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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Nicole Rabner et al. to Hillary Rodham Clinton re: Issues Update [partial, page 3 in full] (2 pages)	04/18/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Ann O'Leary
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FOLDER TITLE:
Issues Updates

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: NICOLE RABNER
ANN O'LEARY
RUBY SHAMIR

CC: MELANNE VERVEER
SHIRLEY SAGAWA
PATTI SOLIS DOYLE
MARSHA BERRY

SUBJECT: ISSUES UPDATE

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with brief updates on a variety of issues. Attached please find a compilation of strategy memos from the policy councils to the President, which include the Presidents comments.

Bankruptcy. Next week, Senator Lott is expected to take up the bankruptcy reform bill. As you know, the Senate bill, S. 625, is an improvement over the House-passed bill (which the Administration said his senior advisors would recommend he veto), but not enormously so. We have been working closely with Senate Democrats (principally Senators Schumer, Kennedy, Feingold, Durbin, Leahy, and Dodd) to devise an amendment strategy for the Senate floor. Currently, the Democrats have about 50 amendments to offer – many of which represent the Administration's specific proposals to improve the bill – and no time agreement has yet been struck. Amendments which are likely to pass include a deal on curbing coercive reaffirmations, some (fairly insignificant) new credit card disclosure requirements, a cap to the homestead exemption, and some, limited improvement to the means test formula. The challenge will be for these improvements to survive conference (last year, as you'll recall, the final conference report stripped all balancing provisions gained by Senate Democrats). Unfortunately, the numbers don't look good – by the latest whip count, 80 plus Senators (and as many as 90) plan to support the underlying bill. Currently, the President's senior advisors are waiting to watch the bill's progress on the floor early next week before signaling our position. Many foresee passage with a veto-sustaining margin, and hope that the marginal improvements will allow him to sign the bill, while stating his reservations. (For additional information, see page 14 of the NEC report, which is tagged.)

Importantly, many Senators see the bankruptcy bill as the only remaining vehicle for legislative action, and Senate Democrats are considering offering a host of non-germane amendments such as minimum wage, guns, Patients Bill of Rights, etc. Senator Kennedy's minimum wage proposal will certainly be offered and debated – reports suggest that a deal may be in the works to allow it to be attached to the bankruptcy bill.

Crime. Yesterday, at a meeting with Mayors and Police Chiefs from around the country, the President urged Congress to pass common sense gun legislation. The President also unveiled new reports and initiatives aimed at keeping guns out of the wrong hands and reducing gun violence.

The President released a report by the FBI and the ATF showing that in its first seven months of operation the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has conducted over 4.7 million background checks and blocked an estimated 100,000 prohibited guns sales, bringing the number of gun sales blocked to felons, fugitives and other prohibited persons to over 400,000 since the Brady Law took effect in 1994. The report showed that the vast majority of NICS checks are completed very quickly -- 75 percent within 30 seconds and 95 percent within two hours. It also indicated that of the sales denied by the FBI, 76 percent were based on a felony conviction, and 11 percent for domestic violence misdemeanors or retraining orders. Finally, the report showed that if the FBI had only 24 hours to complete background checks, instead of three business days under current law, 20,000 prohibited purchasers – over 41 percent of FBI denials – would have received guns.

In addition to the report, the President announced a $15 million HUD initiative to help public housing authorities partner with local law enforcement departments to establish gun buyback programs – removing up to 300,000 guns from circulation by the end of the year. Additionally, the President released $146 million in COPS grants to fund nearly 1600 new officers. $61 million will be provided to 151 state and local law enforcement agencies to hire over 850 new officers for our streets; and $85 million will be awarded to 319 state and local police departments to put over 750 police officers in schools. Please see attached for a listing of the local grantees for the COPS grants.

Education. ESEA: The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is progressing slowly. In May the President transmitted his proposal to Congress – the Educational Excellence Act for All Children of 1999. As you know, the main focus of the Administration bill is: a firm commitment to high standards in every classroom; the improvement of teacher and principal quality; strengthened flexibility coupled with accountability; and a guarantee of safe, healthy, disciplined, and drug-free learning environments for all children.

