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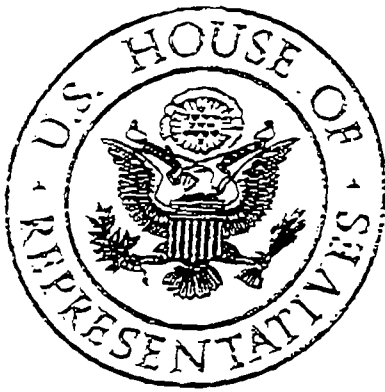
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Strategy —  
Lessons  
on  
Youth Violence  
Conf.

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ID: \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE 1/46  
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202/225-4533  
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file: youth violence

## FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Ann O'Leary  
FROM: Bob Etheridge  
DATE: 5-1-00

NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

Here the report of the House's  
Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence.  
Please note the recommendation on page 2  
of Section VII. Media and Popular Culture, "Congress  
should encourage the creation of a parenting  
television channel."

Please call if you have questions.  
Thanks very much!

# **Bipartisan Working Group On Youth Violence**



## **Final Report**

# **BIPARTISAN WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH VIOLENCE**

## **FINAL REPORT**

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November 17, 1999

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H232 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Gephardt  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H204 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Minority Leader Gephardt:

We are writing to inform you that the Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence has completed its work on a report regarding the prevalence of youth violence in America, the factors that contribute to this problem, and possible solutions that members of both parties can embrace. Attached is a copy for your review.

During the fall, the 24 members of the Working Group have reviewed studies on the problem of youth violence and heard testimony from expert witnesses from academia, law enforcement, the judicial system, and advocacy groups. Although the work was time-consuming, most of us believe it was an effort that was both personally and professionally rewarding.

The issue of youth violence presents numerous complex social and economic problems. Although statistics reveal that the prevalence of youth violence has been declining in recent years, it remains a critically important issue that must be addressed. Fortunately, there are common themes that run through the most successful programs to reduce youth violence. The experts who met with the Working Group agreed that early intervention and prevention efforts that require the close participation of parents and communities are essential to reducing youth violence. As the attached report reveals, encouraging more of these programs will be an effective and efficient use of resources.

There are many issues, such as gangs, family violence, and the impact of sports figures and other cultural influences, that deserve to be explored in greater detail. Given the timeline under which we had to operate, however, we believe our findings present a solid overview of the causes of youth violence and how Congress may work with state and local governments, educators, community leaders, and families to improve the lives of our youth. That said, there are many members of the Working Group who would like to extend its mission into the second session of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
The Honorable Richard Gephardt  
November 17, 1999  
Page Two

Thank you for your leadership in establishing this important effort. We both believe it was a worthwhile and rewarding endeavor, and we look forward to your comments on our report.

Best regards,

Martin Frost  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Dunn  
Member of Congress

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## BI-PARTISAN WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

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### PURPOSE

The working group is established to identify causes and to advance through consensus (a majority of Republicans and a majority of Democrats) solutions to fight the rise of youth violence in our nation today.

### RESEARCH

Each of six teams, with two Republicans and two Democrats per team, will prepare a one-hour presentation to the entire group during the first six weekly meetings. In preparation, Members will work at an individual and group level to conduct in-depth research. During August, Members are encouraged to hold at least one roundtable, townhall, or meeting in their districts to gather ideas.

### MEETINGS

Members will meet once a week, from 8am-9am Wednesdays in H-137. Any Member proposal or idea will be submitted to Reps. Dunn and Frost by the day before the meeting.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Presentations by all teams will be completed by October 20, 1999, so that the full working group can discuss and vote on ideas by October 27. Approved ideas requiring legislation or other action by Congress will be sent to the Speaker and the Minority Leader.

The working group will complete its work by submitting a final document highlighting proposals that have been completed and items requiring further action to the Speaker and the Minority Leader at the adjournment of the Congressional Session.

### PRESS

No statement or press conference will be released or held on behalf of the Working Group without the participation and input of the Co-Chairs.

### TEAMS

1. Parents and Families (Kelly, Etheridge, McKeon, Stupak) *September 15*
  - *Strong family relationships*
  - *Single parent families*
  - *Welfare dependency*
  - *Parental responsibility*
  - *Peer Influences*
  - *Mentoring Programs*
  - *Child Care*
  - *Role Models: Parents, family friends*

2. Law enforcement systems (cops, judges, parole and probation officers - from police to penalties) (Barr, Delahunt, Dunn, Scott) September 22
  - *Teaching youths responsibility and consequences*
  - *Evaluating the justice system*
  - *School security*
3. Schools (Mink, Wilson, Roemer, Biggert) September 29
  - *One-on-one teaching*
  - *Stronger bonds within the school*
  - *1-800 hotline numbers*
  - *Smaller schools*
  - *Counseling*
  - *Reduced class size*
  - *Safe and Drug Free Schools reauthorization*
  - *Expanded before and after school programs to avoid "latchkey" kids*
  - *Teacher training*
  - *Crisis response plan involving entire community*
  - *Quality of education in Rural vs. Urban areas*
  - *Role models: teachers, advisors*
4. Community (Souder, Cramer, Tancredo, Menendez) October 6
  - *what programs currently exist focusing effectively on youth*
  - *faith-based organizations, non-profits, think tanks, etc.*
5. Popular culture, media influences (Frost, Greenwood, Hinojosa, Wamp) October 13
  - *Teaching youths the difference between life and the movies*
  - *The Internet*
  - *Ratings*
  - *Character education*
  - *Sports figures*
6. Health (treatment issues, mental health, substance abuse) (Jackson-Lee, Portman, Roukema, Levin) October 20
  - *the role of good physical health and education*
  - *Low self-esteem*
  - *Access to mental health services, including the involvement of parents and guardians*
  - *Helping students fight depression*
  - *Suicide*
  - *Drugs*

August 6, 1999

## Members of the Bi-Partisan Working Group on Youth Violence

### *Republicans:*

Jennifer Dunn, Chair  
Zach Wamp, Vice-Chair  
Heather Wilson  
Jim Greenwood  
Mark Souder  
Sue Kelly  
Marge Roukema  
Judy Biggert  
Buck McKeon  
Bob Barr  
Tom Tancredo  
Rob Portman

### *Democrats:*

Martin Frost, Co-Chair  
Robert Menendez, Vice-Chair  
Bud Cramer  
William Delahunt  
Sander Levin  
Bobby Scott  
Bart Stupak  
Bob Etheridge  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Patsy Mink  
Tim Roemer  
Sheila Jackson-Lee

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

The Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence was formed on June 25, 1999, by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, and the House Minority Leader, Rep. Richard Gephardt. It was tasked with identifying causes and advancing consensus solutions to fight the rise of youth violence in our nation today. The original mandate by the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader gave the Working Group until the end of the first session of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress to complete this work. The Working Group held its organizational meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> and has met every Wednesday morning since September 15th.

Understanding that time was short, the Working Group split into six subgroups of four members each, two Republicans and two Democrats, to thoroughly explore specific issues thought to affect youth violence. The six subgroups are parents and families, law enforcement, school safety, community programs, popular culture and the media, and health. Each subgroup was to study its area in depth and report findings back to the full group through a one-hour presentation.

The goal of each subgroup was to work in a bipartisan manner to find problems and solutions to youth violence in each of the issues in their area of responsibility. Subgroups were encouraged to meet on their own time to hear testimony from witnesses who are experts in the field that the subgroup was charged with studying. These witnesses, and the information they provided, often were called upon to provide the foundation for the presentation to the full Working Group.

By providing a forum for members to meet on a bipartisan and informal basis, we believe the Working Group has been able to identify many consensus areas for action on youth violence. This project is a labor of love for both the Members and the experts who provided information and analysis, often traveling many miles at their own expense.

Because the time was compressed, the Working Group believes that the House Leadership should consider extending the deadline to complete a final report and allow Members to probe in greater depth the broad area of youth violence in our nation. The shortness of time did not allow for complete consideration of the full range of information and resources available. The Working Group has provided recommendations that will begin to ameliorate the problem of youth violence. Nevertheless, there is much more work to be done. We believe this was a positive work experience and the right way to approach this serious issue. Functioning as a team, we have learned and researched together, discovering common themes and areas where Congress can provide leadership.

## DEBUNKING MYTHS

One of the most important tasks of the Working Group has been to review issues surrounding youth violence in a bipartisan and dispassionate manner. There are many misconceptions about the prevalence of youth violence in our society and it is important to peel back the veneer of hot-tempered discourse that often surrounds the issue. One of the most common myths that must be debunked immediately is that youth violence is *increasing* across the nation. The U.S. Department of Justice reports that the juvenile homicide arrest rate has dropped steadily and dramatically since 1993. This, of course, mirrors the reduction in violent crime seen in all age groups and indicates that trends in youth violence, while unique in certain respects, are not always distinguishable from society at large. In fact, according to one expert that appeared before the Working Group, Dr. Laurence Steinberg, violent crimes attributable to youth are lower today than they were 25 years ago.

Another common misconception is that schools are becoming an increasingly violent place and do not provide a sanctuary for learning. This misconception is largely driven by the attention that the mass media rightly gave a recent spate of school tragedies in Colorado, Arkansas, Oregon, and Kentucky. While it is important to carefully review the circumstances surrounding these horrifying incidents so that we may learn from them, we must also be cautious about inappropriately creating a cloud of fear over every student in every classroom across the country. In the case of youth violence, it is important to note that, statistically speaking, schools are among the safest places for children to be.

## CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

So if the problem does not seem to be as big as we perceive it to be, why is it important to continue to tirelessly search for solutions to youth violence? There are two reasons. First, there is almost always a pattern to youth violence that involves a child graduating to more serious offenses. Every expert who came before us to testify on the complex issues surrounding youth violence pointed out that, if caught early enough, young people can be spared a life of crime and innocent people will never become victims. Second, simply because a serious problem is on the decline, it is not reason to abandon efforts to further reduce it. The salvation of one child and the sparing of one innocent victim is enough to validate a sustained and serious effort to combat youth violence.

Recognizing that there is a problem, reviewing objective analysis to determine the extent of the problem, and resolving to do something about it is only the first phase. The second, and much more complex, phase is deciding *what* are the most probable causes of youth violence. Thirdly, we must determine what, within its scope of responsibility for state and local affairs, Congress can do to ameliorate the problem. Listening to what

various experts believe the causes of youth violence are, and discussing what the congressional role is in combating them, has been the focus of the Working Group's efforts.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Working Group met on six different occasions to hear testimony from experts on a wide variety of issues thought to contribute to or reduce youth violence. Despite the range of issues, there were several recurring themes that spanned the breadth of the discussion and connected many of the issues together.

- **Prevention and early intervention programs are essential to reducing youth violence.**

Overall, the need for prevention and early intervention programs at every step is paramount. Since the most important contributing factor to youth violence is the absence of a nurturing and supportive home environment, we know that youth can be steered away from crime. Exposure to violence in the home and the lack of a strong role model, however, will deny youth access to a moral education. Without a strong moral foundation, the lessons of hostility as a means of problem solving and an inability to equate actions with consequences will foster criminal behavior. Building strong relationships between children and their parents and communities is the best way to ensure their health and well-being.

- **Parents and communities must take an active and positive role in the lives of children.**

Parents are the best teachers a child can have. There is no true substitute for the active involvement of the parent since nobody can be as personally invested in a child. But, additional support can be found through the efforts of community- or faith-based organizations, educators, and law enforcement officials. These efforts are essential to identifying, educating, and mentoring at-risk youth who may lack an ideal support structure at home. To be truly successful, however, these efforts must be coordinated so that each aspect of the community is working to respond to each youth's unique needs.

- **At-risk youth need access to childhood health programs and mental health services.**

Ensuring the physical and psychological health of all children has proven to be an effective way to increase educational aptitude and increase social skills. Early childhood programs have provided many children with the care and education they need to enter school ready to learn. In addition, mental health services should be provided to help youth work through problems such as depression and aggression.

- **The juvenile justice system should treat children individually and with the objective of rehabilitation.**

Despite the best efforts of families, concerned citizens, educators, and government agencies, we cannot fully prevent youth violence. Instead, our goal should be ensuring that we work collaboratively to address the needs of at-risk children before they commit crimes, while striking an appropriate balance between individualized sanctions and treatment once they enter the juvenile justice system. This means that once a youth enters the juvenile justice system, the judges must have access to the social, educational, and criminal history of the youth so that appropriate sanctions and/or treatment may be implemented. In addition, there should be mental health screenings and counseling available in the event that it is a necessary component of rehabilitation.

- **Information sharing between educators, law enforcement, social services agencies, and judges is essential to addressing the unique needs of a particular youth.**

There is a lack of collaboration between many different agencies and individuals with responsibility for monitoring at-risk youth. This is not necessarily due to an unwillingness to cooperate, but rather technological and legal barriers that prevent the sharing of information. States and local governments should be encouraged to work through these barriers so that at-risk youth may receive more individualized care.

- **Schools provide a venue and an opportunity to identify young people who are potentially at risk.**

As previously stated, youth violence is on the decline. More specifically, schools are safer places for children relative to other locations in the community. The perception that schools are unsafe, however, can cause an uneasiness and anxiety among children. As a result, we can take positive steps to further reduce youth violence in schools and assure students that the classroom is a safe place to be. Schools provide a tremendous opportunity to interact with our youth and positively contribute to their personal development. It is an opportunity that must not be missed. Community outreach to show that schools are safe, stable learning environments should be an important part of the effort to make them a haven for our youth.

- **Congress should only fund programs of demonstrated effectiveness, and such programs should be evaluated on an ongoing basis as a condition of continued funding.**

Researchers have developed an increasing body of knowledge as to which programs are effective in reducing youth violence and which are not. Congress should ensure that federal support is directed toward programs that work, and should require ongoing evaluation as a condition of continued support. It is also important that

Congress encourage continued research to enable local partnerships to identify and replicate successful programs.

The following report provides a more thorough discussion of the six areas reviewed by the subgroups. In each section, these themes can be found in the examples cited by various experts, and in the recommendations made by the Working Group.

### III. Parents and Families

The Working Group tasked this subgroup with examining the following factors involving the impact of parents and families on the problem of youth violence: strong family relationships; single parent families; welfare dependency; parental responsibility; peer influences; mentoring programs; child care; role models: parents, family, friends.

The subgroup submitted its presentation to the full Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence on September 15, 1999. The meeting featured expert testimony from Dr. Laurence Steinberg, Professor of Psychology at Temple University and a nationally recognized authority on the issues of adolescence and youth violence. Below are consensus items which the Members of the subgroup recommend the full Bipartisan Working Group accept.

**Strong family relationships.** Although there is no single cause for youth violence, the most common factor is family dysfunction. Domestic violence and conflict/tension within the family are often associated with troubled youth. Abuse, neglect and hostility are prevalent in cases of youth violence. Exposure to violence leads to acceptance of violence as a means to solve problems. Research demonstrates that this develops into the cycle of violence.

**The importance of strong family relationships to the healthy growth and development cannot be overstated.** In fact, the Members of the subgroup strongly support issuing a clear statement that no one will ever have a more important responsibility than the responsibility to raise their children in a healthy, secure, nurturing environment. Likewise, the public sector, the private sector and the non-profit community all have a responsibility to help parents obtain the skills and resources they need to meet those obligations.

**The Members of the subgroup recommend that the federal government should launch a national public health campaign to raise awareness of the importance of raising healthy children and the key role of parenting in this effort. The Working Group should strongly endorse this recommendation.** Congress should enlist the Surgeon General, and other public health officials as well as the non-profit and private sectors to support this campaign.

**Single parent families.** The subgroup identified no direct, causal link between single parent families and youth violence. However, the lack of parenting skills and knowledge of child development was identified as a serious risk factor for unhealthy youth development.

**The subgroup supports the teaching of such parenting skills that formerly were taught in such classes as Home Economics, life sciences/skills, and personal health.** We should also use public health agencies like WIC, pre-natal care clinics, and

visiting nurses to reach out to mothers in need to help them gain the knowledge they need to raise healthy children. We need to teach parents how to parent. And we need to help all children in the pre-school years. Although ambitious efforts such as Head Start, Even Start and CHIPs exist, we need to address the gaps in education and health care that fail to reach children's needs.

**Welfare Dependency.** Although welfare itself was not a central focus of the panel's work, Dr. Steinberg stated clearly that poverty is the number one cause of negative parenting. Economic stress raises all other risk factors.

