking. Mrs. Clinton announced that through the CDFI Fund, the Administration would establish a new Presidential awards program to honor outstanding microlending organizations. These awards provide challenging benchmarks for microenterprise programs throughout the nation, they raise public awareness of the importance of such programs, and enable many in the private financial marketplace to see markets in places they never looked for them.

Mrs. Clinton also promoted microcredit as a means of lifting people out of the welfare system and giving them an opportunity to contribute to the economy. In her remarks at the first Presidential Awards Ceremony, Mrs. Clinton talked about the importance of microcredit: "These micro-lending networks and the small businesses they create can be important tools in our efforts to move Americans off welfare and to give working but poor Americans more of a chance to realize their own potential. The loans represent not only an infusion of cash into a business but also an infusion of confidence in a recipient's ability to succeed. Whether it is a beauty salon in Albuquerque or a child care center in San Diego or a small restaurant right here in the District of Columbia, small neighborhood businesses created with micro-loans can bring much-needed jobs, goods, services, and opportunities to low-income areas." [1/30/97]

The Administration has demonstrated a solid record of creating new initiatives and expanding existing initiatives to promote community and economic development by working with the private sector, states, and localities to help revitalize America's communities by bringing capital, jobs, and opportunity to distressed areas and cleaning up the urban environment. Mrs. Clinton and her staff have been particularly involved in the development of the domestic microcredit agenda which includes: developing and announcing the microenterprise awards; introducing the PRIME Act, under which the CDFI Fund will provide microenterprise technical assistance through competitive grants to microenterprise development organizations that focus on low-income entrepreneurs; a doubling of support for technical assistance in SBA's Microloan Program and a doubling of support for SBA lending to leverage new microlending; and new funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and for SBA's One-Stop Capital Shops.

The First Lady and her staff were deeply involved in the development of the Administration's domestic microcredit policies and Mrs. Clinton made several public announcements of the Administration's proposal in this area. In May 1996, Mrs. Clinton and Secretary Rubin announced the details of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development via video to the Association for Enterprise Opportunity Conference in Rhode Island. In January 1997, Mrs. Clinton, Secretary Rubin and USAID Administrator Brian Atwood held a press conference on the microenterprise awards, which was followed by a ceremony in which the President, First Lady and Secretary Rubin presided over the Inaugural Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development at the White House. In July 1997, Mrs. Clinton made remarks at the launching of a new Microenterprise Development Initiative on Capitol Hill and in June 1998 Mrs. Clinton joined Senators Kennedy and Domenici on Capitol Hill to announce the PRIME Act of 1998. The "Program for Investment in Micro-Entrepreneurs Act" provides grants to organizations that aid microentrepreneurs. In February 1999, Mrs. Clinton and the President presented the 1998 Microenterprise Awards at the White House.

Mrs. Clinton visited a variety of microcredit lending institutions throughout the United States. In July 1995, Mrs. Clinton visited Mi Casa, a program in Denver, Colorado, promoting microenterprise development, which has received support from the Small Business Administration. She also spoke to the Women's Foundation of Colorado Conference on microenterprise as a tool of opportunity. In December 1996, the First Lady addressed the Community First Bank in Washington, D.C. where she applauded the efforts of HUD, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, and the Bank for all their efforts for community empowerment. In February 1997, Mrs. Clinton visited a Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) borrowing group in Washington, D.C.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE QUALITY CHILD CARE

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton knows the importance of providing access to affordable, quality child care to working families from her 30 years of work on behalf of America's children and families and from her own experience as a working mother. The First Lady's dedication and hard-work to improve child care has meant that funding for child care has more than doubled in the past seven years, hundreds of thousands of children have been able to participate in enriching and safe after-school opportunities, and businesses better understand that child care makes good economic sense. Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, one of the Senate's greatest advocates for children, summed up Hillary Rodham Clinton's support for children by saying that when he wants help to improve programs for children, "I don't call the President, I don't call the Office of Management and Budget, I don't call the chief of staff, I call the First Lady." Mrs. Clinton is the Administration's most prominent advocate for children and working parents.

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The First Lady began her work on children's issues during her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved in to the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. After finishing law school, Mrs. Clinton spent an additional year at Yale studying children's development and laws that affect children at the Yale Child Development Center. Her experience in these early years would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children and family issues, including the importance of quality child care both to working families and for the healthy development of children.

While she was First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Children's Defense Fund, served on the Board of Directors for the Child Care Action Campaign in New York, and worked closely with the Carnegie Council on Children. Through each of these efforts she worked to raise awareness about the growing need for quality child care in the country as the percentage of women in the workforce continued to climb. She also played a leadership role in Arkansas on behalf of children, founding Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, serving as president of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund Program, and bringing to Arkansas the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters.