The House leadership has chosen to break apart the ESEA by considering and voting on the proposal one Title at a time instead of offering an alternative comprehensive package or considering the Administration's omnibus bill. The House first took up the issue of Teacher Quality through HR 1995, Title II of ESEA – the Teacher Empowerment Act. This bill would consolidate Title II, Class-Size Reduction, and Goals 2000 into one program. It would provide formula funding to States and school districts and require the funds to be used for both professional development and class-size reduction. The professional development aspect of the bill includes similar language to the Administration's proposal – calling for on-going intensive on-site professional development for teachers. The Class-Size reduction provision, however, does not include a dedicated funding stream for class-size reduction nor does it include a focus on reducing class-sizes in the early grades. It would not allow the President to meet his goal of hiring 100,000 teachers to reduce class-sizes in grades 1-3. The House passed HR 1995 in July and the President has threatened to veto the bill if it comes to his desk. The Senate has introduced this bill, but is not expected to vote on it.

The House is currently considering Title I – Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards – and is expected to mark-up Title I at the full-committee level on September 23rd. A bipartisan working group is using the Administration's proposal as a base and drafting an alternative proposal. Possible hot button issues include: Republicans would like to dilute the targeted funding to our highest poverty areas; neither side has come to an agreement on how to ensure that failing schools receive the additional resources needed to improve; and, the issue of increasing the training and education of paraprofessionals and ensuring that they are placed in appropriate roles has not been resolved. Democrats and Republicans agree with the Administration that that students should be taught by highly qualified individuals and that paraprofessionals should have additional requirements for education and training, but Democrats are very concerned that these requirements will result in massive job displacement.

The Senate is expected to take up the entire ESEA package as one bill. Currently, Senator Jeffords is drafting a bill, but it is not expected to be completed until the end of the month at the earliest. In the meantime, Jeffords continues to hold hearings on issues throughout ESEA.

In both the House and the Senate, the Administration expects to have difficulty passing the President's Educational Accountability Act. The Republicans continue to claim that the provisions amount to Federal intrusion and heavy handedness, while some Democrats are concerned that there are not enough supports and resources in place to effectively implement the provisions.

Recent Research on School Finance, including call for Voucher Experiment: On September 10, the National Research Council released a study on school finance, "Making Money Matter: Financing America's Schools" arguing that money can and should be used more effectively to make a difference in improving U.S. Schools. The study outlined three goals as a framework under which to improve school finance: promoting high-achievement for all students in a cost-effective way; reducing the nexus between student achievement and family background characteristics; and, raising revenue fairly and efficiently.

The report supports many of the same types of investments that the Administration has proposed: investing in professional development of teachers throughout their careers; promoting comprehensive educational reforms; reducing class-sizes; and modernizing school buildings.

It also, however, calls for a ten-year large-scale voucher experiment to determine if vouchers can successfully empower schools and parents to make better decisions about public funds and improve student achievement in a cost-efficient way.

U.S. News & World Report and *Education Week* are expected to pick-up this report and cover the voucher angle. Secretary Riley is prepared to respond by lauding the recommended investments and stating that we do not have ten-years to wait to find out what we already know from small-scale experiments that vouchers are not a magic-bullet solution to comprehensively fixing our failing schools.

District of Columbia: The DC College Access bill, HR 974, passed the House by voice vote in May and is now being considered in the Senate. The Senate Committee on Government Affairs reported it out of Committee on September 9, 1999. The Administration is currently working with a bipartisan group (including leadership from Senators Voinovich and Durbin with Representatives Norton and Davis) to develop a compromise bill that could be passed by unanimous consent in both the House and Senate. Currently, $17 million is included in the President's FY 2000 budget to support DC College Access. H.R. 974 would: (1) allow the Federal Government to pay the difference between in-State and out-of-State tuition at public colleges and universities in Maryland and Virginia (or in other States under certain circumstances) on behalf of qualified D.C. residents; (2) provide grants to D.C. residents who choose to attend private colleges and universities in the Washington, D.C. area; and (3) authorize financial support to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The Administration supports the bill, but is concerned about provisions in the bill that would phase-in eligibility over time. The Administration is concerned that this phase-in would postpone the true cost of the program, thereby encouraging the D.C. Mayor to expand the program in its early years (by awarding grants for attendance at institutions in States other than Maryland and Virginia), which may result in serious funding constraints and dashed student expectations in future years. The phase-in could also skew initial program evaluations and understate operational requirements.