**The subgroup should state clearly and concisely its finding that a strong national economy is essential to our progress on the challenge of youth violence.** In these times of economic prosperity, we too easily forget that social problems like youth violence are exacerbated dramatically during times of economic hardship. We should use this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to a national economic policy of providing every family in America the opportunity to succeed economically through hard work.

**Parental Responsibility.** (*see above.*) The latchkey factor is not necessarily indicative of a child with a propensity toward violence. Rather, negative parenting is the biggest factor. Statistics indicate that the prevalence of parental disengagement is 25-30 percent and one-quarter of American adolescents are not sure that their parents love them. Parental engagement is the single most important factor in a child's healthy development.

Character education that involves the parents can help children to develop a healthy sense of self and self-worth. Schools can be a focal point to strengthen the relationship between parents and children through such joint efforts as character education. Character education integrated throughout the curriculum can help children develop and strengthen basic values such as honesty, integrity, courage, respect for self and others, perseverance, kindness, etc. that will help them to become good citizens as well as good students.

**Peer Influences.** With young people, peer relationships are a key factor because youths tend to offend and take offense in groups. All efforts to reach young people must recognize this central fact and work within the reality of the social structure of the youth culture.

Youth-run adjudication and remediation systems can be successful in encouraging youth to take responsibility for their actions and to demand better from their peers.

**Mentoring Programs.** The single most important influence in the healthy development of the child is positive interaction with adults. Mentors can play a key role especially for at-risk youths whose family situations can contribute significantly to the propensity for violence.

Too often today, communities are disconnected from families. Many organizations – such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, boosters, etc. --

perform important mentoring functions. The Working Group should endorse increased support for locally-based mentoring efforts.

**Child Care.** The subgroup did not focus on the child care of pre-school children because it was not identified as a risk factor beyond the above-stated importance of child services. However, study after study have shown the hours of 3-6 PM each day is the key time for youth trouble. Likewise, studies have shown conclusively that the two most dangerous school days of the year are Prom Night and Graduation Day. In North Carolina, schools have utilized low levels of federal funds to promote adult-supervised Lock-In for students to have an all-night, alcohol- and drug-free event. The results in safety improvement are dramatic.

**The subgroup recommends increased support for initiatives that help families and students coordinate the differing schedules of school and work.** This could come in the form of support for extended day schools. Studies have shown that teenagers need additional sleep to function optimally. In some areas, high schools are experimenting with school days that start and end later in the day.

**Role Models.** The absence of strong role models inhibits a child's character growth. As mentioned above, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and similar initiatives help at-risk youth develop healthy relationships with adults necessary for healthy growth.

The Working Group should endorse stronger support for role model initiatives.

**Other.** Although some federal effort exists to coordinate information, such as the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's National Clearinghouse on Youth Violence, there is a need to expand the effort to include parenting. An inter-agency clearinghouse could better identify and disseminate information about the full range of related efforts. The relevant House Committees should investigate the agencies' current practices and encourage better coordination of efforts.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The importance of strong family relationships to the healthy growth and development cannot be overstated.
- The Members of the subgroup recommend that the federal government should launch a national public health campaign to raise awareness of the importance of raising healthy children and the key role of parenting in this effort. The Working Group should strongly endorse this recommendation.
- The subgroup supports the teaching of such parenting skills that formerly were taught in such classes as Home Economics, life sciences/skills, and personal health.
- The Working Group should state clearly and concisely its finding that a strong national economy is essential to our progress on the challenge of youth violence.

- Parental engagement is the single most important factor in a child's healthy development.
- The single most important influence in the healthy development of the child is positive interaction with adults. Mentors can play a key role especially for at-risk youths whose family situations can contribute significantly to the propensity for violence.
- The subgroup recommends increased support for initiatives that help families and students coordinate the differing schedules of school and work.

### **ADDITIONAL VIEWS**

While Congressman Etheridge strongly supports the bipartisan effort that has produced these consensus items, he feels strongly that the bottom line is commitment. We must engage in making a national commitment to address the problem of youth violence. Congressman Stupak specified that we need a commitment for an entire generation. Congressman McKeon stressed that the problem was not created overnight and it will not be fixed overnight.

## IV. Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Working Subgroup was asked to develop recommendations regarding the role of law enforcement agencies and officials (including police, prosecutors, judges, parole and probation officers and corrections officials) in reducing youth violence in America.

The subgroup convened a round table discussion on September 15, 1999 to solicit the views of a wide range of outside experts (listed on Appendix A). The presentations revealed a number of recurring themes which the subgroup believes represent substantial consensus within the law enforcement community on the causes and prevention of youth violence, and which provided a foundation for the subgroup's recommendations.

Law enforcement officials are uniquely positioned to take a leadership role in forging relationships with parents, educators, community- and faith-based organizations, and social service agencies. These types of efforts can help identify at-risk youth, educate them on the seriousness of criminal activity, and prevent them from committing crimes, or graduating to more serious criminal offenses.

The federal government can play an important role in support of these efforts. However, it is important that federal funds be directed toward programs that get results, and that federally-supported programs be subject to rigorous evaluation.

Once a youth enters the juvenile justice system, it is important that he or she be provided with meaningful contact that administers an appropriate balance between sanctions and individualized services. This requires the removal of barriers that impede effective information sharing among law enforcement, educators, social service agencies, and the juvenile justice system.

Finally, law enforcement efforts must acknowledge the importance of the youth's family in the juvenile justice system, and must enlist the full participation of parents or guardians if interventions are going to be successful.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Law enforcement must take a leadership role in developing community partnerships.**

Law enforcement officials are often the first point of contact between troubled youth and the community. This places them in a position to provide leadership and support to community-wide collaborative efforts to reduce youth violence.

Many youthful offenders have been found to suffer from multiple risk factors such as parental abuse and neglect, poor nutrition, academic failure, low self-esteem, and unsupervised discretionary time. To prevent their further involvement with the criminal justice system, law enforcement agencies have a vital role to play in building partnerships that bring to bear the full resources of the community on the needs of at-risk youth.

Such targeted, collaborative efforts have been shown to be effective in reducing youth violence in the community. These efforts should include the training and deployment of school resource officers, including medical and social work professionals, who are able to identify those at risk and to intervene before they cause harm to themselves or others. Community partnerships can also aid schools in promoting extracurricular activities that emphasize personal responsibility and service to others.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress provide incentives to encourage community-wide efforts to combat youth crime.**

- 2. Law enforcement agencies need to be able to collect and access up-to-date criminal history information. This information should be made available to social service agencies and educators (to the extent permitted by state confidentiality rules with respect to juvenile records) and should be accessible across jurisdictional and geographical boundaries.**

Educators, prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers agree that access to juvenile records and information must be improved. While issues of privacy must remain paramount, lack of timely access to complete and accurate juvenile records frustrates law enforcement efforts to reduce juvenile crime. This is also a problem for the courts. Judge Patricia West, a juvenile court judge from Virginia, stated in her presentation that the lack of information regarding prior criminal history makes it difficult for judges to make appropriate sentencing determinations.

Improving access to information will also assist prosecutors and other law enforcement officials in combatting gang violence. The success of Boston's Operation Night Light was attributable in large part to information sharing with other jurisdictions to track the movement of gang members and prevent them from slipping through the cracks.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress provide grant assistance to state and local agencies, and regional consortia, for multi-jurisdictional case management and information sharing efforts.**

- 3. Effective solutions require the involvement of parents and families.**

Law enforcement efforts that enlist the active involvement of parents and guardians are among the most successful and cost-effective strategies for early intervention and prevention. Such strategies include truancy and home visitation programs.

Research has shown that many juvenile delinquents begin their involvement with crime as truants. Efforts to prevent and reduce truancy can be useful in identifying children at risk of delinquency and crime and offer a cost-effective approach for reducing the incidence of youth violence. The Brooklyn truancy program, T.R.A.C.K., has, as its central component, a requirement that parents or guardians be contacted at the time a child is brought into the program. Parents must pick up their children from truancy centers and return them to school, and are counseled on their responsibility to monitor and support their child=s academic performance. The goal of T.R.A.C.K. is to make students responsible and parents accountable for attendance in school and, therefore, to cut down on juvenile crime and protect public safety. The benefits of this program during its first year were significant. In three of the precincts where T.R.A.C.K. operated there was a 23.4% reduction in serious crimes (i.e. rape, robbery, assault and larceny) where youth were victims.

Home visitation programs are another effective means of enlisting parental involvement in reducing truancy and more serious delinquency by focusing on parenting skills and family health needs. A 1997 report by the National Institute of Justice (Lawrence Sherman et al., *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn=t, What=s Promising*) found that home visits by nurses can produce major reductions in child abuse, which is a risk factor for later delinquency. A RAND study reported that home visits are more cost effective than prison in reducing crime.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress provide support for early interventions that enlist the active participation of parents and families, including truancy and home visitation programs.**

**4. Law enforcement officials can play an important role within the schools by serving as mentors and educators.**

Another way in which law enforcement officials can prevent youth violence is by serving as mentors, instructors, and resource officers in the schools. Through school-based programs, law enforcement personnel can work in partnership with school administrators to identify at-risk youth and offer them positive role models. They can help students to understand the justice system and to appreciate the consequences of violence. In Bellevue, Washington, local law enforcement, educators, and medical professionals have instituted a program called ACops and Docs,= the purpose of which is to help young people understand that violence has consequences for the victim, the victim=s family, and society as a whole.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress continue to provide funds for school resource officers and other programs that bring law enforcement personnel into the schools as mentors and instructors.**

**5. Federal law enforcement dollars should go to crime prevention programs that work.**

Researchers have developed an increasing body of knowledge as to which programs are effective in reducing youth violence and which are not. Congress should ensure that federal support is directed toward programs that work, and should require ongoing evaluation as a condition of

continued support. It is also important that Congress encourage continued research to enable local partnerships to identify and replicate successful programs.

Additionally, Congress should provide funding for training and technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies, including assistance in developing programs and accessing federal funds.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress fund only programs of demonstrated effectiveness, and that such programs be evaluated on an ongoing basis as a condition of continued funding. The subgroup further recommends that Congress provide increased funding for research and evaluation, and for technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies in developing effective programs and obtaining federal support.**

**6. Prevention and early intervention programs provide a continuum of care that can help prevent at-risk youth from graduating to violent criminal activity.**

All available evidence indicates that a small minority of all young people commit the great majority of violent crimes. A cost-effective prevention strategy is therefore one that targets resources to at-risk youth and their families before these young people become involved in gang activity and violent crime. Effective strategies include such elements as prenatal health care for at-risk mothers, home visitation by nurses and preschool teachers, family therapy, parent training, teaching of social competency skills, and afterschool programs that provide supervised recreational and educational activities during the high crime hours from 3pm-6pm.

Such efforts must also involve the schools. Law enforcement officers can work with school administrators to create a safer, more nurturing school environment, alternative educational programs for students unable to function in the regular classroom, and supervised after-school activities.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress provide increased support for a range of prevention and early intervention strategies targeted toward at-risk youth and their families, including school-based and after-school programs.**

**7. Graduated sanctions and alternative sentencing (including restorative justice programs and mental health and drug treatment) ensure juvenile accountability.**

If society is to prevent recidivism, youthful offenders must be held accountable for their actions. Unfortunately, their first encounter with the juvenile justice system often teaches them the opposite lesson—that the first felony is free. Both Edward J. Loughran, Executive Director of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, and Juvenile Court Judge Patricia West emphasized the importance of a meaningful contact or sanction each time a juvenile encounters the system.

Where appropriate, the court should consider mental health and drug treatment programs as alternatives to incarceration. Restorative justice" is another sentencing alternative, which

focuses on the moral duty of offenders to repair the harm they have caused. According to Professor Lawrence Sherman, such programs have been shown to reduce repeat violence by 50 percent.

One program in Seattle, Washington, known as the Conference Committee Diversion Program of King County Superior Court, assigns concerned citizens to interview the offender and his or her parents and decide upon an accountability plan. The plan, put in the form of a legally binding contract, may include community service, skill building classes, counseling, restitution, or fines. When the youth signs, he or she agrees to fulfill the terms of the contract, or be remanded to juvenile court. The program has had an enormous impact on young offenders, and 92% successfully complete their contract.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress make incentive grants to states to implement graduated sanctions and alternative sentencing structuresXsuch as "restorative justice"Xthat ensure juvenile accountability. In addition, Congress should encourage the establishment of programs for the treatment of young offenders who require mental health or substance abuse services.**

**8. Post-adjudication programs help to stem recidivism.**

Post-adjudication programsXincluding supervised parole, probation, mentoring, community reintegration and aftercareXare important tools for stemming recidivism. Effective programs can help juvenile offenders become reintegrated into society and teach them to be responsible members of the community.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress provide grants for post-adjudication aftercare programs that reduce recidivism.**

**9. Resources should be targeted toward neighborhoods with the highest levels of youth violence.**

Juvenile violence can occur in every community, but it remains concentrated in major cities. While political realities often require that federal law enforcement funds be distributed more broadly, the most effective use of these funds is to target them on areas with high crime rates (assuming these funds will be used in a cost-effective manner as previously described above). Since this proposal would have consequences for state and local government funding, however, it should be carefully considered.

**The subgroup recommends that Congress further explore directing a greater proportion of law enforcement assistance funding toward high crime areas.**

## APPENDIX A

### OUTSIDE EXPERTS CONSULTED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBGROUP

The following guest speakers participated in a roundtable discussion on September 15 with Reps. Dunn, Scott, Barr and Delahunt. Their presentations and written materials were used by the Law Enforcement Working Group in developing its findings and recommendations.

Steve Harris, Chief of Police, City of Redmond, Washington

Patricia L. West, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, State of Virginia

\* Dr. Lawrence Sherman, Criminologist/ Professor at University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Peter Sheras, Clinical Psychologist/ Professor at University of Virginia

\* Mike Powell, Officer, Marietta Police Department

David Whitfield, Principal, Paulding High School

\* Charles J. (Joe) Hynes, the District Attorney for King's County (Brooklyn), New York

Ned Loughran, former director of the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, currently Executive Director of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

\* Presenters at formal full Working Group Meeting, September 22, 1999.

## APPENDIX B

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## V. Schools

The Schools Working Subgroup convened a roundtable discussion on Sept. 29, 1999. Ms. Betsy Goulet, Children's Advisor to Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan; Mr. John Porter, Principal, T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia; and Mr. Lynn Coleman, Assistant to the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana joined the Subgroup in discussing the problem of violence in schools and how to properly address it. We also held meetings in our districts and gathered the most recently published research.

What emerged from this roundtable were some common themes. First, high quality early childhood experiences are critical. Second, since children spend the majority of their time in school, it is important that the federal government focus its resources and attention on in-school programs. Third, a caring adult can make a difference. A teacher or mentor who takes an interest in an at-risk child may be able to turn him or her around. Finally, the federal government should help states and communities identify and implement successful violence prevention programs.

All of us recognize that there is no easy solution to the problem of juvenile violence—there is no magic wand that will make our schools safer. But we all agree that Congress can contribute to help making our schools safer and our children more secure.

### FINDINGS

#### **A. Early childhood development is vital and probably the most important thing that we can do to prevent school violence.**

During the roundtable discussion, Ms. Goulet said that because children have set behavior problems by age eight or nine, preschool experiences are vital and probably the most important thing that we can do to prevent school violence. Programs targeting young children, even infants and toddlers, could provide a way to reduce the likelihood of juvenile violence.

Research suggests that a child's early years are critical in the development of the brain because early brain development is an important component of mental, educational, and intellectual achievement. Of all three to five-year-olds not in kindergarten, less than half are enrolled in an early education program. Even worse, only 36 percent of children from families with annual incomes below \$15,000 are enrolled in an early education program.

Evaluation of high quality early education programs demonstrate that, compared to children with similar backgrounds who have not participated in early education programs, children who participate in such programs:

Perform better on reading and mathematics achievement tests

Are more likely to stay academically near their grade level and make normal academic progress throughout elementary school

Are less likely to be held back a grade or require special education services in elementary school

Show greater learning retention, initiative, creativity, and social competency

Are more enthusiastic about school and are more likely to have good attendance records

Are less likely to participate in delinquent activities later in life

There are a number of federal programs, the largest of which is Head Start, that provide comprehensive early childhood development, educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to low-income preschool children and their families. These services are intended to prepare children to enter kindergarten and to improve the conditions necessary for their success in later school and life.

Head Start strongly emphasizes the involvement of families and the local community to assure that programs are responsive to the unique needs of each community. In general, Head Start operates a part-day program during the school year, although some local Head Start programs coordinate with other programs to provide all-day care.