These professional experiences in the early part of her career were critical to her later child care accomplishments as First Lady, but no lesson taught her more about child care than being a working mother. While Mrs. Clinton was fortunate to have better options than most mothers did, she still worried about the care Chelsea was receiving as a young child. She was a working mother juggling her law career, help with her husband's career and a young child and, like all families, her child care arrangements occasionally broke down. At those times, she relied on friends and neighbors, but was always struck by the difficulties so many women face in finding reliable care for their children.

In 1989, while serving as the Board Chair for the Children's Defense Fund, Mrs. Clinton traveled to France as part of a study group to learn more about the French child care system and draw possible lessons for improvement of the American child care system. The trip demonstrated to the study group the high-priority France places on preparing children for school and life by ensuring that all French children between 3-5 years old can attend free or inexpensive pre-schools and by ensuring that early childhood educators are well-prepared to help children develop critical social and cognitive skills. This trip highlighted for Mrs. Clinton the importance of improving the access, affordability and quality of the American child care system.

When Hillary became First Lady, her work as an advocate for child care intensified. In the first budget presented by President Clinton, Mrs. Clinton pushed for a greater investment in pre-school with an increase in Head Start. She also recognized that much more needed to be done to fund and improve child care for working families.

In 1994, the First Lady helped to promote the Department of Labor's "Working Women Count" survey. This survey of 250,000 working women of all backgrounds highlighted the critical concerns that working women wanted policy makers to address. At a White House event, the First Lady was joined by the Vice President to present the results. They found that working women struggled most with integrating their work and family lives and with finding and paying for decent child care. Woman after woman gave testimonial to the difficulty of finding good, affordable care for their children where the women would feel comfortable and confident that their children were safe and nurtured while they were at work.

The year of 1994 also brought the Carnegie Council on Children together to release their seminal report on the needs of young children, "Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children." Mrs. Clinton had supported Carnegie's initial work on this report when they established a task force on the needs of young children in 1991 and in 1994 she joined the Carnegie Council to release the report. The report was very clear on the issue of child care - America's working parents needed better access to quality child care.

Throughout 1995, Mrs. Clinton traveled the country learning about the struggles working families face in providing quality child care for their children. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she heard from a group of low-income women who were struggling to move from welfare to work and were benefiting from federally-supported, subsidized child care. They urged her to listen to them and take back the message to Washington that families needed help with child care in order to move successfully transition to independence in the workforce. This visit became one of many where Mrs. Clinton learned of the critical support that child care provides as families move from welfare into the workforce. In March of 1995, the First Lady addressed the Child Welfare League of America where she urged Congress to provide families moving from welfare to work with the safety net of job training, job placements, Medicaid benefits, Food Stamps, and child care. She clearly recognized that families needed support in order to meet success in the work force and Hillary became one of the Administration's strongest advocates speaking publicly and working behind the scenes to ensure that child care was included in the welfare reform proposal. In August of 1996, the President signed the welfare reform bill into law, which included child care guarantees for families moving from welfare to work.

In 1996, Mrs. Clinton spent time writing her book, *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, where she wrote extensively about her experiences working on behalf of children and families, current research about children's development, and quality programs that help children grow into responsible and resourceful adults. Each year, Mrs. Clinton donates all proceeds from her book to organizations that work directly to support the growth and development of children and youth. In 1996, she also spent time helping to re-elect her husband and raising awareness of what he had accomplished for children and what more he could do. From Denver to Pittsburgh to Kansas City, Mrs. Clinton met with families, children, and youth to hear about what they wanted done in the second-term of the Clinton Administration and, resoundingly, they said more on child care.

In 1997, Mrs. Clinton took these messages to heart and began planning for the first-ever White House Conference on Child Care. Leading up to the conference, Mrs. Clinton and her domestic policy staff extensively researched what needed to be improved in child care and hosted numerous meetings with child care experts and key constituents on what could be done to improve child care. She also traveled around the country learning about the work of different sectors in the area of child care. In Miami, Florida, she held a child care roundtable with business leaders to discuss corporate responsibility for child care. She visited the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, where she learned about the tremendous strides the military had made to reform and improve their child care system. At the University of Maryland, she gave a major address on child care stressing the importance of quality care for the intellectual and emotional development of children, the inadequate child care system, and the changing nature of the workforce that was leading to a greater demand for child care. During the speech, she also announced that Department of Health and Human Services was awarding a half-million dollar grant to assist States in develop private-public partners for child care and she announced that the Department of Defense would be providing guidance to the private sector on improving child care based on their success.

In October, the President and First Lady hosted the White House Conference on Child Care. Mrs. Clinton's work had focused attention on three goals for the conference: (1) call national attention to the issue of child care, an issue often ignored by political leaders and policy makers; (2) begin to develop a child care initiative for the next budget; and (3) urge the public and private sector to address the significant challenge of ensuring working families have access to safe, affordable child care. At the conference, the President and Mrs. Clinton announced several steps: the President would appoint a child care working group to report to Secretary Rubin on the role that businesses should play in providing child care; the Administration would begin an outreach effort to child care workers to urge them to take advantage of existing education loans and federal benefits in order to improve their education and training; the President transmitted to Congress the "National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact," which would enable states to share criminal history information for limited purposes, including background checks on child care workers; and, they released a "how to" manual describing how to integrate community-service and school-age after school care.