National Campaign Against Youth Violence. In this week's radio address (for broadcast, Saturday, September 11), the President highlighted the prevention of youth violence by announcing grants to local communities. The President announced the award of $180 million in Safe Schools/Healthy Students grants to 54 communities. These grants are the result of a joint effort between the Departments of Justice, Education, and HHS to promote coordinated policies and programs at the local level between schools and community, health, and law enforcement agencies. Funds can be used for three purposes: to hire law enforcement personnel to provide security in schools; for early intervention and prevention programs designed to make schools and students safer and free of drugs; and for mental health services and early childhood development programs.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1999, Senator Specter is holding a hearing on youth violence. Secretary Shalala, Secretary Riley, Secretary Herman, and Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder will all testify at the hearing. Their testimonies will focus on the work of their respective agencies on preventing youth violence.

New Markets. All three components of the New Markets Initiative that require legislation have Democratic sponsors. For the most part the bills reflect the Administration proposal, with a few modifications. The New Markets Tax Credit, a tax credit worth 25 percent for investments in a wide range of vehicles to help spur $6 billion in equity capital for investment in New Markets (likely to be folded into our tax bill), is being sponsored by Rep. Rangell and Senator

Rockefeller. America's Private Investment Companies (APICs), modeled after our Overseas Private Investment Corporation to encourage private investment in America's untapped markets, is being sponsored by Rep. Lafalce and Senator Sarbanes. The New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) Firms, which would make both capital and expert guidance available to small business entrepreneurs in inner-city and rural areas (most likely to be introduced next week), is being sponsored by Rep. Velasquez and Senator John Kerry.

In November the President will lead a second New Markets tour. The NEC is looking eagerly for thematic and geographical suggestions that will distinguish this tour from the previous trip.

POTUS Week Ahead

Following is a list of upcoming POTUS message events for next week.

Friday, 9/10 - Wednesday, 9/15	New Zealand Visit
Saturday, 9/11	Radio Address (taped at WH Thursday 9/9) Topic: Safe Schools, Healthy Students/COPS grants
Thursday, 9/16	Arrive WH -- No Event Planned
Friday, 9/17	No Event Planned

NOTE: The message schedule for Sept. 16 and 17 may change pending Hill activity – i.e. the GOP tax cut veto.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: NICOLE RABNER
ANN O'LEARY
RUBY SHAMIR

CC: MELANNE VERVEER
PATTI SOLIS DOYLE
MARSHA BERRY
SHIRLEY SAGAWA

SUBJECT: MESSAGE EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

We understand that your schedule for late next week will likely not allow you to add to your schedule. The purpose of this memorandum, however, is to outline a few opportunities for official message events late next week. While not definite, September 17th (Friday) will likely be the day that the President vetoes the Republican tax cut proposal (the Republicans have not yet sent us the bill); if it happens, you may want to consider joining that ceremony.

- **Minimum Wage Event.** As you know, Kennedy's minimum wage proposal is expected to be considered as an amendment to the bankruptcy bill next week (prospects for passage reportedly have improved). To engender support for his proposal, on the morning of Wednesday, September 15, Senator Kennedy, Rep. Bonior, and Secretary Herman will release a new report on the effects of the minimum wage on women. The report will show that the majority of beneficiaries of an increase in the minimum wage are women (58 percent of the 11.8 million workers who would receive a pay raise), and that about 7 million women nationally, 12.6 percent of all working women, would be directly affected by an increase in the federal minimum wage. The report will also feature state-by-state data on the numbers of women impacted by an increase in the minimum wage. Senator Kennedy has invited you to join this event. Since you will be in New York on Wednesday, however, we are exploring a message event there that would highlight the new report and urge passage of the minimum wage increase. Senator Kennedy also plans to pen an op-ed next week on the minimum wage and has offered to share a byline with you. Let's discuss this offer.