Since a child's health and well-being play equally important roles in his or her education a prenatal health focus is equally important. Healthy Start provides a variety of services to low-income pregnant women, such as family planning counseling, pregnancy testing, prenatal care, pediatric care for infants, and social services. Other services appropriate to a community's needs may include outreach, home visits, child care, transportation, dental care, nutrition counseling, mental health, and substance abuse services.

Effective federal programs must be fully funded to achieve the largest impact on early childhood development and, ultimately, youth violence. Studies have estimated that for every dollar invested in quality early education, about seven dollars are saved in later costs.

Programs with proven track records in helping at-risk youth in the past should be studied for their applicability to today's at-risk youth. One notable example is the Perry Preschool Program, conducted in Michigan in the 1960's and designed as a high-quality, active-learning preschool program for children born into poverty. Results indicate that as adults, those who had participated in the program at age three or four experienced half as many criminal arrests, higher income earnings and property wealth, and a greater commitment to marriage than did those who

were not participants in the program.

The Perry Preschool study attests to the significant long term social benefits that accrued when low-income families were included in high quality preschool programs. Every effort should be made to determine if its success might be replicated through programs in other areas of the country.

*Recommendation:*

*Congress should increase funding for high quality, effective early childhood programs, evaluate all federally-subsidized early childhood programs, and identify areas for improvement and areas where innovative new ideas could be implemented.*

**B. Although schools are still the safest places for children to be, additional actions should be taken to improve school safety and security for the long term.**

Compared with other public situations, schools remain some of the safest places for young people. In the most recent school year, 1997-98, 34 school-associated violent deaths of students took place nationwide. Because these incidents are so rare, they are covered heavily by the media, resulting in a perception that such violence is commonplace. The reality is young people face greater dangers outside of the school, in their communities and when at home.

Although such school-related violence is rare, a risk does exist and schools should be a safe place to be. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 57% of public schools reported at least one crime in the 1996-1997 school year; 10% reported at least one serious violent crime.

Where violence at school once involved only fists, it now often includes a greater use of violence. Although the chance of an incident of violence taking place at any one school is remote, there is a risk. It is incumbent upon public officials to ensure that schools remain safe places of learning.

The climate at a school—whether students feel safe, connected and supported so that they can learn—is as important, and possibly more important, than the physical security of the school. It may be possible to develop climate assessment tools for the use of schools and communities so that they may identify areas for improvement and develop strategies to improve climate and reduce the risk of both major and minor incidents of violence in schools. It may also be useful to develop and make readily available security assessment tools that schools may use for self-assessment.

Furthermore, during his presentation, Mr. Porter said students need to feel safe about reporting possible incidences of school violence. Anonymous hotlines and websites have helped many schools across the country to provide this anonymity for the students and to notify the

administration of problems. Schools have found great success through partnerships with local law enforcement officials. Agencies that designate school resource officers can offer a crucial link between police and educators. These links should be encouraged.

Mr. Porter also emphasized the need for smaller schools to reduce youth violence. Based on studies of secondary school violence, researchers have concluded that an important step in ending school violence is to break through the impersonal atmosphere of larger secondary schools and create smaller communities of learning within larger structures. Behavioral problems, including truancy, classroom disruption, vandalism, aggressive behavior, theft, substance abuse, and gang participation are greater in larger schools. Teachers in smaller schools learn of disagreements between students and can resolve problems before problems become severe.

School size also plays a very important role in shaping the kinds of social relationships that form within schools. Smaller schools and learning communities reduce the isolation that causes violence and allow students to form closer relationships with their teachers and create a sense of ownership and belonging to their school. Young people who feel more connected to their school are less likely to be involved in violence.

Research also demonstrates that students attending smaller schools are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities, and studies show that students who participate in extracurricular activities are less likely to engage in violent acts. At smaller schools, the students are also involved in a greater variety of activities, while at larger schools students tend to be polarized into two groups: those who participate in extracurricular activities and those who do not.

Smaller schools, Aschools-within-schools,≡ and smaller learning communities are some ways to create a climate where students feel safe, connected and supported in their schools. And finally, every school should develop a comprehensive safety plan, including methods of detection and intervention. While each must tailor its plan to its own needs, model plans from other schools and districts can be helpful.

#### *Recommendations:*

*Congress should establish a "School Security Technology Center" as a resource to local educational agencies for school security assessments, security technology development, technology availability and implementation, and technical assistance relating to improving school security.*

*Congress should make funds available to State and Local Education Agencies to develop smaller schools, Aschools-within-schools,≡ and/or smaller learning communities in order to create a climate where students feel safe, connected and supported.*

*Congress should allow grants received under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to be used to establish and maintain school violence hotlines and websites.*

**C. Often one adult can make a difference by taking an interest in a child and nurturing him or her. This might be a teacher, an administrator, a counselor, or others.**

Students with behavior disorders account for a majority of problems encountered in schools today. Additional resource staff in our schools, such as counselors, school psychologists, and social workers are needed, not only to help identify these troubled youth, but to work on developmental skill building.

There is no real infrastructure of support for our kids when it comes to mental health services in our schools and no national models for how best to structure school community mental health programs. Currently, there are only 90,000 school counselors for approximately 41.4 million students in our public schools—roughly 1 counselor for every 513 students. In California, there is only one counselor for more than 1,000 students. That is simply not enough. As Mr. Porter stated during his presentation, current school counselors are unable to address students' mental health needs since they are responsible for such large numbers of students. Instead, their role is relegated to administrative, scheduling, and career counseling.

Additional resource staff is needed to address specifically the personal, family, peer level, emotional, and developmental needs of students. By focusing on these mental health needs, these staff members will pick up early warning signs of troubled youth and improve student interaction and school safety.

The resource staff can also provide consultation with teachers and parents about student learning, behavior and emotional problems. They can develop and implement prevention programs, deal with substance abuse, set up peer mediation, and enhance problem-solving skills in schools. In short, resource staff can provide important support services to students, parents, and teachers.

There are a number of different ways to enhance the availability of emotional support and mental health services in schools. Schools can partner with community-based mental health organizations or enhance staff training by providing more opportunities at school for the development of informal adult-child mentoring relationships. We expect that there are a number of models that may vary in effectiveness at different schools and age levels. The federal government should initially support the development of research-based models for school mental health programs that could then be built upon.

Furthermore, schools and communities should incorporate programs that encourage parents to become involved in their child's education. Improving parenting skills through

federally-funded programs like WIC, TANF, Food Stamps, Medicaid, public health clinics, teen parenting, child welfare, juvenile delinquency and homeless programs may be an effective way to reduce juvenile violence in the long term.

Finally, teacher quality has been shown to have a profound impact on the success of a child. Because teachers are on the front line, there is a great need to help them understand how to identify and intervene in the life of a troubled child. Studies indicate that by the school year 2008-2009, we will need an additional two million teachers in our schools. We can ensure that we have quality teachers in the future by creating incentives for educators to continue teaching and by encouraging people to begin teaching after careers in other professions through such programs which help mid-career professionals become teachers.

*Recommendations:*

*Congress should provide grants to States and local educational agencies to recruit, train, and hire school-based resource staff, such as school counselors, school psychologists, and social workers.*

*Congress should authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to work with schools and the mental health community in developing models that enhance the availability of mental health services in schools.*

*Congress should encourage local educational agencies to implement professional development activities designed to assist teachers in identifying and assisting at-risk youth.*

*Congress should authorize the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education to develop a public awareness campaign aimed toward parental involvement in schools.*

**D. Through increased research and outreach efforts, the federal government should help states and communities learn which violence prevention programs are likely to succeed and help make them a reality.**

Parents, working with school officials and community members, can become the most effective deterrent to youth violence. According to the National Crime Prevention Council, the crime rate can decrease by as much as 30 percent when a violence prevention initiative is implemented with community-wide support.

Children need safe places to be and constructive things to do from 3 to 6 p.m. while many parents are still at work. Experts estimate that almost five million school-age children spend time without adult supervision during a typical week and that these children are more likely to engage in risky behavior such as drug and alcohol abuse, sexual activity, loitering on street corners, and truancy.

Many parents report that they would like to enroll their children in after-school enrichment activities, but they are prevented from doing so by prohibitive costs, transportation difficulties, and worries about neighborhood safety. Although there are many outstanding programs for the nation's youth, they are not available in all areas. Congress needs to take steps to ensure that every child has access to a high quality after-school activity.

In addition, school curriculum must include a constant theme of ethical values. Strong themes of good character, including honesty, citizenship, courage, justice, respect, personal responsibility, and trustworthiness, must permeate through the instruction of our children.

Finally, the Working Group found that just one caring adult in a child's life can make a difference. Again, mentoring programs, such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and intergenerational programs, should be promoted. Partnerships between schools and these initiatives should also be emphasized.

#### *Recommendation:*

*Congress should, 1) provide grants to improve the quality and availability of after-school programs; 2) establish a national clearinghouse to provide technical assistance regarding the establishment and operation of after-school programs and models of after-school programs such as the collaboration with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in South Bend, Indiana; and 3) authorize a GAO report containing information on how to improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.*

*Congress should authorize block grant funding to establish partnerships between State and local agencies for character education programs that incorporate elements of good character including honesty, citizenship, courage, justice, respect, personal responsibility, and trustworthiness.*

*Congress should instruct the Secretary of Education to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences for the purposes of conducting a study regarding the antecedents of school violence in urban, suburban, and rural schools.*

#### **CONCLUSION**

Perhaps the best way to summarize our views is to quote Ron Stephens, director of the National School Safety Center. He said, "A safe school is a place where students can learn and teachers can teach in a welcoming environment, free of intimidation and fear. It is a setting where the educational climate fosters a spirit of acceptance and care for every child, where behavior expectations are clearly communicated, consistently enforced and fairly applied. Unlimited options and potential exist for safe school planning. It requires only the ability to get started."

Early childhood development, effective school safety programs, increased adult interactions, and supporting and strengthening effective federal programs all have their important place addressing the problem of juvenile violence. However, they are only a piece of the puzzle. The members of this subgroup feel there are other areas, outside the jurisdiction of this subgroup, which will play a vital part in addressing the problem of youth violence.

### **ADDITIONAL VIEWS**

Submitted by Mrs. Wilson

#### **Early Childhood Education and Development**

This report over emphasizes Head Start and Healthy Start as programmatic solutions while not mentioning a host of other federal programs that impact early childhood development.

The most recent research clearly indicates that Head Start--which targets 4 and 5 year olds--doesn't start early enough. While it is an important federal program, there is no evidence that Healthy Start or pre-natal programs reduce juvenile violence.

There is, however, a growing body of research that says high quality early childhood experiences that are developmentally appropriate have a positive social impact on children later in life. There is some evidence that Head Start in some regions has not had the positive impacts generated by other early childhood programs. In addition, the focus on Head Start overlooks other federally funded child care support programs associated with TANF, food stamps and other education and training programs that collectively impact more children than Head Start in most States. In many cases, this federally subsidized care supports low quality or even harmful early development or child care programs.

The Congress should evaluate all of the federally funded early childhood education and development programs, including but not limited to Head Start, to improve quality, afford ability, and accessibility.

#### **Mental Health in the Schools**

The report over emphasizes the importance of guidance counselors and increasing "resource staff" in schools without any evidence that this is the best way to improve mental health in the schools. There are many models for providing mental health service to children that involve the schools, but few of them rely solely on school "resource staff."

An appropriate federal role would be to develop research based models for school mental health programs which schools nationwide might then draw upon to fit their unique circumstances. We should resist the one-size-fits-all answer that "more guidance counselors" seems to offer.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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## VI. CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Charitable and Community Initiatives Subgroup convened a round table discussion on September 28th. The Subgroup made its presentation to the full Working Group on October 6th. Mr. Howard Davidson, Director, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law; Dr. Brian Flynn, Director of Program Development, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS; Dr. David Murray, Research Director, Statistical Assessment Services (STATS); Mr. Pat Nolan, President, Justice Fellowship; Ms. Miriam A. Rollin, Director of Public Policy, National Network for Youth; and Mr. Mark Soler, President, Youth Law Center joined the Subgroup in the presentation.

The presenters raised various issues at the round table discussion. These issues included encouraging partnerships of families, charitable, community, and faith-based organizations, and schools; promoting interagency collaboration at the federal level to effectively reduce duplication of efforts and pool available resources; making resources available to faith-based organizations; supporting the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; and encouraging national service for youth.

As our communities struggle to deal with the dramatic rise in youth violence, the search for some effective ways to prevent this scourge on our children has become a national priority. Keeping this in mind, we should not be hasty in trying to find quick solutions to such a complex problem. We agree with those who call for changes to occur, but there are numerous factors that need to be considered involving this matter, from school safety programs, to encouraging more active community involvement, to a culture that seems to perpetuate the popularity of violence.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **1. Charitable and community initiatives should foster family relationships.**

The evidence for programs that focus on family relationships and functioning is quite strong and consistent. The most successful family interventions involve programs with multiple components that address not only the individual at risk but the internal dynamics of the family and the family's involvement in the neighborhood, school, and with their children's peer groups.

Because of this, charitable and community-based organizations should focus their efforts on strengthening marriages, and maintaining and rebuilding families. This should include counseling, family management, and parenting skills programs. Congress should also include initiatives to help promote responsible fatherhood.

**2. Charitable and community initiatives should build competencies among youth, particularly focusing on problem-solving, moral reasoning, decision making, self-control, job and academic skills.**

In general, individual-level approaches that modify or enhance personal and social competencies like problem-solving skills, moral reasoning, decision making skills, self-control, and academic or job-related skills are effective if they are high quality, well implemented programs.

**3. Charitable and community initiatives should promote parental supervision and/or access to after-school programs during the peak hours for youth crime of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Too often, children return after school to an empty home or to the streets. An estimated 5 to 7 million "latchkey" children go home alone after school. Children who are unsupervised during the after-school hours are more likely to engage in delinquent and other high-risk behaviors, such as alcohol and drugs. After-school programs can provide safe, drug-free, supervised, and cost-effective havens for children.

Demand for after-school initiatives is high. Quality after-school programs can provide adult supervision of children during after-school hours, and they can provide children with healthy alternatives to/insulation from risk-taking and delinquent behavior. After school programs also provide a prime opportunity to increase learning because the environment can motivate and inspire learning outside of the regular school day.

Examples of quality after-school programs include tutoring and supplementing instruction in basic skills like arithmetic, reading, and science; drug and violence prevention curricula and counseling; youth leadership activities; volunteer and community service opportunities; college awareness and preparation; homework assistance centers; courses and enrichment in the arts and culture; computer instruction; abstinence education; and employment preparation and training, among others. After-school programs should use community resources effectively by establishing partnerships or developed networks to give children even more options for after-school learning enrichment and recreation. Law enforcement officials can be strong community partners, serving as role models and mentors in programs.

Because of this, we agree with the nation's police chiefs that after-school programs for youngsters are a more effective way to fight crime. Recently, George Mason University conducted a survey in the aftermath of the massacre at Columbine High School, which showed that nearly nine of 10 police chiefs believe expanding after-school programs and providing educational child-care programs such as Head Start would greatly reduce youth crime and violence. The survey was sponsored by "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids" which has lobbied for more funding for after-school programs and other community-based efforts that help identify troubled children before they have problems with the law.

We agree with many of the law enforcement and academic community that the best kind of intervention programs are character education programs, law-related education classes, counseling geared toward conflict resolution, staff development for teachers in identifying and dealing with troubled youth, peer helper programs, home visitor programs for at risk families, and required programs for parents and children who commit major offenses in school.

In some cases, the problem is with the schools themselves; in that some schools close immediately after the end of classes. We need to encourage all schools to stay open late and to offer after-school opportunities such as sports, band, etc.

Recently, ABC News' 20/20 ran a story about schools in Texas and New York which requires its teachers, parents and students to sign a pledge committing themselves to the education of the child – 24 hours a day. We endorse this proposal and encourage all schools to adopt this fresh approach to education.

Quality after-school programs have strong leaders, skilled and qualified staff, and effective managers. Also, families of children in the program are informed of their child's activities and given opportunities to volunteer in their child's program. Programs set goals and use well-planned, continuous evaluations to judge themselves.

Since there is no "one-size-fits-all" youth violence prevention after-school program, each community needs to have a variety of youth initiatives to address their children's particular needs.

**4. Charitable and community initiatives should assist youth and adults who have regular contact with youth in identifying troubled and potentially violent juveniles.**

When elementary school children display disruptive behavior, it is a warning signal that it is time to start looking for the causes of the problem, and to provide the proven social skills training, counseling, and other help for the children and their families that can lead them back to healthier path.