The main goal of the conference was clearly met – the nation was paying attention to the issue of child care. In the 1998 State of the Union and budget, the Administration, under the leadership of Mrs. Clinton, rolled out a major child care initiative. On January 7, the President and the First

Lady were joined by the Vice President and Mrs. Gore in the East Room of the White House to announce this initiative. The initiative includes several major pieces that would: increase the investment in the budget to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than 2 million by the year 2003; provide after-school opportunities for up to half a million children per year by expanding the 21st Century Community program by \$800 million over 5 years; improve the coordination of existing Federal after-school efforts so that communities could access existing resources; invest more in research on child care; establish a national hotline so that parents could call to get information about how to find child care in their communities; increase the investment in Head Start to reach one million children by 2002; improve tax breaks for investments in child care; and improve the quality of child care by establishing an Early Learning Fund.

After the 1998 State of the Union, Mrs. Clinton worked hard to promote this initiative. With Lifetime television, she kicked-off public service announcements on the importance of the child care initiative. She visited and engaged quality child care organizations from the YMCA to Zero to Three. She held panel discussions on child care with working families in Hartford, Connecticut; Chicago; and, Milwaukee. During this time, Mrs. Clinton's domestic policy staff worked with staff members on Capitol Hill to garner support for the Administration's Child Care initiative. They held weekly calls and frequent strategy sessions, regularly reporting to Mrs. Clinton and receiving guidance on next steps.

In June 1998, the President and Mrs. Clinton hosted an event in the Rose Garden to applaud the House Democratic Caucus on Child Care, where the House Democrats unveiled their child care legislation which incorporated much of the Administration's proposals. At this event, Mrs. Clinton reflected on her travels and her work on behalf of child care, "As I have traveled around the country, I have spoken with hundreds – if not thousands – of parents. And, everywhere I go, finding safe, affordable and available child care is a concern that is universally shared."

In the Fall of 1998, Mrs. Clinton went on the road again to campaign for Democratic candidates who would work on a children's agenda if elected. In Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Clinton told a crowd at Portland State University that she hoped candidate for Congress, David Wu, would be elected to continue his work on behalf of better child care for working parents. Congressman Wu is now doing just that in the Congress. She traveled to California to support Proposition 10, California's Children and Families Act, that would add a 50 cent tax to cigarette purchases for the purpose of funding health, education, and nutrition programs to support the early development of young children. That Fall, California voters passed Proposition 10 and these funds are now providing nearly \$700 million annual to improve early childhood development.

In early 1999, Mrs. Clinton joined the President and the Gores on a "Family Agenda" tour where she spoke on the issues of balancing family and work, improving child care, and improving support for long-term care givers. This tour brought her to Buffalo, New York; Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Brooklyn, New York. Later that spring, Mrs. Clinton visited "Just Us Kids" child care center in DC where she announced a study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on how to identify and correct hidden hazards that exist in child care centers. She also launched Lifetime's "Caring for Kids" child care campaign. Both of these efforts were aimed at empowering parents with vital information on child care.

This hard work paid off. Today, many of the goals of the child care initiative have been met and exceeded. This year, Congress is expected to approve the President's request for \$2 billion in child care subsidies to served 2.2 million children in 2001 combined with child care funds in welfare reform; funding for Head Start has nearly doubled since the start of the Administration and is well on its way to meeting the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002; the after-school program has already served 850,000 children and with the President's budget request of \$1 billion could serve over 2 million children next year; the White House led an interagency task force to better coordinate afterschool resources and created afterschool.gov as an information resource for communities on after-school funds and best practices; last year's budget included \$10 million for research on child care; the Department of Health and Human Services has established a national hotline for parents on child care information; and, the 1998 crime bill passed by Congress improved systems to conduct background checks on child care workers.

The First Lady has not stopped her work on child care, however. She continues to write columns and speak out on the effort. This year, she held a conference call with child care advocates at the beginning of the year to discuss what more we need to get done. She is still fighting for the expansion of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, as well as a tax break for businesses that offer child care. Mrs. Clinton also continues to work hard with Members of Congress to promote the Early Learning Fund in order to improve the quality of child care. This year, a bipartisan group of senators – Senators Stevens, Kennedy and Jeffords – re-introduced the “Early Learning Opportunities Act” based on the Administration's proposal to improve the quality of child care. This legislation is currently pending in the Senate.

Just recently, Mrs. Clinton was joined at the White House by members of the law enforcement community, as well as Senator Dodd and Congressman Cardin to release a study entitled, “America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Strategy.” This study, developed by Fight Crime/Invest in Kids, casts the importance of investing in child care as a crime prevention strategy. At this event, Mrs. Clinton highlighted the findings of the study and called for Congress to act on the child care budget, as well as pass the Early Learning Fund quality child care initiative and tax breaks to support child care.