- **Children's Health: Health Care Coverage Report and Initiative.** On the morning of Thrusday, September 16th, Secretaries Shalala and Riley and Attorney General Reno are participating in an event at Eastern High School in Washington D.C. which will serve as a national kickoff for community CHIP enrollment events in 25 communities during the last two weeks of September. They will launch a series of radio PSA's that will air in 21 cities and announce HHS's commitment of $1 million for a radio campaign to promote CHIP outreach event and the 877 KIDS information line. They have invited you to join the event. If you are unable, you might consider joining the President for a likely CHIP event in mid-October, where the President and you could release a new Families USA report stating: that enrollment in the new CHIP program is increasing; enrollment in some states is lagging behind; and that that we still face some challenges in Medicaid enrollment, especially in regards to welfare reform. In addition, you both could (1) release a new TANF regulation establishing financial incentives to enroll eligible individuals in the Medicaid program; (2) announce a new Back to School campaign to distribute applications for and information about CHIP through school systems around the country; (3) release the second Federal Interagency Task Force Report on Children's Health Insurance Outreach, including new outreach efforts by the Postal Service, Americorps and the Department of Transportation; and (4) direct the Department of Education and HHS to develop a plan to make school-based screening for health insurance a standard part of school enrollment, like immunizations.

- **Education: Teacher Quality Conference of Higher Education Presidents.** On September 15-16, approximately 150 college presidents will meet in Washington D.C. to develop recommendations for reforming schools of education. The two-day summit will also include other education leaders, foundation representatives, and Congressional staff. You could join the Secretary in challenging the college presidents to take a strong leadership role in improving teacher education to ensure that all children are taught by high quality teachers. Senators Jeffords and Kennedy will speak to the group from the Indian Treaty Room on Wednesday evening, September 15, and, if you were able, you could address the group at lunch on September 16 or later in the afternoon for closing remarks.

- **Education: Charter Schools.** You have expressed interest in visiting a D.C. charter school to highlight your commitment to the issue. Two charter schools in particular could serve as good vehicles for this message. The Maya Angelou Public Charter School in Ward 1 helps young people who have been in the juvenile justice system re-enter the educational system. Another charter school, the Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School in Ward 2, focuses on getting young people involved in public policy. This event could serve as a follow-up to the day long meeting and workshop that you hosted for D.C. public charter schools last year, and a celebration of the successful start-up of the schools. You could also hold this event at another time – perhaps during the Holiday season.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 22, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: NICOLE RABNER
NEERA TANDEN
RUBY SHAMIR

CC: MELANNE VERVEER
SHIRLEY SAGAWA
PATTI SOLIS DOYLE
MARHSA BERRY

SUBJECT: ISSUES UPDATE

Crime -- Juvenile Crime/Gun Bills. As you know, last week the House leadership divided the juvenile crime bill the Senate had passed into two bills – a gun bill and a juvenile crime bill. The gun bill was defeated by a vote of 147 to 280, with almost all Democrats voting against it. The bill contained a number of amendments throughout the process, including provisions to: (1) ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips (voice vote); (2) require child safety locks for handguns (311-115); (3) ban juvenile possession of semiautomatic assault weapons (354-69); (4) ban violent juveniles from owning guns as adults (395-27); (5) allow current and former law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons (372-53); (6) revise background check requirements for guns redeemed at pawnshops (247-181); and (7) allow D.C. residents to keep handguns in their homes (213-208). However, Democrats decided to oppose the final bill after the House passed the Dingell gun show amendment, which would weaken existing requirements for background checks, late Thursday night by a vote of 218-211, and rejected the McCarthy gun show substitute by a vote of 235-193.

Since the overall gun bill failed, the juvenile bill passed by the House (287-139) will proceed to conference without significant gun provisions. Before completing work on the juvenile crime bill, the House approved a number of amendments including an amendment which would allow states to post the Ten Commandments in public buildings, including schools (248-180); an IDEA amendment allowing schools to expel disabled students for bringing weapons to school; and a bipartisan Goodling amendment on juvenile prevention. In addition, they adopted the McCollum amendment by a vote of 249 to 181, which contained revisions of the federal juvenile justice system, such as increased mandatory minimums for such criminal activities as using kids to sell drugs and selling drugs to kids, amongst other prohibited activities.

The President is likely to make a public statement this Friday that will call on the Congressional Leadership to move the bills to conference. The President's senior advisors are also considering whether the President should eventually issue a veto threat against the bill if it does not contain a provision on gun shows.

