

**Nicole R. Rabner**

09/10/99 05:52:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP  
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message  
bcc:  
Subject: Re: CLASP 

The 20th is Yom Kippur, so Ruby and I will be out of the office. Ann, will you cover the meeting? Thanks.  
Andrea Kane

**Andrea Kane**

09/10/99 05:43:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message  
cc:  
Subject: CLASP

*Refer to us again  
for center for  
surgery*

I've set up a meeting for 9/20 at 1:30 with Mark Greenberg, Julie Strawn and Steve Savner from CLASP to touch bases on issues they're working on and new ideas they have re: welfare reform, employment, and other work supports (I'm sure they'll want to talk about child care). I've put it on Cynthia and Eric's calendar (Genie - couldn't access yours for some reason).

Also, Mark mentioned they will be releasing a report -- probably late next week -- on welfare reform and child care. Specifically, they've compiled and summarized all the child care findings from the welfare leavers studies. In general, about one-quarter to one-third of leavers are getting some kind of child care subsidy, and the most typical child care arrangement is informal care. They identify both resource issues and coordination/connection issues. They see this complementing our efforts on food stamps and medicaid -- it is critical to make sure people are connected to this key support for working families. At the same time, they're trying to present it in a way that doesn't undercut our argument for more child care investments. He'll send us advance copy. They don't expect to do a splashy release -- it's intended more as a resource for those who care about these issues.

Message Sent To:

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

January 28, 2000

Copied  
entire report

Read

Liu

Podesta

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed  
Eric Liu

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

1. **Welfare – Second Chance Homes.** At your request, and with OMB's help, the budget will include a proposal to target \$25 million of the \$75 million increase in the Social Services Block Grant for second chance homes. As you know, states already can use TANF funds for these purposes, and in designing this proposal we considered limiting eligibility only to states that have spent all their TANF funds. But because state spending patterns vary from quarter to quarter, we decided against including such a restriction.

2. **Health Care – Update on ARKids First.** Unless we object, HHS plans to deny Arkansas's request to allow parents of children eligible for Medicaid to choose the ARKids First benefit plan. This is a policy judgment by HHS, since the law allows flexibility. HHS argues, accurately, that granting the request would spur significant criticism from consumer advocates and would be inconsistent with Congress's explicit view when enacting CHIP that Medicaid eligibles should be enrolled in Medicaid, not CHIP. HHS also argues that granting the request would create a financial incentive to enroll Medicaid-eligible children in CHIP (because of the enhanced matching rate), and would lead poorly informed parents to enroll their children in a plan with fewer benefits and higher cost-sharing requirements than Medicaid. If HHS denies the request, Governor Huckabee and Amy Rossi are certain to raise strong objections. The Governor will promise to eliminate many existing barriers to Medicaid enrollment (with the exception of the assets test, which was implemented by Ray Hanley while you were Governor), by developing a joint application for both programs, eliminating the requirement for a face-to-face interview prior to enrollment, and applying the ARKids First label to both programs. You should know too that enforcement of an HHS denial would be very difficult, since Gov. Huckabee might simply refuse to comply. That would leave HHS no alternative but to impose a disallowance.

3. **Health Care – Update on Gene Therapy.** Next Wednesday, the Senate Health Committee will hold a hearing on patient safety in gene therapy clinical trials. These hearings are in response to recent reports that researchers consistently ignored federal requirements to report patient deaths and adverse events to NIH and FDA. The Committee has asked that the Administration present specific information on the death of Jesse Gelsinger, the 18 year-old who died last year in a clinical trial at the University of Pennsylvania. As you may know, last week FDA shut down all human gene therapy experiments at the university after finding serious deficiencies and process breaches in the clinical trial involving Gelsinger. FDA and NIH are also considering additional action, including increasing the number of random inspections of clinical trials and making more public information about these trials.

Podesta (BM)  
C. Liu  
B. Podesta

7/1/00  
C. Liu  
B. Podesta

1-31-00

**4. Crime – Gun Licensing.** The handgun licensing proposal you unveiled in the State of the Union has stirred prompt support from several Democratic members (and predictable doomsaying from the NRA). Senator Schumer, Rep. Lowey and Rep. Carolyn McCarthy have all expressed interest in working with us to develop legislation. In addition, several other members have already introduced, or are in the process of drafting, broader legislation that includes both licensing and registration. We are reviewing these proposals and will work with Congress and others to develop our plan in more detail.

**5. Crime – Federal Law Enforcement Commission.** We have learned that next Tuesday an independent commission will likely recommend that many functions of the ATF and DEA be merged into the FBI. The commission was created by the Antiterrorism and Death Penalty Act of 1996 and is headed by Judge William Webster, former FBI director. Secretary Summers and Attorney General Reno plan to release a joint statement in opposition to a merger.

**6. Education – Update on Wintley Phipps.** We are working with the scheduling office to find a date for you to visit Wintley Phipps's U.S. Dream Academy. We have also contacted the Secretaries' offices at the Departments of Labor, Education, and HHS to arrange briefings for Phipps on the grants that the Dream Academy might be eligible for, and we have put Phipps in touch with the office of D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams to discuss charter school possibilities.

**7. Education – Special Education.** On Tuesday, the National Council on Disability released a report claiming that federal efforts to enforce the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act have been inconsistent and ineffective over the course of several Administrations. The report acknowledges that Secretary Riley has been more aggressive than his predecessors in monitoring compliance and taking formal enforcement actions, but it also found that every state was, to some degree, out of compliance with IDEA requirements, and it charged that the Education Department has made very limited use of its authority to impose enforcement sanctions. The Department is working with NCD to identify areas for improvement.

**8. Tobacco – Trends in Teen Smoking.** Two recent reports indicate that teen smoking, after rising for many years, is now on the decline. First, a survey of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders conducted by the University of Michigan showed modest declines in all three grades. Second, a national survey by the American Legacy Foundation found that 28.4 percent of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders smoked cigarettes, down from the 36.4 percent found by a different survey in 1997. These declines are not unexpected, given the price increases from the state settlement, but the data should bolster our case for the tobacco price increases proposed in our budget.

**9. Tobacco – Canadian Cigarette Labels.** Canadian health officials announced new rules last week requiring all tobacco product packaging to display graphic health warnings. The new warnings, which will occupy 50 percent of the front panel of cigarette packages, include color pictures of diseased lungs, hearts and other organs, and stern health messages ("every cigarette you smoke increases your chance of getting lung cancer"). As you may recall, current U.S. law requires a set of four health warnings on the sides of packages and on advertising. We have supported still stronger labels, with more direct text messages occupying 25 percent of both sides of the packaging. Senator Durbin and Representative Hansen plan to introduce bills requiring warnings like Canada's, but such legislation is unlikely to move in this Congress.