Knowing what "risk factors" often contribute to youth violence is helpful in looking for warning signs. Research suggests that by exposing children to certain risk factors, communities create an environment conducive to violence, regardless of whether they are urban or rural, white or black, rich or poor. Among the 19 identified risk factors are exposure to violence in the media, easy availability of drugs and alcohol, community attitudes favorable to deviant behavior, family conflict and family management problems. While exposure to any or all of the factors does not mean a child will necessarily turn to violence, their presence increases the likelihood.

Being abused or neglected multiplies the risk that a child will grow up to be a violent teen or adult. In fact, children who experience violence – either directly or

indirectly through witnessing violence – are 50% more likely to be arrested as juveniles and 40% more likely to be arrested as adults.

With almost three million American children reported as abused or neglected in 1995, we need to make sure that child protective services staff have sufficient resources to identify and treat abused and neglected children. We also must act before children are hurt by expanding the programs proven to reduce cases of abuse and neglect.

Making criminal justice funds available to prevent child abuse recognizes that preventing child abuse prevents crime. According to a 1992 Justice Department report, 60% of youths arrested had a prior history of abuse and neglect. The study also indicated that childhood abuse increased the odds of future delinquency and adult criminality overall by 40%.

The evaluations of successful child abuse prevention efforts have shown us that prevention works. Moreover, community-based programs supporting families can be implemented to prevent child abuse for far less dollars than it costs now to treat and manage the far-reaching consequences of child abuse and maltreatment.

Other successful endeavors include anonymous hotlines, which give students, parents, and teachers the opportunity to report threats of violence in their schools, and mentoring initiatives. Both of these initiatives are tremendous resources that students, parents and teachers can use to help ensure our schools are safe.

**5. Charitable and community initiatives should increase recruitment of youth in community service and promote volunteerism.**

Fifty-nine percent of youth ages 12 to 17 volunteered in 1995. These 13.3 million volunteers gave an estimated 3.5 hours a week. Youth volunteers reported that volunteering is important because it gives them a new perspective, allows them to do something for a cause that is important, and is an activity people respect. Youth say that through volunteer activities that they learn how to solve community problems and understand more about good citizenship.

Young people must be taught the skills they need to succeed. And they must be provided meaningful, challenging opportunities to contribute to their families, schools, churches, peers, and communities. This involvement helps them to feel responsible and significant and can also improve the situations of the families, schools, peers and communities. Third, young people should receive recognition for their efforts. Recognition rewards and motivates positive performance.

Therefore, effective youth violence prevention strategies provide opportunities for a relationship with a caring, responsible adult (parent or otherwise), together with opportunities for youth skill development, youth contributions to family, school, church, peers, and community, and positive recognition to youth.

These elements are incorporated in many successful youth violence prevention programs including: mentoring, recreation, counseling (individual, family, and group), employment and training, youth entrepreneurship, community service, tutoring, life skills (budgeting, consumer education, parenting, etc.), substance abuse prevention and treatment, and mental health treatment.

Again, there is no "one-size-fits-all" youth violence prevention solution. Each community needs to have an array of youth programs to address the variety of youth in their community. It is important to remember that every community starts with a base of existing programs that differs from other communities, and programs that work in one community might not work in another.

**6. Charitable and community-based organizations should improve the coordination of prevention and intervention programs.**

Finally, we believe that charitable and community-based organizations should better manage their resources to help serve as many troubled youth as possible. We encourage inter-agency collaboration on youth violence initiatives to reduce duplication of efforts and pool resources.

We also believe that Congress should encourage a collaboration between federal agencies to establish a clearinghouse with a website listing all charitable and community-based organizations across the country. This will hopefully give local communities some examples of successful programs and better access to existing resources.

Federal initiatives should include linking preventative mental health activities with other violence prevention efforts; taking a school-based approach; engaging the entire community; including treatment services for children with more severe problems; and paying only for what has been demonstrated to work. The goals of a youth violence prevention program would facilitate community collaboration and assessment of risk for violence; develop and implement evidence-based programs or strategy for youth violence prevention; and evaluate the initiative or strategy.

**OTHER VIEWS**

The following statement is submitted by an individual member and does not represent a consensus of the Subgroup. However, we feel they are worthy of consideration by the full Bipartisan Working Group.

*Congressman Tom Tancredo*

The tragic events surrounding the shooting at Columbine High School have sent shock waves throughout many communities and the nation as a whole. Many of my constituents are rightfully concerned and have expressed their outrage at these actions and the need to address the problems which led to this violent assault by and on the youth

of our community. At a time such as this, it is important to hear from people back in our districts for guidance and ideas for solutions that will ensure nothing like this tragedy occurs again. It is for this reason that earlier this year, I established a Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee back in my district comprising of experts from every field to help me in this endeavor.

The shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado on April 20<sup>th</sup> has left all of us heartbroken. It seems that there is no escape from the violence we are confronted with, and this event is a horrible reminder that no community is immune from the violence that has spread across our country. It has changed our lives forever. But the question remains, what can Congress do to stop this from happening again? It is easy to blame one particular factor for the cause of the shootings, or look for a single remedy. Unfortunately, there is no one solution to this problem. In some circumstances, there are no answers. The reasons for this incident are not superficial, but instead rooted in the fabric of modern society.

Personally, I believe that an aspect that the Working Group should have focused on when addressing the lack of parental supervision between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. is that tax rates are too high, thus requiring both parents to work. We should focus on providing fundamental tax relief thus dramatically reducing the 40% tax burden currently placed on American families. By doing this, one parent would be able to stay at home to raise their children. Congress may also want to enact flex-time legislation, which will allow parents to spend time with their children instead of accepting overtime pay.

Finally, an overarching problem is that charitable and community-based organizations (including faith-based organizations) do not have the financial resources to carry out their missions. Therefore, I urge the government to provide for charitable choice in eligibility for Federal grants and provide tax incentives too charitable and community organizations.

While nothing Congress can do could ever alleviate the pain of the senseless acts carried out at Columbine High School and other areas around the country, we need to make sure that this never happens again. Communities should never have to face the horror of burying their children who were just beginning to spread their wings as young adults. We will do all in our power to see that these events come to an end.

## VII. Media and Popular Culture

The information age is accelerating the pace by which our individual and collective imaginations can be externalized in the forms of written word and graphic imagery, sent around the world at the speed of light. Parents and other adults responsible for the development of children should be vigilant about protecting them from exposure to inappropriate programming. Children can, and should, be taught age appropriate media literacy. The V-Chip, voluntary labeling systems, and FCC regulation of broadcast content have shown promise. Ultimately though, our children cannot be insulated from all violent imagery in the media. Instead they must be educated and nurtured in ways intended to protect them from its influence.

Media leaders should be asked to produce and distribute information that helps parents guide their children and understand the difference between drama and reality. Congress should consider incentives that encourage schools to present media literacy instruction and develop a character based curriculum at all grade levels. Congress can also fund the development and distribution of age-appropriate curricula and teaching aids. Video game producers should be encouraged to produce "trailers" that would proceed violent games with messages reminding users that violence in the real world has serious and lasting consequences.

Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness and compassion are not controversial ideas. Parents should work together with their schools and their communities to teach young people about the importance of good character. Congress should encourage our schools to make character education a part of the curriculum. Everyone in the community, from teachers, youth leaders, and professional athletes to business leaders and clergy, has a responsibility to impart to our young people how important it is to have good character.

The Motion Picture Association has offered to help create videos and other instructional materials that could be used to teach basic values that are shared by all religions as well as secular philosophy. We ought to accept this offer.

With the explosion of the number of television channels, Americans now have an almost unlimited menu of specialized programming. There are fishing channels, shopping channels, home repair channels, old movie channels, science fiction channels, news channels, music channels, weather channels, and even channels devoted to the actions of Congress.

But there are no parenting channels. Arguably the information most important and precious to society cannot be found on TV. Parents desperate to understand how best to respond to the needs of their newborns, infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, adolescents

and teenagers cannot find much help on the television. They should be able to. Congress should encourage the creation a parenting television channel.

Finally, Congress should encourage its own Members to get out the word about the tools that already exist to help parents. The GetNetWise site ([www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)) contains a list of sites that are inappropriate for children. It also lists the various software programs that parents can use to block sites that they do not want their children to view. Members should link to this page from their official website.

Members should also help educate parents about the existing rating systems for video games and television. All of the industry associations have helpful booklets that explain how parents can use the V-Chip to help parents screen out programs with certain TV ratings. Members may also want to meet with various representatives of the entertainment industry to learn more about ratings systems and how to communicate that information to constituents. This information should be made available in Spanish and other languages.

NBC has begun airing a PSA campaign that focuses on the connection between youth violence and intolerance. Members may want to get a copy of the PSA to show at a town hall meeting. This campaign will also include an Internet site for parents to keep abreast of the issue.

Ultimately, parents are the front line in trying to protect our children from violent images. But Congress can play a role in encouraging our schools and communities to help educate parents about the resources that are available.

## VIII. HEALTH

The Mental Health Working Subgroup's objective is to determine the extent to which mental health problems have led to incidences of youth violence and to offer ways to address the problem. On October 27, 1999, the Mental Health Working Subgroup led a discussion within the full Working Group on the issue of mental health and youth violence. Distinguished guest speakers were William Pollack, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Center for Men at McLean Hospital and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology at Harvard University sponsored by Representatives Marge Roukema and Rob Portman, Walter Shervington, M.D., President of the National Medical Association and CEO of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee, and John Reid, Ph.D., Executive Director and Research Scientist at the Oregon Social Learning Center in Eugene, Oregon sponsored by Representative Sander Levin.

### FINDINGS

Underlying depression and mental pain are at the heart of a significant percentage of violent acts committed by youth. Studies in Britain, that are now under way in the United States, demonstrate that bullies in the school yard have the highest depression rates in their grades.

Youth violence is not confined to violence among peers (gang violence, school shootings, etc.), but also occurs in the form of suicide. The rates of suicide have risen dramatically in recent years. Scientific research has shown that almost all people who kill themselves have a diagnosable mental or substance abuse disorder; and the majority has more than one disorder.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death during adolescence and the second leading cause in young adults. 29% of high achieving high school students have considered suicide. For adolescents aged 15 to 19 years of age, suicide rates have tripled in the years between 1960 and 1980. Each year, almost 5,000 young people, ages 15 to 24, commit suicide.

Suicide rates among young people of color have also risen in recent years. In the African American community, suicide rates have increased dramatically. Between 1980 and 1995, 3,030 black youths aged 10 to 19 committed suicide.

Society stigmatizes mental health problems. As such, significant cultural and ethnic barriers inhibit the widespread use of mental health services available to children and youth. The understanding of cultural/ethnic barriers and removing stigmatization is crucial to providing services.

Seven percent of children born on any given day will commit 70 percent of the violent crimes between ages 12 and 17. It is imperative that we recognize high risk factors and engage in early prevention. For example, pre-natal care is a significant factor in the health of the child, and a mother who is healthy while she is pregnant will most likely have a physically and mentally healthy child.

There is a clear connection between substance abuse and school violence. Although youth may not be “high” when committing acts of violence, studies show that those who are engaged in harmful behavior, i.e. substance abuse, are more prone to future acts of violence than their peers.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Drs. Pollack, Reid and Shervington made recommendations for preventing youth violence that are appropriate, pragmatic, scientifically based, and cost efficient.

- We must broaden our definition of youth violence. Youth violence should include emotional pain, loneliness, depression, suicide and the general disconnection from society that are the root causes of violence. Society must realize that emotional pain and these other factors do not recognize socioeconomic status, gender, or family life.
- Ensuring good physical and psychological health for expecting parents is the best way to deter harmful behavior in their children. This could mean having a public health care professional visit the expecting family to monitor pre-natal health care and teach parenting and childcare skills beyond infancy.
- The judiciary, the police, schools, families, and the communities must coordinate their delivery of services. Each entity should deliver the necessary services in order to provide comprehensive emotional support for children and youth. Existing model programs that coordinate among these agencies should be replicated in each State.
- The juvenile justice system should provide mental health screenings by qualified mental health professionals for each youth entering the system. According to a 1994 Department of Justice study, 73 percent of these juveniles reported mental health problems and 57 percent reported past treatment. Any youth found to have a mental health disorder must be provided care. Probation officials should oversee and coordinate with the youth's family the continuation of the youth's mental health services while on probation.
- Communities should work to remove the societal stigmatization of mental health problems. Parents and communities should publicize that troubled children and youth can be helped with effective mental health studies in the community and school.

- Students should be encouraged to participate in extra-curricular school activities. Studies have shown that a student in one after school activity is almost 50 times less likely to commit a violent crime.
- Early education, intervention, and prevention are key. We need to understand which children are classified as high risk and act early. Pre-natal and post-natal care is vital to the child's mental health.
- Parents need more educational programs to help them understand the problems today's youth face. Parents need to understand their children's reactions and learn how to communicate with their children daily. Parents need to learn to identify trouble signs of emotional pain. These educational programs should reflect the psychological differences between boys and girls.
- School systems should have professionals who are appropriately trained in mental health on staff. These professionals may include, but are not limited to, guidance counselors, school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. No better investment can be made for safe schools than pre-empting violence by recognizing and treating depression, teasing, discontent, and confusion before they erupt into harm. In addition, qualified personnel can inform teachers and administrators on recognizing the warning signs of a troubled child or youth.
- Student run groups must be created to work in cooperation with police, schools, parents, and communities to create support groups for students. Anti-violence and empowerment groups have been demonstrated to work.
- Families of a child that commits an initial violent act should have access to parenting classes. Parents need to realize that when a child commits a violent act he/she is acting from some sort of inner pain or turmoil and must seek to determine the cause and rectify the problem.
- Schools are the epicenter of a child's life. Children spend such a large portion of their time at schools so they should be a place where comprehensive emotional services are available. This does not mean that it is the school administration's responsibility to provide such comprehensive services, but rather they should be a coordinator for such services. If students are emotionally healthy, they will be able to achieve academically. It is in the schools' best interest to have the family support the student.

- By decreasing substance abuse among children and youth, we can reduce the likelihood of school violence. Effective prevention, intervention, education and treatment, particularly school-based and community-based approaches, are keys. A more effective Safe & Drug-Free Schools program should be an essential component of the long-term solution to youth violence concerns. Local anti-drug coalitions play a key role in mobilizing all sectors of a community to address the substance abuse problems that contribute to youth violence.
- Congress should strengthen the role of organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs that create mentoring relationships between adults and children.

## CONCLUSION

Early attention to prevention, intervention, education, and treatment of mental health problems in children and youth are the essential elements to reduce youth violence. Involvement by parents, teachers and the community at large is critical in recognizing risk factors and preventing those risk factors before it's too late. Communities should work to remove the stigmatization that is associated with mental health problems. The federal government should provide incentives to state and local governments to publicize available mental health services for children and youth. Congress should implement and make accessible comprehensive mental health services for all children and youth.

## Talking Points on federal gun prosecutions

- \* **Overall firearms prosecutions are up.** Although Republicans and the NRA like to say that so-called "Triggerlock" prosecutions are down under the Clinton Administration, that's simply not the full story on federal firearms prosecutions. The truth is:
  - (1) We prosecute more criminals today for all weapons offenses than in 1992. Although the number of federal prosecutions for persons serving sentences of 3 years or less is down than, the number of persons sentenced to 5 or more years in federal prison is up by nearly 30 percent (from 1049 to 1345).
  - (2) And because we work more closely with our partners in state and local law enforcement -- who handle almost all gun crimes -- about 25 percent more criminals are sent to prison for state and federal weapons offenses than in 1992 (from 20,681 to 25,186).
- \* **Results speak for themselves.** The previous Administration may have prosecuted more lower level gun cases in federal court, but gun and violent crime sky rocketed on their watch. During the Clinton Administration -- and with more police on the street and tougher gun laws on the books -- crime has dropped across the board. For example:
  - Overall, violent and property crime are down by more than 20 percent each;
  - The murder rate is down 28 percent -- and to the lowest level in 30 years;
  - And homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults committed with gun are down by an average of 27 percent.
- \* **Tough talk is cheap.** Over the past 2 years, this Administration has called for more resources to enforce our gun laws on every front -- requesting tens of millions of dollars to hire over 280 new ATF agents and over 40 new federal prosecutors, as well as more than a billion dollars to hire more local police and prosecutors. Despite its rhetoric, the NRA has never supported backing its tough talk with real money for the state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate, arrest, and prosecute gun criminals..