Bankruptcy. The Senate will not take up the bankruptcy bill for floor action until after the July 4th recess. (Senator Lott pulled the bill to focus on various appropriations bills and other measures.) This delay, which means that the earliest floor action will be in mid-July, represents great news to opponents of the bill, who feared that the bill would be rushed through the Senate floor with Senators eager to break for recess. This delay also gives us time to polish the op-ed by you which highlights the flaw in the bill and look for a strategic placement. While you've been away, there has had some behind-the-scenes movement on the bill. Senator Torricelli continues to negotiate with Senators Grassley and Hatch, the key Republicans, on changes to be included in the manager's mark. Senator Torricelli, however, has been able to make only minimal improvements to the bill through this process. The one issue on which he has made some gains, however, is on credit card disclosures. Senator Torricelli has reached a deal with the credit card companies and the Republicans that is not sufficient to gain the Administration's support but is a move in the right direction.

In addition, Senators Grassley and Sessions have offered the Administration a deal on another important issue – reaffirmations. Under their proposal, we would agree to indicate support for an amendment that Senator Sessions will offer to include part of the Administration's reaffirmation proposal in exchange for eliminating from the current Senate bill a provision that Senator Sessions abhors. The language deleted bars creditors from threatening to do something they have no intention of doing, thus eliminating one basis for bringing suit to end abusive creditor practices. However, the language gained would help almost every debtor who is pressured to reaffirm a debt, by giving the court an analysis of whether they have the capacity to repay that debt before the court approves the reaffirmation. The Administration working group has concluded that the trade-off is a net gain for consumers. However, we are seeking a member-level commitment to preserve both parts of the deal in conference. Grassley and Sessions meet with Senators Lott and Hatch this Friday to see if they will agree to protect the agreement in conference. In general, however, continued meetings with Grassley and Hatch staff have not been productive. Although they have politely listened to our concerns, they have not moved on any of our key issues other than the reaffirmation proposal.

New Data on Bankruptcy and Women. On Monday, Harvard Law professor Elizabeth Warren released new data demonstrating that women are resorting to personal bankruptcy more frequently than men and married couples. Her data show that 39 percent of bankruptcy court filings in the 12 months ending March 31 were made by women. That compares with 28 percent for men and 33 percent for married couples, according to the study of filings in eight of the 94 federal bankruptcy districts. Warren and other opponents of the pending legislation are using this data to demonstrate that the bill's new restrictions will disproportionately affect women.

Foster Care. We expect that the Foster Care Independence Act, sponsored by Johnson-Cardin, will reach the House floor this Thursday and pass easily. The White House will issue a Presidential statement on its passage. Similar to the proposal in the President's FY 2000 Budget that you unveiled in January, this bill would provide youth leaving foster care with access to health care and would expand and improve educational opportunities, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other support and services for these youth. We will forward to you a detailed memo about the bill's provisions shortly.

Adoption. There are three adoption-related events that we hope to schedule in the coming months (perhaps in tandem): (1) the release of the new adoption numbers and bonus dollars to states (with the President) in late July or Early August; (2) the unveiling of the new adoption stamp with Dave Thomas and the Post Master General in October; and (3) a follow-up meeting with foundation leaders on adoption issues. Unfortunately, we are not able to schedule the first two announcements for the same event (the bonuses muse be released before October 1st, and the stamp must be unveiled mid-October). We can, however, schedule the foundation leaders meeting in tandem with either of the two announcements, and therefore invite the leaders to the event and the discussion.

Dean Ornish. Dean Ornish was successful with HCFA in securing a Medicare reimbursement demonstration project for his nutrition therapy.

Proposed Rule Change for Federal Procurement Regulations. You asked about a Washington Post article that charged that the Administration had not acted on a promise the Vice President made to the AFL-CIO that the Administration would require businesses contracting with the government to "maintain a safe workplace and respect civil, human, and union rights." Under current law, government contract officials have fairly wide latitude to decide which companies receive government contracts, but they must ensure that the business has a "satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics." The proposed rule change, expected to be released for public comment later this month or in early July, will clarify that phrase giving the contracting official the opportunity to make contracting determinations on the basis of tax, labor, health, safety, environmental and other laws. Opponents of this rule change charge that the contracting officials would not have the ability to determine objectively a business's level of compliance and that some businesses would be effectively "blacklisted."

