

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY
PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RECORD ON ABORTION

The President has always believed that decisions about abortion should be between a woman, her doctor and her faith, and that abortions--as protected by the decision in Roe v. Wade--should be safe and rare. That is why he has consistently protected women's health and safety and the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, while he has worked to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies. That is also why he has long opposed late-term abortions except when necessary to protect the life or health of the mother, consistent with Roe v. Wade.

KEEPING ABORTION SAFE AND LEGAL

As President:

Ended the Gag Rule: The Bush Administration instituted a "Gag Rule" that prevented women using federally funded clinics--primarily poor women--from getting the information they needed to make informed choices about unwanted or health-threatening pregnancies. President Clinton reversed the "Gag Rule" in his first week in office.

Ensuring Clinic Safety: Since 1992, five people have been murdered and seven others have been shot and wounded at family planning clinics where abortions are performed. President Clinton signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to fight violence and intimidation by anti-choice extremists against women and their doctors, which is now being implemented by the Department of Justice.

Assured Access for Military Families Overseas: President Clinton reversed the Bush Administration ban on privately funded abortions at military medical facilities overseas for women in the military and in military families. *The ban has since been reinstated by the Republican Congress in the Fiscal Year 1996 Department of Defense Appropriations and Authorizations Bills despite strong opposition from the President.*

Repealed the "Mexico City Policy": President Clinton reversed 12 years of attacks on reproductive choice for women around the world when he repealed the "Mexico City" policy that banned distribution of family planning funding for overseas organizations if they perform abortions or speak out about reproductive choice, even with private money.

Established Services for Victims of Rape or Incest: President Clinton supported permitting Medicaid coverage for abortion services for poor women who are the victims of rape or incest, in addition to those whose life is endangered. These services had been banned during the Reagan and Bush Administrations by the "Hyde Amendment" to the appropriations bill that funds Medicaid. *The proposed 1996 Republican House Appropriations Bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, allow states to deny Medicaid funding for victims of rape and incest.*

Ended the Ban on Fetal Tissue Research: The Bush Administration banned federal funding of fetal tissue transplantation research. President Clinton reversed the ban on this research, which could lead to advances in women's health and in treatment of diseases like leukemia and Parkinson's.

Ended the Mifepristone Import Ban for Testing: President Bush imposed an import ban on Mifepristone, a drug that terminates pregnancy without surgery. President Clinton instructed the Department of Health and Human Services to explore appropriateness of promoting testing in the U.S. As a result, importation of the drug was allowed for clinical testing. The nonprofit Population Council has recently completed clinical trials, and submitted an application to the Food and Drug Administration to sell the drug for personal use by women in the United States. If approved, Mifepristone would expand choices for American women--giving them options already available in France, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

Appointed Two Supreme Court Justices who support the constitutional right to privacy

Fought for Women's Health: President Clinton vetoed legislation passed by the Republican Congress that would prohibit doctors from performing a certain abortion procedure. He vetoed the bill because it failed to contain an exception allowing women to use this procedure when necessary to protect their health from serious injury, as the Constitution and sound public policy require. The President also made clear to Congress that he would support legislation that included an exception for cases where selection of the procedure is necessary to avoid serious health consequences.

MAKING ABORTION RARE

Preventing Teenage Pregnancy: The President has urged young people not to become parents before they are adults, have finished school and are ready to support their children. At the same time, he has fought hard for policies that give them the tools they need to build responsible and productive lives by providing them with positive alternatives to early sexual behavior and parenting. The Clinton Administration strategy for reducing teenage pregnancy is driven by two goals: instilling a sense of personal responsibility in young people, and providing them with increased opportunities by investing in their education, their health, their families and communities. We have supported policies and local programs consistent with these goals.

Recognizing that the government cannot solve this problem alone, the President has called upon leaders in the private sector to join together to take action in their own communities. The Administration has worked to support community-wide collaborations that teach responsibility and promote opportunity by providing information about what approaches work and grant funding for promising programs. In an effort to help local communities further develop effective prevention strategies, HHS plans to launch a \$30 million collaborative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative in FY 1997. Demonstration grants to combat teen pregnancy will be made available to selected cities with disturbingly high teen pregnancy rates. Funds will be targeted to communities that have demonstrated a commitment to community problem solving in order to initiate efforts to reach at-risk teens.

President Clinton's challenge to the private sector to address the high rates of teen pregnancy has also prompted formation of a National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. This effort aims to marshal the resources across the country to effectively reduce teen pregnancy rates by 1/3 in ten years.

Funding Family Planning: To help prevent unwanted pregnancies, the President has requested budget increases for the federal Family Planning Program for each year he has been in office. Among other reproductive health and education services, this program makes family planning information and contraception available to millions of women who might not otherwise get reproductive health care.

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Facilitating Adoption: The Administration is working to encourage adoption and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multiethnic Placement Act, which removes barriers to adoption based on race or ethnic origin. The President has also stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and SSI -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children. During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by about 30%.

Signed Family and Medical Leave Act: President Clinton signed the Family Medical Leave Act into law, allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an infant or ailing loved one without losing their jobs. American workers are no longer forced to choose between their jobs and their families in times of crisis.

Welfare Reform: President Clinton has fought hard for welfare reform that promotes work and responsible parenting, but that does not force states to cut people off welfare just because they're poor, young, and unmarried. Instead of punishing young mothers by simply cutting them off welfare -- a policy that the Catholic Church and others believe might lead to more abortions -- we should require minor mothers to live at home, stay at school, and turn their lives around.

As Governor

Late-Term Abortions: Signed a law prohibiting abortions after the 25th week of pregnancy, except for minors impregnated by rape or incest, or when the woman's life or health are endangered.

Parental Notification: Signed a parental notification law which requires minors to notify their parents with whom they are living unless they go through a judicial bypass provision and have a reason why they should not.