Neera Tanden



05/03/99 11:33:32

Record Type: Record

To: Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP@EOP, Justin Coleman/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: parents group

Our other parent: Pam Eakes, Mothers Against Violence, in Seattle, 425-254-8873, cell 206-679-5095.

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**White House Strategy Session on  
Children, Violence, and Responsibility  
May 10, 1999**

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5. The Attorney General  
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  6. The Secretary of Education  
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55. Senator Harry Reed, D-NV

\*Janet Murguia has will invited him

56. Representative Richard Gephardt, D-MO

\*Janet Murguia has invited him

57. Representative Jennifer Dunn, R-WA.

\*Janet Murguia has invited her

release name:

→ Suburban alienation

Revised list

Suburban alienation

→ James Kunstler - Geography of Nowhere

↳ James Kunstler

↳ little bit: James

Kunstler:

→ Geography of Nowhere

→ Empire Wilderness:  
Kunstler

Talk to her:

Melanne Kewer:

Statement  
↳ 206-323-  
2132

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**Immediate Past President**  
Joseph R. Zanga, MD

May 6, 1999

VIA FAX

TO: Barbara Woolley  
FROM: Marjorie Tharp, public affairs manager  
RE: SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE MEDIA

As you finalize the details for Monday's summit, I believe it would be a good event for the President to publicly call for a Surgeon General's Report on children, adolescents and the media. As you may know, the Surgeon General issued a report on the media and violence in 1972. The National Institute on Mental Health issued another report in 1982. Since that time, the Internet has been launched and television is on the verge of going digital, allowing more channels and more programming.

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes now is the time for another government study that looks at the impact of media (TV, Internet, video games) on children from a health perspective. Such a report would collate all existing research on: media violence, sex in the media and sexual violence, drugs in the media and drug advertising, obesity and eating disorders, stereotyping, rock music and music videos, video games and the Internet.

As you may know, Sens. McCain and Lieberman and Reps. Markey and Burton have introduced a joint resolution for the Surgeon General to do a report on the media and violence. We support their efforts and would only ask that the study be broadened to include those issues listed above.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental, and social health for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

- > First Lady Calls on Ad Council To Take Action Against Youth Violence
- > -----
- > Nation's Leading Producer of PSAs Commits to 4 New Communications Programs

>  
> NEW YORK, May 5, 1999-- At The Advertising Council's 49th Washington  
> Conference on May 3, 1999, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton called on the  
> Ad Council to launch a national, comprehensive communications program to  
> prevent violence among young people in the wake of the tragedy in  
> Littleton, CO. In response, the Ad Council is prepared to galvanize the  
> non-profit, foundation and media communities to help American families  
> raise less violent children. In addition, the Ad Council will commit a  
> minimum of \$5 billion over the next five years in donated media time and  
> space to messages that support and strengthen parents in the difficult job  
> of raising children.

>  
> The Ad Council, the nation's leading provider of public service  
> communications programs, is uniquely equipped to address four priorities  
> that amplify the call to action delivered by President Clinton and the  
> First Lady. The Ad Council commits to the following campaigns which will  
> help turn kids away from violence and support the Ad Council's overarching  
> theme of "Helping Parents Help Kids:"

>  
> 1. Help parents establish stronger communication children

>  
> To encourage more open and frequent communication between child and  
> parent, about tough issues like violence, the Ad Council and the Kaiser  
> Family Foundation (KFF) will launch new public service ads for the Talking  
> With Kids About Tough Issues Campaign. The new PSAs will establish  
> positive role model behavior for parents in talking to their kids about  
> violence. The campaign will also disseminate up-to-date materials for  
> parents, through an existing toll-free number (800-CHILD-44), the  
> Department of Health and Human Services web site and the KFF web site,  
> that will include a guide about talking with kids about the tough issue of  
> violence. The campaign will be announced on May 10th, the day of the  
> President's Conference on Youth Violence, and will engage media partners,  
> including broadcast TV, radio, cable, internet, print and the like, in  
> developing their own creative materials in support of the effort. This  
> campaign will serve as the cornerstone of the additional efforts outlined  
> below, as open lines of communication are critical in helping to recognize  
> warning signs of violence, to encourage adults and children to act  
> responsibly about guns and to discuss what they see and hear in the media.

>  
>  
> 2. Help parents recognize early warning signs of violence

>  
> To help parents recognize the roots of violent behavior, the Ad Council  
> will launch a new Public Service Campaign with the American Psychological  
> Association to educate parents, care givers and children about effective  
> tools for resolving anger, frustration, alienation and conflict without  
> violence. The APA is actively seeking financial support and resources for  
> the launch of this campaign. Given the timeliness of the issue, the APA  
> hopes to identify funding by Fall of 1999.

>  
> -more-

*Ad Council*

>  
> 3. Encourage safe, responsible storage of guns  
>  
> To reduce the alarming number of child deaths from firearms, the Ad  
> Council, the US Department of Justice, and the National Crime Prevention  
> Council, are launching a new campaign on the safe storage of guns. The  
> goal of the campaign is to heighten awareness and change the way Americans  
> view and practice safe storage of weapons in their homes, ultimately  
> reducing the risk of gun-related injuries and deaths to children and  
> adults.

>  
>  
> 4. Improve and celebrate family friendly culture  
>  
> To increase the choices for families watching TV, the Ad Council is  
> partnering with 24 of the nation's leading advertisers (led by Johnson &  
> Johnson and Procter & Gamble) as well as the creative advertising industry  
> to encourage, recognize and celebrate high-quality family programming.  
> Family programming is defined as any program that is not violent,  
> offensive, or embarrassing for a parent to view with children. The  
> purpose of the awards, and other activities of the Coalition, is to  
> create more options for family viewing and to change the balance of  
> programs available for total family viewing. The first awards are  
> scheduled to occur on September 9, 1999 in Los Angeles.

>  
> "The Ad Council is committed to addressing multiple issues surrounding  
> youth violence, from prevention to harm reduction, from early attitude  
> formation to dealing with troubled youth before it is too late. The Ad  
> Council specializes in understanding youth and families as demonstrated by  
> our commitment to "Helping Parents Help Kids" through public service  
> communications. The Ad Council believes that the approach to the complex  
> problem of youth violence must be comprehensive and work consistently on  
> all of these levels and over a long period of time. The Ad Council is  
> prepared to make that kind of extended commitment of time, talent and  
> resources," said Ad Council President Ruth Wooden.

>  
> The Advertising Council is a private, nonprofit organization, which has  
> been the leading producer of public service communications programs in the  
> United States since 1942. The Ad Council supports campaigns that benefit  
> children, families and communities. The communications programs are  
> national in scope and have generated strong, measurable results. Ad  
> Council campaigns have helped to save lives and resources and to educate  
> the public about issues and concerns of the day. The Ad Council is  
> financed through contributions from more than 300 corporations.

>  
> # # #

>  
>  
>  
>  
>

**Nicole R. Rabner**

05/05/99 05:33:13 PM

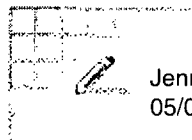
Record Type: Record

To: Neera Tanden/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: AC response to youth violence

----- Forwarded by Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP on 05/05/99 05:33 PM -----



Jennifer H. Smith  
05/05/99 05:31:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP@EOP, Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP, Laura E. Schiller/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: AC response to youth violence

----- Forwarded by Jennifer H. Smith/WHO/EOP on 05/05/99 05:31 PM -----



**Diana Sciocchetti <dsciocchet@AdCouncil.org>**  
05/05/99 04:35:17 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jennifer H. Smith/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: AC response to youth violence

---

FYI -- Please forward to Tobi, Nicole Rabner and Laura Schiller...many thanks to all of you for making the May 3rd event a success...Diana.

>  
>  
>  
>

Contact: Stacy Hammond  
212-984-1935  
Paula Veale  
212-984-1930

Neera

Here's my first draft.

Tom MAUSER

By the way - I'll have a cell  
phone with me -

303-549-6432.

No, it's

Tom MAUSER

Neera

Here's my first draft.

TOM MAUSER

By the way - I'll have a cell  
phone with me -

303-547-6432.

TOM MAUSER

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## The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration, 1966-1999

[Ray Suarez](#)



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 ISBN: 0684834022  
 Publisher: Free Press, The  
 Pub. Date: April 1999

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### Reviews and Commentary

We love reading reviews—and the more of them, the better. We didn't write the reviews below (other people did), but we thought you'd be interested in their comments.

**This Book was reviewed by:** [The Publisher](#), [Library Journal](#), [Publisher's Weekly](#) - [Publishers Weekly](#) and [Kirkus](#)

#### From **The Publisher**:

It is a journey most American families have made in the past three decades: from the buildings and blocks of old-time cities to the wide streets and green lawns of the suburbs. And what have we lost along the way? The mass exodus to the sprawling suburbs has had its cost for all of us, and popular journalist and NPR host Ray Suarez takes readers on a journey back to the days of stickball and front stoops, where everyone knew everyone else, before there was so much space in between. It's an untold story in the life of every reader.

#### From **Library Journal**:

Suarezessayist, journalist, and longtime host of National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation presents an account of the devastation wrought on American cities when families moved to the suburbs. Although he touches on the emptiness at the heart of suburbia and the lack of a sense of place, his main

focus is on the continually weakening cities that have been left behind. Suarez gathered much of his data by walking through the neighborhoods of this countrys largest cities and talking to mayors, city planners, longtime residents, and clergy. He intersperses this with policy analysis and relevant statistics to make his case that Americans urgently need to deal with the issues of race, education, housing, and employment to save their cities and the treasures therein. Suarezs work complements John O. Norquists *The Wealth of Cities: Revitalizing the Center of American Life* (LJ 5/1/98), and Fred Siegels *The Future Once Happened Here: New York, D.C., L.A., and the Fate of Americas Big Cities* (LJ 8/97). Deborah Bigelow, Leonia P.L., NJ

**From Publisher's Weekly - Publishers Weekly:**

In a lively guided tour of America's once mighty, now imperiled urban neighborhoods, Suarez, host of NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, searches for clues to "the great suburban migration" of the past 30 years. Using his formidable skills as a radio producer, Suarez seeks out the person in the street as he steers through the desolate inner-city neighborhoods of Chicago, by a new housing development in Cleveland or past a derelict public schoolyard in Washington, D.C. Amid ample evidence of the larger, structural issues fueling "white flight" (redlining mortgage banks, plummeting property values, crumbling public schools), his interviews with longtime urban residents add specificity and character to the great urban debate. Senior citizens proudly resist the violence flaring up around them, while black kids elsewhere describe their suffocating lack of opportunity. Suarez dutifully cites experts on urbanism, but their broad statements don't shed much light on the issue. What the book reveals, it reveals through anecdote, not analysis. Suarez seems determined to probe a simple lack of honesty he finds in many Americans' retreat to the 'burbs. Even as we tell ourselves we're moving to escape crime or find better schools for our children, he writes, we're "consuming our way into little customized worlds, as individual as a thumbprint, yet as interchangeable as shoes in a shoe store." (May)

**From Kirkus:**

A fairly sophisticated description of the problem of urban flight from America's largest cities over the last three decades. Suarez, noted radio journalist and host of NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, is interested in providing what he terms a "dry-eyed" reevaluation of the suburban migration that has left our cities in their relatively impoverished condition today. Deftly juxtaposing statistical analysis, government reports, and personal oral narratives, he retells the story of urban flight to include the more malignant aspects of the phenomenon, which are often downplayed in accounts of how our older cities got into the "mess" we perceive them to be in. He foregrounds race as one of the primary factors in the migration by noting that the fastest-growing urban areas are precisely those which are becoming the whitest. He also views the unwillingness of many churches to take a more active role in saving neighborhoods, and the union-busting potential of relocating urban industrial activities to the suburbs, as contributors to the population drain from our largest cities. Many efforts at reform seem to exacerbate the situation—property tax abatements to draw young professionals into urban residential neighborhoods may impoverish local

public schools, for example. Complicity between insurance companies, mortgage bankers, and investment firms to avoid doing business in minority neighborhoods also frustrates efforts at revitalization. Conversion of public housing projects into smaller, lower-impact, more widely dispersed units seems to be one of the few feasible alternatives to help ameliorate the situation. While Suarez bemoans the homogeneous suburban sprawl that has resulted from the migration and its tendency to isolate its inhabitants in an automobile culture, he doesn't really offer useful suggestions for facilitating a return to the coherence and stability of the postwar urban residential community. Well done, but it's a shame Suarez doesn't match his narrative of loss with potential scenarios for recuperation. .

---

### Read a Chapter

Click here to [read a sample chapter](#) from the book.

---

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\*\* -- indicates a question for you

**Bold** – indicates confirmation as of this morning

5/5/99

**White House Strategy Session on  
Children, Violence, and Responsibility  
May 10, 1999  
Proposed Participants**

---

Note: Obviously this list is growing, so please let us know if you have any additions you would like to make. Also, in terms of logistics, the President's Advisors are still planning a closed meeting that lasts at least two hours and thirty minutes. There may be a pool spray at the top, but regardless, at the end of the meeting, they are planning to have you, the President, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore go to the Rose Garden at the end to discuss the national campaign against youth violence and what you've learned from the meeting.

**-The President**

**-The First Lady**

**-The Vice President**

**-Mrs. Gore**

**-The Attorney General**

**-The Secretary of Education**

-Les Moonves, President, CBS Television (alternate: Bob Iger, CEO, ABC; Robert Wright, CEO, NBC)

-Edgar Bronfman, Jr., CEO, Seagrams (Universal/MCA)

(alternate: Howard Stringer, President, Sony USA; Michael Eisner, CEO, Disney ---JP)

-Steven Spielberg, Dreamworks

**-Steve Case, CEO, America On-Line**

-Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

**-Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America**

**-Hilary Rosen, President, Recording Industry Association of American**

**-Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcaster**

**-Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association**

-Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America --

**-Sandra Feldman, President, AFT** (ready to commit to the national campaign)

**-Bob Chase, President, NEA** (ready to commit to the national campaign )

**-Ginny Markill, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association**

**-Pam Eakes, Mothers Against Violence** *for one of these*

-\*\*Carl Bell, M.D., an African-American psychiatrist who works on violence and mental health issues (he has worked with the Vice President and Mrs. Gore on media and mental health issues) or Dr. Robert Pynoos, psychiatrist and pediatrician from UCLA who is the leading expert on treating children who have been the victims of large-scale violence. (Let us know if you have a strong preference)

-Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association (ready to commit to national campaign)

-\*\*James Garbarino, Author of *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them*. Professor Garbarino is the Co-Director of the Family Life Development Center and

Professor of Human Development at Cornell University. He argues that origins of lethal violence by young people, mostly boys, lie in a complex set of influences, including child abuse, easy access to weapons, neurological problems, a socially toxic culture, and emotional abandonment in which children grow up alone. He argues that a variety of steps are necessary to address this issue, including promoting positive parenting practices, protecting children from corrupting violent influences and images in the media, more spirituality in the lives of our children, and disarming children and youth. Throughout his book, Professor Garbarino refers to the research of others, from the American Psychological Association's study of media violence, to Dr. David Olds' work on home visitation programs. He also worked with Robert Pynoos on the Iraqi project. However, we have not yet spoken with him to determine if he is a forceful speaker. (Please let us know if you think this researcher makes sense.)

- Bill Cosby
- Youth -TBD
- Youth -TBD
- Youth -TBD
- Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of USA
- Abraham Foxman, National Director, ADL
- Rev. Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference
- **Reverend Eugene Rivers**
- Robert Ricker, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council (likely to agree to a number of the President's proposals)
- Robert Delfay, President and CEO, National Shooting Sports Foundation (likely to agree to a number of the President's recommendations)
- L.E. (Ed) Schultz, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson (apparently none of the gun manufacturers are publicly held corporations)
- Gun Manufacturer --TBD
- Sarah Brady, Handgun Control, Inc.
- Gil Gallegos- National President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and Deputy Chief Albuquerque Police Department or Ron Neubauer- National President, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and St. Peters, MO Chief of Police or Thomas Scotto- President, National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- \*\*Eli Segal or Sarah Brown -- to describe what a national effort would look like. (Bruce and others are concerned that the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy could be subject to the criticism that it has had very little to do with the teen pregnancy reductions that have occurred. In addition, Eli Segal has expressed an interest in directly helping with this national effort as it takes shape. However, please let us know if you have a problem with that.)
- Judge Alan Page
- Colorado Slot --TBD
- Lauryn Hill, Tentative - young rock star, committed to ending youth violence.
- Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation (Tentative - Kaiser is on the verge of committing major funds to a national campaign; they are also funding efforts to inform parents about the V-chip through the internet and other means)
- Members of Congress -- Leadership or designee
- Members of Congress -- Leadership or designee
- Members of Congress -- Leadership or designee
- Members of Congress -- Leadership or designee

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
CLOSING REMARKS  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION  
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
May 10, 1999**

We have just concluded a very productive strategy session in the East Room here at the White House. I'm encouraged by the many good ideas I heard. . . by the many ways Americans are already working together to reduce youth violence. . . and by our resolve to redouble those efforts. When I first called upon this group of Americans, representing all sectors of society, I had hoped for this sort of session. It was free of finger-pointing, and dedicated instead to the search for common ground and concrete solutions.