New Markets. From July 5 to 8, the President will lead a bipartisan delegation of CEO's and Members of Congress to untapped markets in six U.S. cities to highlight his New Markets Investment Initiative and to identify the economic potential for investment in these underserved areas. The President will begin his trip in the Kentucky Highlands, to discuss investment in Appalachia. Then the President will proceed to Clarksdale, Mississippi, a rural community in the Mississippi Delta, East St. Louis, which is an empowerment zone community, and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, which is the first Enterprise Zone on a reservation. On Wednesday, July 7, the President will travel to South Phoenix, Arizona, an Enterprise Community with a large Hispanic population, and then to the Watts neighborhood in Los Angeles, where he will discuss the need to provide job training to disadvantaged youth, and the new market potential of a new, productive workforce. The President will end his trip at a CEO

Conference in Anaheim, California, to encourage private sector workforce investments in disadvantaged youth. Now that the sites have been determined, the President's staff is working to solidify commitments from the business community to announce during the trip. Cabinet participation in making announcements in other regions is expected.

Father Absence in Black America. A politically diverse coalition of black and white scholars, community and religious leaders, joined together last week to release a compelling report and call to action on the crisis of fatherlessness in the black community. Seventy percent of African American children are born to unmarried mothers, up from one-third when Senator Moynihan released his then-controversial report 34 years ago. They called for significant investments to improve the economic prospects and marriagability of black men, federal support for community-based fatherhood programs, and changes in policies which discourage marriage (such as the marriage penalty in the EITC). They also called on the black leaders to give the same priority to reuniting fathers and children as they have to civil rights, asked churches to focus on family healing, recommended that communities support faith-based marriage education and mentoring programs, and urged the criminal justice system to help reconnect fathers and children.

This report is especially significant because the participants managed to find substantial areas of common ground on both the significance of the problem and proposed solutions, despite historical differences regarding the role of marriage and competing theories of socioeconomic versus cultural factors in the breakdown of the black family. The report grew out of a conference last Fall sponsored by Morehouse College, with diverse participants including Bill Rasperry, William Julius Wilson, David Blankenhorn, and Wade Horn. Our FY 2000 initiatives address some of the recommendations in the report, including the enhanced focus on fathers in our Welfare-to-Work reauthorization that the President announced in January. The DPC will carefully review the recommendations to see what else we might do.

Young Child Poverty Rate. A report released recently by the National Center for Children in Poverty highlighted positive trends in both the number and rate of young children (under six) in poverty. Consistent with data we have highlighted before, the young child poverty rate declined from a high of 26 percent (6.4 million children) in 1993 to 22 percent (5.2 million children) in 1997. This decline came after a 52 percent increase between 1978 and 1993. With a higher proportion of poor young children with working parents and a declining percentage receiving public assistance, the study also confirms earlier findings that families are relying less on welfare and more on work. The report also finds: (1) without our 1993 EITC expansion, the 1997 young child poverty rate would have been 24 percent higher; (2) key determinants of young child poverty are single parenthood, low educational attainment, and part-time or no employment; and (3) the gap between races continues to narrow.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: NICOLE RABNER
NEERA TANDEN
RUBY SHAMIR

CC: MELANNE VERVEER
SHIRLEY SAGAWA
PATTI SOLIS DOYLE
MARSHA BERRY

SUBJECT: ISSUES UPDATE

Please find brief updates on a variety of issues on which there has been action over the last two weeks.

Child Care. Since your child care event last Monday, there has been more good news on child care in the context of the Republican budget resolution. This week, when it looked as if the budget conferees would strip from the final budget agreement the Dodd-Jeffords amendment to boost child care subsidy funding by $12.5 billion over ten years, Senators Dodd and Jeffords offered on the Senate floor a motion to instruct the conferees to include the funding increase. The motion passed with strong bipartisan support, 66-33, adding 10 Republicans to the 12 who had previously voted for Dodd's child care amendment. The final budget agreement includes specific mention of raising child care funding, though it reduces by more than half the amount Dodd and Jeffords sought -- the agreement calls for $3 billion over 10 years in new subsidy funding and $3 billion over 10 years in enhanced child care tax relief.

This represents an enormous step forward in achieving important pieces of our child care initiative this year. Although we strongly oppose the Republican budget resolution, and therefore should only show limited praise for its components, the President released a statement (attached) on the child care vote applauding the bi-partisan cooperation at work in the Congress on this issue. We will now turn our attention to working with the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over child care subsidy and tax issues; fortunately, the Committee includes four Republicans who voted for the Dodd-Jeffords measure (Senators Jeffords, Hatch, Chafee, and Grassley).

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Ann O'Leary
OA/Box Number: 19582

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

USA Accounts. On Wednesday, the President announced the details of our Universal Savings Accounts (USAs) initiative. The material that was released explained that these accounts would give 124 million Americans the opportunity to save and build wealth for their retirement and gave concrete examples of ways in which USAs would affect families of varying incomes. The documents noted that a married couple with two children and an income of $40,000 could build up a total of $2,000 a year in retirement savings, which could add up to $253,680 over forty years in today's dollars. While it is too early to assess reviews of the initiative, the NEC is currently seeking validators, and coverage in Thursday's papers was primarily positive. The President's remarks from the event, and the summary of the initiative are attached.

Bankruptcy Reform. This week, the Senate Judiciary Committee began its mark-up of bankruptcy reform legislation, and the markup underscored the vast ideological differences between the parties. Several Democratic Senators expressed deep concern that the balancing provisions in last year's Senate bill have been stripped from the current bill. Senator Kennedy went so far as to declare "this bill stinks." Schumer, Torricelli, Feingold, and Leahy pressed for balance, as well. Of course, all the Republicans will vote for the bill in Committee, as will Democrats Torricelli, Biden, and Kohl. The Committee Democrats who we expect will vote no are Schumer, Kennedy, Feingold, and Leahy. Feinstein noted that she is leaning against the bill, but her vote is not yet clear.

In the House and the Senate, the bills' opponents are working to introduce "moderate" alternative bills around which Democrats can rally. Senator Durbin will soon introduce last year's Senate bill, and others are working to develop new moderate alternatives, as well. So far, the alternatives discussed may be too liberal to credibly influence the current negotiations; rather, they would serve as rhetorical juxtaposition to pending bills. Internally, the Administration is working to devise proposals that would substantially improve the current bills and provide Democrats with strong alternatives to support. We floated some of these proposals to Lisa Fenning on Friday.

The President's upcoming event on consumer financial protection will provide a forum for him and the Administration to press for balance in bankruptcy reform (such as through credit card disclosures, etc.). Because of your leadership in the Administration in this area and if your schedule permits, we strongly recommend your participation.

Brooklyn Families Agenda Roundtable Follow Up. As you will recall from the Brooklyn Families Agenda Roundtable in February, two participants had significant problems which we have followed up on.

- [redacted] (b)(6)

[001]

At Work on Issues

The First Lady of the United States

As First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton has worked to improve the lives of people here and around the world. A longtime advocate for children, Mrs. Clinton has encouraged policies that will 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 sought to expand access to quality health care for all Americans, and to increase the economic security of working families. She has also worked to build support for the arts and arts education, and has led an effort to preserve America's important historical and cultural treasures.

To advance America's foreign policy objectives, Mrs. Clinton has visited countries around the world at the request of the Secretary of State and the President. In her travels representing the United States, she has spoken out on human rights, democracy, and religious tolerance. Her visits have drawn public attention to successful projects that can be replicated-- from micro-credit programs that have given women and their families economic opportunities to efforts to build thriving civil societies in emerging democracies.

Learn more information about these and other issues of special interest to the First Lady:

Helping Parents Balance Work and Family
CHILD CARE, AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE, LONG-TERM CARE

Addressing the Needs of America's Children and Youth
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION, YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE

Strengthening America's Public Schools
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, CHARTER SCHOOLS, TEACHER QUALITY, COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES

Improving Health Care for all Americans
HEALTH CARE REFORM, CHILDREN'S HEALTH, MEDICARE/MEDICAID, WOMEN'S HEALTH, AIDS, DISEASE PREVENTION AND RESEARCH

Advancing Women's Economic Security and Empowerment
MICROCREDIT, SOCIAL SECURITY, LEGAL SERVICES, WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY, WOMEN's RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

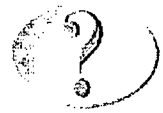
Advancing Democracy, Civil Society, and Women's Full Participation Around the World
HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL SOCIETY, WOMEN AS CITIZENS, HEALTH AND POPULATION ISSUES, GIRLS EDUCATION, MICROCREDIT, U.S. ENGAGEMENT

Supporting the Arts

Celebrating the Millennium

The First Lady's Homepage





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