Earlier this morning, I said we wouldn't be asking who takes the blame, but who takes responsibility. And today, the answer you've given is a powerful one: you've said, we're all in this together. We may not agree on every issue, but we do agree on this plain and simple truth: a civilized society keeps its children safe.

In the weeks and months ahead, as we launch our ~~National Campaign to Reduce Youth Violence~~ <sup>Present</sup>, we will build on this strong foundation. We will cultivate the connections made today. And we will draw upon the ideas and experiences shared at this morning's session. I know we will all think of the children who spoke today with such bravery and maturity. We'll think of the parents who spoke, of the ways they struggle to pass their values on to their children -- while struggling, at the same time, against a swelling tide of images and ideas that sweep into their homes and can submerge those values. We'll think of these educators, ever watchful for the warning signs of troubled youth, ever mindful that schoolchildren should have little more to worry about than their schoolwork. And we'll reflect on the views of so many others here today with special insight into the minds of children, or a special impact on young lives.

As our National Campaign gets underway, we know that we face many challenges. But we also know that we can overcome them by consistently challenging ourselves to do better, and to overcome old ways of thinking and of doing business. We have seen some of that resolve already, in the support that the gun manufacturers and sportsmen here today have given to our common-sense gun measures. And we have seen it in the efforts of networks like ABC and CBS, and private family foundations like Kaiser, and agencies like the FCC, to give parents tools like the V-Chip to protect children from violent programming.

But we know there is more that each of us must do. At home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland, and here in Washington, we must challenge ourselves, and each

other, to step up to our responsibility.

First, and most fundamentally, we must remember that the way children turn out is determined by the way they are raised. I challenge parents to turn off the television when they don't like what they see, keep an eye on the computer screen, and refuse to buy products that glorify violence. If no one consumes these products, no one will produce them.

To the media and entertainment industries, I say this: enlist wholeheartedly in our cause, in our National Campaign. You have enormous power -- not just to entertain our children, but to educate them. I challenge you to embrace that responsibility. Ask yourselves whether it is really necessary to assault the eyes and ears of youth with what degrades and destroys. Consider the consequences of what you produce. Make your movies, CDs, and videos as if your own children were the audience.

Finally, I urge the Congress: Step up to your responsibility. I have introduced legislation to keep guns out of the hands of both criminals and children. As these gun manufacturers and sportsmen have made clear, these are common-sense measures. So I challenge Congress: pass these gun proposals now. Give America's children the safe childhoods they deserve.

If Americans meet these challenges, coming together from all walks of life to seek and share solutions, then we can truly put an end to the culture of violence -- and build in its place a culture of the values we would all be proud to pass along to our children. Thank you.

Draft 05/08/99 6:00pm  
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
OPENING REMARKS  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION  
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY  
THE EAST ROOM  
May 10, 1999**

Acknowledgments: TBD

I want to welcome everyone here to the White House, and to thank you for coming to our Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility. This is a diverse and impressive group: parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The Vice President, Tipper, Hillary and I wanted to bring together so many sectors of society for a simple reason: because there is nothing more important than the safety of our children.

On Friday, I announced that we would launch a National Campaign to Reduce Youth Violence -- a grass-roots effort to involve all Americans, from every community and all walks of life, in protecting our children from violence. I hope the ideas generated here will lay the groundwork for that campaign, and help us to find common ground and concrete solutions.

We're not here to debate who takes the blame, but to show who takes responsibility. I want to be sure that the government continues to do its part. In the weeks to come, I hope to work with Congress to pass legislation that makes our schools and streets safer, and keeps guns out of the wrong hands. Today, I am also directing the Surgeon General to conduct a groundbreaking study -- the first report in more than a decade on youth violence and its causes. This report will infuse our efforts with a new urgency and understanding.

But we all know government cannot do it alone. So, already, even before we sat down here today, many of you stepped forward and stepped up to your responsibility. I am pleased, first of all, that the gun manufacturers and sportsmen represented here today have issued a statement of support for several important gun measures we proposed here at the White House two weeks ago. Together, we have found common ground on these common-sense measures: banning violent juveniles from buying guns for life; raising the age for handgun ownership from 18 to 21; closing the gun show loophole so criminals can't buy guns; holding reckless parents responsible for giving children access to guns; and reducing illegal gun trafficking by helping law enforcement trace weapons used in crimes. I commend the gun manufacturers and sportsmen here today for taking responsibility.

Others have agreed to do their part. A few years ago, through the Vice President's

leadership, we were able to put in place a voluntary ratings system for television. Les Moonves, the head of CBS, and Bob Iger, the head of ABC, have led the way by putting their networks behind this effort; and they are here today. This year, half the new TV sets sold in America will contain the V-Chip, which parents can use to protect their children from violent programming. Today, the FCC is announcing a V-Chip Task Force to make sure every new set contains the V-Chip by the beginning of next year; and the Kaiser Family Foundation is announcing a massive new public education campaign to make sure parents know about it and how to use it. Also, following this meeting, Kaiser and the Ad Council will produce a campaign of anti-violent ads called "Talking with Kids About Tough Issues."

I am encouraged by all these efforts; and I hope that the rest of you will tell us today what you are doing -- or will be doing -- to give our children the safe futures they deserve. I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas. I'm especially interested to hear what these young people have to say.

---

Reena -

Now letter to 5/10/99

Strategy session.

Thanks

Olive

---

## FAX COVER SHEET

**Maggie Franks**

128 Del Mar, Suite 2A  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
949-498-0200  
800-PAVEWAY  
fax 949-498-0290

email: pave@home.com

|                                                                 |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>SEND TO:</b><br>The White House Summit on Violence, May 10th | <b>From:</b> Maggie Franks |
| attn: Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady                   | <b>Date:</b> May 4, 1999   |
| <b>Fax Number:</b> 202-456-5199                                 |                            |

☒ **Urgent/**      ☐ **Reply ASAP/**      ☐ **Please Comment/**      ☐ **Please Review/**      ☒ **For your Information/**

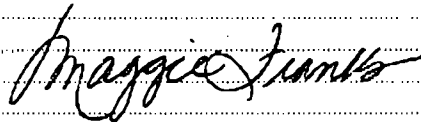
Total pages, including cover sheet:

15

**COMMENTS:**

Thanks so much for your help today in our telephone conversation.  
I hope that the First Lady is able to use some or all of the enclosed.  
I have much more information and ideas for a full scale campaign.  
However, with the limited timeframe, I wanted to give an overview.

Thanks again.



POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES TO  
VIOLENT ENVIRONMENTS

May 4, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Clinton, First Lady  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Rosie O'Donnell was right. It will take the women and the mothers of this country to turn around the national crisis facing this country: kids killing kids.

I have 4 sons of my own ranging in ages 26 on down to 10 years old. There was an incident in our town a few years ago where a high school boy (who bore a striking resemblance to one of my sons) went to a football game on a Friday night and ended up in a coffin before the end of the season. I sat back and took a hard look around and decided to use my advertising background to develop a concept from my point of view.

One of our biggest obstacles? Violence as a product. It has become this country's Gross National Product. We see it on tv, magazines, ads, billboards, clothing, cd covers...it's in movies, music lyrics, you name it. You have heard all the debates. It is cool to be cruel...and that attitude has to change if this country is going to change. It's time to compete with the violence. How? Here's a couple highlights of the ideas enclosed:

One Campaign: A single, cohesive, symbol meaning "enough is enough"

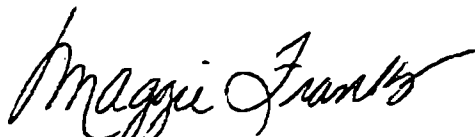
Concerts: To be done in the same vein as Comic Relief & VH1 Diva Concerts including groups that would appeal to both you and Chelsea (in other words, the audience would include kids and parents)

National Holiday: to celebrate children and families and to memorialize victims

In consideration of the upcoming strategy session on May 10th, I am turning over the enclosed program that I have developed to you and your office. You may be able to get some new ideas from it; modify existing programs; use it as a guideline or simply put it in the "idea" pile.

As the First Lady, a business woman and most importantly, as a mother, you have the passion, the ability and the connections to be the one to follow through and get a program off the ground before this term ends. I hope you take advantage of the momentum. Frankly, that's why I have held out submitting my plan. I knew that it would take a crisis of this magnitude before the country would be willing to listen to other options...and take action.

Thank you for your consideration.



Maggie Franks

/mrf

Enclosure (1)



PAVE the way to safer streets 125 Del Mar, Suite 2A, San Clemente, CA 92672 800-PAVEWAY 949-498-0200 fax 949-498-0290  
email: pave@home.com



**Positive Alternatives to Violent Environments**

***Pave...the way to safer streets***

## Okay, what's up with PAVE? We don't need another acronym... or do we?

When drinking and driving became a national problem, MADD was created. It became a way for parents, teachers, legislators and kids to direct their energy to curb drinking and driving. It gave the media, businesses and organizations a way to get involved.

The idea of PAVE is to provide a way for all of us to keep the violence in check, daily, weekly, annually. To make it a part of our life. A simple way for all of us to say we want the violence to end.

### CURRENT STANDARDS

Slick, glorified violence  
Politicians vs. Corporate Executives  
Local grass root efforts to curb violence  
Graffiti nationwide  
Political watchdogs and adversaries  
Numerous types of "Warning Labels"  
Different ratings for each industry  
Censorship by government for public  
Celebrity enactments of violence  
RAVE Concerts  
Working parents, hectic schedules  
Violent lyrics in songs  
Products promoting violence  
Slick advertising of violence  
Celebrity status for some criminals  
Industries recommending solutions  
Corporate sponsors of violence  
Constant violence in society

### PAVE ALTERNATIVES

Slick, glorified NON-VIOLENCE  
National celebrity spokesperson  
One national campaign  
Banners and flags nationwide  
Profitable alternatives  
One type of "No Violence" Label  
Same ratings for all industries  
Editing by industries for profits  
Celebrity endorsements of non-violence  
PAVE Concerts  
National holiday for children, families  
Song dedicated to non-violence  
Products promoting non-violence  
Target advertising for non-violence  
PAVE Profiles of Hero type personalities  
Implementation of solutions  
Corporate sponsors for non-violence  
Constant check for non-violence

## NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR CHILDREN

Each year my kids tease me on Mother's Day and say..."How come there is not a day for kids?" I always respond, "Everyday is Kids Day."

Unfortunately, with working parents and hectic schedules, every day is not kids day. Kids have been put on the backburner and they are not always the priority anymore. We have national holidays to celebrate presidents, veterans, workers, parents and even grandparents. We stop what we are doing for one day to pay tribute to them and give them the respect they deserve.

Meantime, kids and their priorities are squeezed in between commutes, work deadlines, paying bills, errands, grocery shopping. The list goes on and on.

Perhaps, it is time to dedicate one day a year to the children of this country. The holiday could be two-fold: to reaffirm our parental commitment to our children with a positive, upbeat celebration; and to memorialize all the children that have been victims of violence in our streets today.

The possibilities are endless as to the ways in which to celebrate Kids Day:

- ◆ PAVE Concerts
- ◆ PAVE Flags
- ◆ Parades
- ◆ Discounted passes at amusement parks, restaurants
- ◆ 24 hour moratorium on violent entertainment
- ◆ Local, regional and national forums, ceremonies, panel discussions
- ◆ Family pledges
- ◆ Corporate giveaways, cross promotions

### **Media, Corporate America, and Hollywood:**

A national holiday gives the media something to talk about...that's positive. Corporate America and Hollywood can sensationalize it with big sponsorships and celebrity endorsements. And like everything else in America, each year it will get bigger and better as more and more families, businesses, politicians, and entertainers jump on the bandwagon.



## PAVE CONCERTS

**The MEDIA...**needs something to get excited about. They want events, celebrities and sensationalism. So why not give it to them? PAVE concerts will be the pivotal point in getting the media and the entertainment industry involved in turning street violence around. Imagine a venue full of parents *and* kids attending a concert for the kids of America...to put down the guns, and stop the violence.

Through PAVE Concerts, PAVE will make non-violence a cause celebre. Celebrities will make non-violence vogue again. Encouraging peace in our streets. And it will encourage role models with tremendous impact in our culture to take a second look at their own solutions to non-violence and their contribution to society through their performances.

The concerts would be done in the same vein as Comic Relief. It would be an annual event to raise public awareness that would become a positive, national celebration. A turning point for the entertainment industry, parents and the country. And it will be a way for Corporate America to profit through sponsorship, ticket sales and promotions. It would be done with the intention to mass market the whole concept; over and over again throughout the year...until the next concert.

After only two years, the 2nd Annual Diva Concert on VH1 is a much hyped, celebrated event that will be replayed over and over again throughout the year. PAVE Concerts could be promoted in the same vein as the Diva Concert and Comic Relief events.

Rosie O'Donnell is our first choice as the national spokesperson to represent PAVE concerts. She not only has wide public appeal but she is also a Hollywood celebrity who has spoken out on the media, guns and violence before it became a national debate.

The roster of performers should include groups and performers that appeal to both age groups: (kids and parents)...the intent is to cross generations and bring them into one room, with one goal. Again, the possibilities are endless...

- ◆ HOST: Rosie O'Donnell
- ◆ Bette Midler, Cher, Gloria Estefan, Mariah Carey
- ◆ Blink 182, Green Day, Offspring, Sugar Ray, Alanis Morrisett
- ◆ Garth Brooks, kd Lange, Shania Twain
- ◆ Lauren Hill, Courtney Love, Madonna, Lenny Kravitz
- ◆ Paul McCartney, Whoopi Goldberg
- ◆ Chris Isaak, Elton John, Will Smith, Backstreet Boys

The concert promotion can include:

HBO Video  
Record/CD Sales  
Concert Ticket Sales



PAVE the way to safer streets 128 Del Mar, Suite 2A, San Clemente, CA 92672 800-PAVEWAY 949-498-0200 fax 949-498-0290  
email: pave@home.com

## **PAVE Banners™**

The first step in any public awareness campaign is to establish the goal of the campaign. The goal we all share in our neighborhoods, schools and cities is to "take back our streets." The Campaign - "Make Waves With PAVE" allows high visibility, long term planning and a means in which people can take positive action towards violence without creating a negative reaction.

With that in mind, PAVE has designed an advertising vehicle for commercial use to be used on our streets, schools, neighborhoods, or malls. The banners are put right where the violence is happening - in our streets. The public awareness campaign will be seen by residents, law enforcement, students, parents and teachers. It is a way for the community to "keep violence in check." A way for the community to get involved and stay involved because of the daily visual reinforcement. The banners will be seen by locals, tourists and shoppers as well.

PAVE Banners™ provide communities a way to say, "We want to make our kids safe again...take back our streets" without promoting an adversarial role. The banners can be used alone or in conjunction with other programs. They can be used as a means of recruitment and moral support to the volunteers and public officials; or as the tool for the business community and/or law enforcement to announce a pro-active program for non-violence.

**USE:** PAVE Banners™ can be hung on street light posts which are already used for other banners in many cities. Hardware designed specifically for banners is available for posts that are not equipped yet.

**WHERE:** They can be hung in commercial zones, shopping districts, residential areas engaged in a pro-active campaign; or in regional malls and shopping centers.

**DESIGN:** There are several sizes, patterns and colors to choose from. Optional imprints of the city name and/ or sponsor logo is available.

**SPONSOR:** The banners offer the Chambers of Commerce, business community and local organizations and city government an opportunity to offset the costs through sponsorship.

## PAVE FLAGS™



PAVE #410

Plain NO IMPRINT



PAVE #420

City Initial Imprint



PAVE #430

City Name Imprint

## PAVE PROFILES™

**Purpose:** PAVE Profiles™ are paid advertisements by sponsors who are acknowledging people in the community who contribute to non-violence. It is a way to reward people who stay out of trouble. It is designed to offset all the free publicity for gang members and criminals who, in effect, become celebrities in their own right.

**Who is eligible:** PAVE Profiles™ are geared for students, employees, volunteers, neighbors, basically **(anyone)** who is playing by the rules but may not necessarily be an honor role student, star athlete or super achiever. It's a way for everyday, ordinary people to get 15 minutes of fame simply for being a decent human being who respects life and the people in it. Their contribution could be heroic, or it simply could be a consistent attitude of non-violence. It is a way of saying thanks for being part of the solution, instead of part of the problem.

**Sponsors:** The list of possibilities is endless. The sponsor is the person or business who pays for the ad and for the reward itself. It could be a business, government agency or local organization that is acknowledging an employee, client, customer, volunteer or other individual that has come to their attention.

Or the sponsor could be a philanthropist who simply wants to reward an outstanding student or person that they have encountered.

**Perks/Awards:** These perks will be unique and worth talking about. They could range from "blocks of concert tickets" to a brand, new detailed pick-up truck. It could be a weekend getaway for two with all expenses paid. It could be a free month's rent. Again, the possibilities are endless. The idea is to encourage Corporate America and the business community to compete with its creativity and pocketbooks in rewarding young people who are making a difference.

## PAVE Banners™

### SAMPLE OF IMPRINT VARIATIONS

(City Name)

(Sponsor)

(City Initials)



## PAVE Flags™

PAVE Flags™ are designed for commercial and residential use for people who want to support the campaign and "Make Waves With PAVE."

The biggest advantage to PAVE Flags is that it enables individuals and the community to get involved on a daily basis simply by hanging a flag and showing support to end violence.

The flags get the general public involved and communicating the message to end violence in the same manner. And the flags make it as easy as possible for them. Through repetition and mass numbers, the politicians, law enforcement and manufacturers know what the general public really wants.

**DESIGN:** PAVE Flags™ have several optional designs that can be used in homes and small businesses. They are also available with the city name or initials imprinted. Logo imprints are available for flags used in local restaurants, businesses or government agencies and other commercial locations.

The Flags are standard size: 3x5 - larger sizes available by special order  
Colors: teal and white  
Imprint Available: Silkscreen

Flag Fabric: nylon

**SEE ATTACHED DESIGNS**



## PROFILE™

the way to safer streets

Jim Martin, a long time resident of Los Angeles, has taken his job to new heights in his effort to curb graffiti. At age 50, he's proven the sky's the limit when climbing ladders and high places.

### *Status Quo*

As a painting contractor, Jim was fed up with graffiti and decided to fight back using a little imagination and mother nature. So his weekends these days are filled with paint, buckets and brushes. Together with his son, Kent, they volunteer their efforts covering graffiti and planting bushes when the job is done to prevent future vandals.

### *PERKS*

When Regal Resorts heard about Jim and Kent, they volunteered their own services by donating deluxe accommodations that include a pool and spa, health club, game room and daily happy hour for a well deserved rest.

have a great time, guys! From the Staff at

SUITE WEEKEND PACKAGES

26 LOCATIONS

26 POOLS, 26 SPAS

26 REASONS TO GET AWAY

800-RES-ORTS

**REGAL  
RESORTS**

Where you're

always treated royally

## WAVEwatch

**Current Trend:** Numerous meetings, efforts being diluted due to conflicting schedules or lack of information

**Alternative:** PAVE WAVEwatch

**Purpose:** WAVEwatch Ads are ongoing ads that run during the 'MAKE WAVES WITH PAVE' campaign to keep the community informed and involved. The general public, as good as their intentions are, have a short memory and it's important to remind them of upcoming community events so that they can plan accordingly. The current trend is for organizations to send out press releases. So, meeting information is often buried in with the daily news and related articles. Although the free advertising is good, it still doesn't reach the entire audience that the organization wants to reach. Again, through repetition and consistency, PAVE ads reinforces credibility to ensure better results, enforcement and community support.

**Who is eligible:** Local organizations, businesses and agencies that are part of the "MAKE WAVES WITH PAVE" campaign register their events through the chamber and/or city for inclusion in the schedule.

**Sponsors:** Again, the possibilities are endless. Safe streets are good for business so of course, it is in the best interest of local businesses to sponsor ads and of course, these businesses are getting a goodwill ad in the process. Or the ads can be a co-op effort in which several organizations pay for the ad.

# PROFILES AND WAVEwatch AD LAYOUT

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PAVE<br>LOGO                 |                                 |
| <b>Profile</b> <sup>TM</sup> |                                 |
| .Individual's Name           |                                 |
| .City of residence           |                                 |
| .Personal Info               |                                 |
| <hr/>                        |                                 |
| <b>Status Quo</b>            |                                 |
| <hr/>                        |                                 |
| .Job/School Position         |                                 |
| .Volunteer Work              |                                 |
| .Special Assignments         |                                 |
| .Special info                |                                 |
| .Human Interest              |                                 |
| <hr/>                        |                                 |
| <b>PERKS</b>                 |                                 |
| <hr/>                        |                                 |
| Sponsor/Perks                |                                 |
| .award, prize, bonus         |                                 |
| .Sponsor info                | SPONSOR<br>LOGO                 |
| PAVE                         | <i>The Way to safer streets</i> |

PAVE # 835

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PAVE<br>LOGO                    |                                 |
| <b>WAVE watch</b> <sup>TM</sup> |                                 |
| Upcoming Local Events           |                                 |
| <hr/>                           |                                 |
| <b>What's Up</b>                |                                 |
| <hr/>                           |                                 |
| >Local Meetings                 |                                 |
| >Community Rallies              |                                 |
| >Fundraisers, Tournaments       |                                 |
| <hr/>                           |                                 |
| .Sponsor info                   | SPONSOR<br>LOGO                 |
| PAVE                            | <i>The Way to safer streets</i> |

PAVE #830

**Thank you for your time.**

**I hope the summit is a huge success...for our kids' sake.**

WHSO LAYOUT Draft 1  
a/o 5/5/99; L. Schwartz

**WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY MEETING ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND  
RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EAST ROOM AND STATEMENT IN THE ROSE GARDEN  
Monday, May 10, 1999**

**East Room**

**Pool Press (opening remarks only)**

**3 (t) Social Aides for entry**

|                        |                   |                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Principal Time:</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Briefing in Map Room</b>     |
|                        | <b>10:25 a.m.</b> | <b>Proceed to Green Rom</b>     |
|                        | <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Event in East Room</b>       |
|                        | <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>End Time in East Room</b>    |
|                        | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Statement in Rose Garden</b> |

Number of participants:      Approx. 50 at u shaped table  
                                         (POTUS, HRC seated on South side of table  
                                         VPOTUS and MEG on legs of table)  
                                         Approx. 10(t) staff at north end of East Room for note taking

7:00 a.m.      WHCA arrives to set mics

9:00 a.m.      DPC staff to seat Round Table.  
                         *Contact: Karin Kullman and Justin Coleman*

9:45 a.m.      **Participants** begin to arrive at the East Appointments Gate/East Visitor's Gate.  
                         *Contact: Bronson Frick*

**Participants** proceed to the Grand Foyer and at the appropriate time are shown to their seats in the East Room.  
*Note: Karin Kullman and Justin Coleman*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><i>Grand Foyer Set Up Notes:</i></b> coat check in the China Room;<br/>coffee/juice/pasiries served in Grand Foyer; Staff at Cross Hall doors to direct to seats with copies of seating chart; brass quintet under Seal outside Blue Room for reception; soda's etc. available in Foyer during session.....tbd</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

10:00 a.m.      Briefing in the Map Room for **THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE.**

*Map Room Briefing Participants:*

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Maria Echaveste       | John Podesta    |
| Richard Socarides     | Bruce Reed      |
| Attorney General Reno | Larry Stein     |
| Secretary Riley       | Jeff Shesol     |
| Laura Schiller        | Melanne Verveer |

**10:30 a.m.**    **THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE** are announced into the East Room from the Green Room to honors.

*Note: Brass quintet moves inside to the south end of the East Room and remain standing to play honors - music holders on instruments (no music stands or chairs).*

**THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE** proceed to their seats.

**PROGRAM**

- **THE PRESIDENT** makes remarks from his seat at the table.

*Press Note: Press Pool depart after THE PRESIDENT's remarks.*

**12:45 p.m.**    **THE PRESIDENT** concludes meeting.

**THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE** proceed to the Map Room for briefing on the statement.

**1:00 p.m.**    **THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE** proceed to the Rose Garden accompanied by TBD.

**1:20 p.m.**    **THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE** depart.

Participants are escorted to the North Lawn for press interviews. (T)

**EAST ROOM SET UP NOTES:**

- WHCA announce from Green Room.
- WHCA toast lectern on South side behind table
- U shaped table
- Press set up at North side, stanchioned, 3 risers.
- Staff seats (\*\* chairs) at North End
- Ushers: to provide some type of overlay for table setting (dark blue/black)
- WH note pads and pencils at places provided by Ushers Office
- Water around table
- Calligraphers: provide tent cards

***ROSE GARDEN SET UP:***

stage size/location tbd; blue goose; POTUS and American Flag behind blue goose from whca; announce from colonnade, Chairs tbd; Press Risers opposite podium and one cut away; stanchions around press risers.



SUNTUM\_M@A1  
05/10/99 03:02:00 PM

*\*To Grace Reef*

*662-3550*

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: remarks after strategy session on children and violence

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,  
THE FIRST LADY,  
THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE

AFTER WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION  
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Rose Garden

2:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated, everyone. We're getting our group up here, you see. It's a little slow -- it's a large and, as you can see, diverse and distinguished group. We just had a wonderful meeting in the East Room of the White House. We had not only the Vice President and Tipper and Hillary and I, but many members of our administration and four members of Congress -- Senator Brownback and Senator Reid, and Leader Gephardt and Representative Jennifer Dunn were there.

And we listened to several hours of discussions; over 40 people spoke, many of them already heavily involved in the efforts to give our children a safe childhood and protect them from violence.

This was exactly the kind of session I had hoped for, where everyone was talking about the problems and the opportunities; everyone was talking about what could be done to accept responsibility. No one was pointing the finger of blame.

In the weeks and months ahead, as we launch our national

campaign to prevent youth violence, we will build on the strong foundation of this day, and on many of the things which have been said and many of the people who have said them.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to the young people who are here today and who are working in their own communities to try to help their fellow students have a safe and wholesome life.

As the national campaign gets underway, we know we'll have to overcome the old ways of doing business. We've seen some of that today as well, in the remarkable support that gun manufacturers have given to many of our common-sense gun proposals. We see in the efforts of networks like ABC and CBS, and private family foundations like Kaiser, and agencies like the FCC, all of whom have supported the television rating systems, and giving parents the tool of the V-chip to protect children from excessively violent programming.

We know that there is more for each of us to do at home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland and here in Washington. Every parent, every teacher, every leader has something more to do.

First and most fundamentally, we must do more to help parents fulfill their most important responsibilities, those to their children. Challenging parents to turn off the television when they don't like what they see; to use the new tools the Vice President announced recently to keep an eye on the computer screen; to refuse to buy products that glorify violence. If no

one consumes these products, people will stop producing them. They will not build it if you don't come.

To the media and entertainment industries, I also say we need your wholehearted participation in this cause. There are many changes which have occurred over the last generation in our society. It is true that we've had a lot of breakdowns in families, schools and communities. It is true that we have had a rise in the availability of weapons. It is also true that there has been a coarsening of the culture in many ways. And those who influence it must be sensitive to that.

I mentioned today that not very long ago there was a fascinating story on the birth of Hollywood, the virtual creation of Hollywood by immigrants, on one of our cable channels. And the story really graphically demonstrated how these immigrants -- who came to the United States, faced initial discrimination, went to California to make a new life -- created an image of America, and an image of the American Dream and an image of American life in the movies that they made that had a very positive impact on the culture of America for decades.

We cannot pretend that there is no impact on our culture

and our children that is adverse if there is too much violence coming out of what they see and experience. And so, we have to ask people who produce things to consider the consequences of them -- whether it's a violent movie, a CD, a video game. If they are made, they at least they should not be marketed to children.

Finally, I urge Congress to join in this campaign by passing the legislation necessary to keep guns out of the hands of children. As a group of gun manufacturers and sportsmen made clear today, these are common-sense measures that they support.

There are also other things that we can do that I hope we will do -- to provide more support for counseling services, for mental health services, for other things which will help to improve our efforts.

Again, let me say, I want to thank the Vice President and Tipper Gore for the work they have done on these issues for years. I want them to come forward and speak. But first, I want to ask the First Lady to speak -- and acknowledge that she has to go to a school as soon as she finishes talking here.

She had the idea for us to call this national conference and to try to organize a national grass-roots campaign. It was a good idea and it looks like a lot better idea after today's meeting. So I want to thank Hillary for everything she's done and ask her to come forward and say a few words. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, all. I think everyone who participated in the meeting this morning came away with the positive feeling that there isn't any problem that we face when it comes to our young people, that if we're honest enough to talk about it we can come up with ideas about how to address it, and we can better empower all parts of our society to be part of the solution.

To that end, the President mentioned that we want to have a national campaign to prevent youth violence. It's modeled on the national campaign against teenage pregnancy, the national campaign that was launched to convince employers to hire people coming off of welfare to go to work. It's in the greatest of American traditions of the kind of public-private partnership that is unique to our country.

And in the next weeks that campaign will be put

together. It will be a not-for-profit, 501-C3 effort that will bring together many of the people around the table today in the East Room and many others. It will come forward, we hope, with very specific suggestions about what parents can do, what schools can do, what community groups can do, what the media can do, what gun manufacturers can do, what all of us can do.

You probably know that I really do think it takes a

village; but my book had a subtitle, and that was, it takes a village to raise a child and other lessons children teach us. And the most important lesson I think all of us are learning, once again because of the tragedy in Littleton and the consequences that flow from that, are that we have to do a better job doing our most important job, and that is helping to raise our children and create a climate in our country that is good for children.

We have to battle a lot of attitudes and cynicism and skepticism and hopelessness and helplessness, and a sense by many people that the forces that are arrayed against families and children are just too big to try to deal with, and maybe the only thing we can do is just shut the doors of our own home and try to deal with what goes on there. But we have to do that as well.

So I'm very encouraged by the conversation that we had this morning, and I'm very excited about the prospects for this national campaign. And I hope that everyone, everyone in America, will realize that there's a role for each of us in trying to prevent youth violence. And more than that -- trying to reach out and listen to our children so that we can provide the kind of support that they need.

And someone who has known that and done it in her own life, and done it in our public life for many years, who has continually addressed the issue of mental health and particularly how it affects children -- someone who I admire greatly and who will be chairing the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health on June 7 -- and that is Tipper Gore. (Applause.)

MRS. GORE: Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton. And to everyone that participated in the strategy session today, we want to thank you. We want to thank members of the media for being here, because certainly in some of the things that we heard we would like to ask the media to help get the word out to the parents, to all members of the community, that we are all part of a solution to helping better support our kids.

We heard loudly and clearly that every member of the community -- whether it was the entertainment industry, the gun industry, businesses giving more flexibility, time to their employees so that they could strengthen their families by spending more time with their children whenever that was necessary -- we really heard that children need to spend more time with adults. Children themselves, the kids involved in the strategy session said that they need to have more involvement from adults, parents, in their lives. And that's a call to action that we've got to answer.

Something else that we heard loudly and clearly is that, yes, while Littleton was symbolic for so many of us and such a tragedy and a wake-up call, that there have been little massacres going on in our society for years. And many people have been very, very concerned about that, and we continue to be. But we all come together now, around the table -- just as I hope all

Americans will come around their tables, in their own homes, in their own neighborhoods, in their own communities, to say, how can we better support children?

One way we clearly can is by providing more counselors in schools, more access to mental health support and mental health help. When we hear children talk to us about other kids who are headed toward violence either against others or against themselves -- since suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers -- we have to have adults in place in all parts of the community that will listen, but especially in the schools.

So that is something that I wanted to mention, and that I would like to ask also for the media's help in our coverage of these issues very specifically, in the first-ever White House Conference on Mental Health, which will happen on June the 7th, with some 1,000 downlinks all around the country. And it will be at Howard University.

You can do a great deal to help us talk to kids, and tell children in America that we are willing and ready to listen to them, as well as -- I'd like to ask for people in the media, themselves, the programmers and others, if they will consider the effect they have in reporting the news on kids, the effect that they may have, and the way that they portray people with a mental illness in their programming. They can go a long way -- all of us can -- if we just join our hands and hearts together in a very positive way, and ask a central question: Is what we are doing good enough to help our kids mature into healthy adults? Because that's in the interest of all of us, for all Americans.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And now I'd like to present someone who has even more to say on this subject, in particular, about giving parents tools to use in order to do their job more effectively, the Vice President, Al Gore. (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Tipper. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you and congratulate you and the First Lady for taking the initiative to pull this rather extraordinary strategy session together that we just had. I know that I speak for all of the men and women and children who participated in this session in saying it was quite a useful, even inspiring, certainly encouraging, session.

And just to try to briefly capture the spirit of it for those of you who were not there -- and, incidentally, I'm sure it would not have been as good if it was open to the press. (Laughter.) Even you, Sam. (Laughter.) But people who have had differing points of view on contentious issues for years and years spoke directly to one another about how they wanted to reconsider some of the

assumptions they have held in the past, how they wanted to have an open mind about new approaches to solving problems that obviously have not been solved up until now. It was really an occasion for quite a bit of reconciliation.

So I want to thank you, Mr. President and the First Lady. I want to thank Tipper for being my inspiration and source of education on these issues for a long time now. Twenty-two years ago, she formed a citizens group on violence in the media, and as others have mentioned, the White House Conference on Mental Health Care is coming up.

I want to thank Leader Dick Gephardt, and Jennifer Dunn, Harry Reid and Sam Brownback, all of my colleagues in the Cabinet, and all of the leaders from the various sectors of industry and society, who were present here today.

One of the other very impressive things about this gathering was that it didn't just point fingers, and it didn't try to simplistically settle on one particular cause of a very complex problem. And I think it's a sign of maturation in our society that people from all different sectors could come together and really see this issue in all of its complexity.

Obviously, better parenting is the main and most important solution. But some of the participants raised new aspects of that that haven't been always talked about in connection with this issue. Let's look at the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and realize that the painful real-life lessons that children learn from seeing domestic violence, as common as it is -- even if it's seldom reported to the extent that it occurs -- those lessons are far more powerful, in the impact on those children than the imagery they see in the media.

Obviously, all of the adults in this nation have to take more responsibility for becoming involved in the lives of all children. Dr. Maya Angelou talked about the epidemic of rage and cynicism that can only be cured if adults become more involved and more constructively involved with children.

We talked about the importance of early childhood education and after-school care -- both areas where communities can help parents by filling in the times of the day when it's so difficult for some families to do the job they need to do. Of course, we talked about the problems in schools, how some of them are too big, how we need smaller schools, or at least smaller schools within large schools; more teachers; more guidance counselors.

We talked about how to heal communities that foster a feeling of alienation and isolation, that hurts the ability to establish a sense of connectedness that is so important for children to learn. Of course, we talked about how to limit the availability

of guns to children and to criminals and to those who are obviously unsuitable to have guns.

And we talked about the role of the media. And I want to commend ABC and CBS and most of the cable networks and satellite networks for participating in the V-chip system that is going to hold the promise of dramatically improving the ability of parents to protect their children against images they feel their children are not capable of handling.

We talked about the Internet. Steve Case and others described the new safeguards that are going into effect in just a couple of months, and video games. And a new breakthrough occurred right in the meeting with an agreement between the video game industry and the Internet industry to plug a loophole that now makes it possible for children to get unrated and violent video games over the Internet, where it's impossible for them to buy them in stores.

We talked about self-restraint and a movement starting within the entertainment industry to recognize that, obviously, since billions of dollars is spent on advertising because it affects behavior, the plague of ultra-violent images that are planted like seeds in the minds of children bear bitter fruit in some vulnerable children. Most can handle it; they've been given the strength to do so by their families and by their faith and by their communities. But it was so encouraging to hear the

entertainment industry describe the steps already taken, others in prospect, and the movement within the industry.

And, of course, the need for more mental health services and early detection and an ability to intervene early because, as someone said, a 1st grade teacher can often tell you within a couple of weeks after the start of the school year that one or two children in her or his new class is going to be vulnerable to trouble if there's not intervention. But there are waiting lines and not enough services.

Finally, we talked about the faith dimension of this and the need to -- with all, of course, due respect and utmost observance of the principle of separating government from religion -- of making it easier to reconnect faith communities with some of the efforts that are now underway.

In closing, as the President mentioned, this is just the beginning of an important new partnership. And he mentioned -- excuse me -- the First Lady mentioned that this was modeled after the campaign against teen pregnancy. Secretary Shalala has played a big role in that one. And I had the privilege of announcing the success, the new figures that show success in that -- where, again, it was recognized there's not a single cause, there has to be a community-wide effort to address all of the factors that go into that. And it's succeeding.

So I'm encouraged. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you again for the kind of leadership that has made this possible. And I know that all of the people who joined us here would like to join with Tipper and me in thanking you for convening this session. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

Q -- forces? Is that good enough?

Q Mr. President, are you encouraged by word of a Serb withdrawal?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm encouraged by any good word, but I think that the conditions that we set out are the minimal ones to make this work. I don't think that the -- after all the Serbs -- after all the buildup, and the hundreds of thousands of Kosovars have been driven out, many, many killed, I don't think they'll come back with that. So I think we have to do better.

But any little daylight, any little progress is -- it's better than it was the day before. We just have to bear down and keep working, and we'll work through it.

But I think that forces have got to be withdrawn. There has to be an international security force there. Otherwise, they won't come home. And that's the important thing.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, as a high-schooler, how can I reconcile these images we see on the news?

END                      2:29 P.M. EDT

Message Sent To: \_\_\_\_\_

**White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility**  
**Suggested Discussion Questions for Mrs. Gore**  
**May 10, 1999**

**YOUTH AND STUDENTS**

Nearly 20 percent of young people have a diagnosable mental illness such as depression. Left untreated, a young person's mental illness can lead to school failure, substance abuse, suicide and acts of violence. I would like to ask the students to comment on this issue.

Do you know someone who has seriously considered or attempted suicide or someone who has experienced bouts of depression?

Do you believe young people with depression or thinking about suicide feel comfortable reaching out for help?

Do you believe your school has adequate programs and resources to deal with students' mental health needs?

What do you believe we should do to reach out to young people experiencing serious problems in their lives and help them before they act out?

**MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT**

I would like to ask Dr. Carl Bell to tell us about the connection between a child's early experiences and development and their long term mental health and well-being.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF MEDIA INDUSTRIES**

I believe that all segments of society has a role to play in erasing the stigma and shame associated with mental illness. We have seen how the media and entertainment industries – especially television and movies – can help shape public attitudes towards public health concerns such as HIV/AIDS and breast cancer.

I believe these industries can have an equally powerful and beneficially impact on erasing the stigma and shame associated with mental illness. I would like to ask the representatives from these industries and others here to briefly share their thoughts on how we can use the messages the media sends to our children and families to create a more positive understanding of mental health.

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton

FROM: Neera Tanden

RE: The Strategy Meeting on Children, Violence and Responsibility

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You will receive the President's briefing and additional materials, but I wanted to lay out the event for you tomorrow and discuss some issues about your remarks.

### **Logistics**

The President will open tomorrow's discussion and lay out his announcements (there will be a pool spray at the top). He will announce his request for a new Surgeon General's report on youth violence. While the report will include a section on media violence, it will also delve broadly into a number of youth violence issues, including early childhood development and parental involvement. It is our hope that it will provide real definition as to what we know and don't know about youth violence. He will also make a number of other announcements, including gun industry support for pieces of his legislation as well as new efforts to help parents understand and use the V-Chip.

After the discussion, the President, you, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will proceed to the Rose Garden for a speaking program. The order of speakers is: the President, you, Mrs. Gore and the Vice President. The President's advisors expect that the President will give a readout of the meeting and discuss the national campaign. He will issue a broad number of challenges to different sectors – the media, gun groups and parents – to help address youth violence. I have attached an early version of the President's remarks, which may give you a sense of the scope of his remarks.

In addition to discussing your own reactions from the meeting, you would discuss the campaign in more detail, possibly setting its goals, and the contribution that it could make as a mobilizing tool for these divergent interests – from media organizations to gun owners to parents. Clearly, this is an opportunity to shape the campaign as you would like to see it.

The following are some thoughts on additional substantive points you could make about the campaign, to gain your reaction:

- Many of the organizations in the room are ready to commit to a national campaign, including the NEA, the AMA, and the PTA. You could highlight those commitments that will be discussed in the meeting.
- You could set a deadline for the campaign to be up and running, (e.g., possibly by the time children are returning back to school).
- You could discuss specific goals of this campaign. For example, this campaign will have to focus on a broader array of problems than previous campaigns we have mentioned, because, as you have said, there are a number of issues raised by youth violence – from mental health and school services, to easy access to guns, to media

violence to parental involvement. A discussion of how the campaign will particularly work to involve a broad sector of groups to address all these issues may be helpful.

- You may want to discuss specific goals of the campaign, including working with the media to ensure there are more positive messages for our youth.
- You may also want to discuss the particular role of parents in this campaign to help prevent youth violence. As you said during yesterday's gun event, parents need to be part of this effort to ensure that our children are safe.

I am attaching the President's recent statements on the campaign idea so that you know what has already been discussed.

Laura and I ready to work on talking points, but I thought it would be most helpful to get a sense of what about the campaign you would like to say.

# Children, Violence and Responsibility

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

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## GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

**Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System.** Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

**Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip.** Four years ago, the President and the Vice President 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 saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

**Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television.** In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

**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.

**Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page.** Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page

also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

## **PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY**

**Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools.** President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the Federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

**Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems.** To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

**Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement.** Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will 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 a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund 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. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

**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. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. 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.

**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.

**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.

## **KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH**

**Won Passage of the Brady Bill.** Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

**Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons.** The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

**Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.** In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Over the past two years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and

Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

**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.

## SUGGESTED PROGRAM SEQUENCE

### Opening:

**YOU** will be announced into the East Room, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore.

**YOU** will be seated and will make brief opening remarks from your seat with the press present, after which the press will depart.

There will be a brief interval while the press depart.

**Note:** **YOU** will moderate the roundtable discussion. The Vice President, the First Lady and Mrs. Gore should participate in the discussion and questioning as appropriate. To organize the discussion and maximize involvement of the 56 other participants, we recommend dividing the discussion into the following categories.

### Talking with Students (15-20 minutes):

**YOU** should begin by calling on the **students** present to describe the problem. **YOU** may call on one or both of the following:

**Terrence Gray**, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High (you met him at roundtable)

**Simonna Woodson**, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School, Indianapolis

Other students available for comment:

Shane Cambroner, City Year staffer, former Americorp member

Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA

Maria Monteil, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High

At this point, **YOU** may want to call on **Colorado AG Ken Salazar** for comment.

**YOU** should ask **James Garbarino, Ph.D.**, Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University and author of *Lost Boys*, to discuss briefly what we know about which factors contribute to youth violence.

Other experts available:

Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois

Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, Univ. of Pennsylvania

### The Responsibility of Gun Manufacturers and Those Who Use Guns (15-20 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of gun manufacturers and those who use guns.

**YOU should** call on **Bob Ricker**, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council: ask him to discuss their agreement with elements of your latest gun proposals. He may ask **Georgia Nichols**, VP & General Counsel, O F Mossberg (largest shotgun manuf.) and **Ed Shultz**, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson to comment.

**Sarah Brady**: ask her to comment.

Others available to comment: Attorney General Janet Reno

Gun Industry:

Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates

Law Enforcement:

Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

### **The Responsibility of the Entertainment and Internet Communities (40 minutes):**

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of the entertainment and internet communities. **YOU should** call on each of the following:

#### **Internet:**

**Steve Case**, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line: ask him to describe AOL's new efforts to empower parents.

**Eric Heydenberk**, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA: Ask him to describe the conflict resolution web site he is building.

#### **Television/V chip:**

**Leslie ("Les") Moonves**, President, CBS Television: praise him and Iger for voluntary ratings system.

**Bob Iger**, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International

**William Kennard**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission: ask him to describe the FCC's V-Chip project.

**Drew Altman**, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation: ask him to describe their v-chip project.

**YOU may** also call on one or more of the following:

April 30, 1999

Fax to: Maria Echaveste  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
(202) 456-6218

From: Bob Swan

RE: Discovery Workshop 1999 May 4 in Lawrence, Kansas  
White House Strategy Meeting on Children, Violence and Responsibility"

Dear Maria:

I just saw your interview on television and wanted to make you aware of an important initiative in raising the self-esteem, responsibility and constructive behavior of students at Lawrence Free State High School. I'm admittedly a bit prejudiced because my daughter Laura got the idea for the Discovery Workshop in early March, before the tragic murders in Littleton. I totally agree with Laura's message that students have to take the main responsibility in finding the answers to this crisis of teenage violence. Her work in organizing the Women's Advocacy Organization two years ago, getting both male and female students involved, and now coordinating this workshop have inspired hundreds of students as well as her teachers. Laura has certainly been ahead of her time.

This evening I will discuss with Laura her interest in the strategy meeting that you are soon to hold at the White House. I personally couldn't think of a more concerned and involved student for you to include in this vital meeting. She has been asked to represent her high school on several other occasions this year as senior class president, editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, and an articulate spokesman on issues of concern to all of us.

Laura will be attending Boston University this fall semester. Her phone number is (785) 865-5272 and her e-mail is: [ljswan99@aol.com](mailto:ljswan99@aol.com).

Sincere regards,

Bob Swan  
(Democratic Congressional candidate in 1998 and Clinton/Gore supporter since 1992)

## MEDIA ADVISORY

April 30, 1999

### **Kansas Teens Organize an Alternative to Violence** *Discovery Workshop 1999 \* May 4, 1999 \* Lawrence, Kansas*

One year before the scourge of school shootings came to the U.S., teenagers in America's heartland were meeting and developing activities to raise self-esteem, lower depression, and promote constructive behavior. First a group of high school students in Lawrence, Kansas, organized the Women's Advocacy Group (WAO) in the fall of 1997. A year later their work attracted both young men and women to their positive, upbeat meetings, one of which featured Harriet Lerner, author of *The Dance of Anger* and other best-selling books.

Laura Swan, president of her senior class, and several school mates have been preparing the Discovery Workshop since early March, before the Denver tragedy. Together they have enlisted the enthusiastic support of the entire faculty and administration of Lawrence Free State High School. Swan recently said, "Our Discovery Workshop next Tuesday is unique in that it has been student inspired and organized. For it is up to us to take the responsibility of helping each other become more positive and productive people. When this happens, when we truly reach out and include others in such activities, the school tragedies of recent months will decrease."

Maybe these Kansas teenagers are onto something. Hundreds of students have signed up for the six one-hour sessions on May 4, so many that the high school gymnasium has been made available. And KU's popular head football coach, Terry Allen, will start off the workshop speaking on setting and accomplishing goals. Appropriately enough, meditation instructor Emma Estrada will conclude Discovery Workshop 1999 sharing ideas and techniques on coping with stress.

# DISCOVERY WORKSHOP 1999

## A DAY TO EXPLORE YOUR POTENTIAL

On Tuesday, May 4, 1999, Free State High School will be hosting its first Discovery Workshop. The Discovery Workshop is an activity that will allow students to attend a day full of motivational speakers right at Free State High School. Speakers will address topics such as setting and accomplishing goals and dreams, learning how to cope proactively with stress, understanding how to communicate with confidence and assertiveness, taking risks to accomplish success in life, and the importance of finding a fulfilling career.

Below is a brief description of the speakers and the topics they will explore. You may sign up for all of the speakers, or just the ones you are interested in. There is limited space available for some sessions, so please fill out and return the form attached to this sheet as soon as possible. Only students who submit completed forms with all of the required signatures will be eligible for attending the workshop. Once your sheet is turned in, we will send the rest of the information to your seminar class.

**RETURN ALL FORMS TO GAYLE DAVIS IN THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE BY WED., APRIL 28!**

### 1st Hour

**Speaker:** Terry Allen, University of Kansas Head Football Coach

**Topic:** Coach Allen will speak on setting and accomplishing goals and pushing yourself to your fullest potential.

### 2nd Hour

**Speaker:** Patty Bailey, AP Politics and AP U.S. History teacher at Free State High School

**Topic:** Ms. Bailey will talk about how to be confident and direct when communicating with others and being assertive when it comes to expressing yourself.

### 3rd Hour

**Speaker:** The Honorable Deanell Tacha, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge

**Topic:** Judge Tacha will speak on the importance of finding a fulfilling career that meets your interests. She will talk about being successful and about the impact that living among other cultures has on becoming a well-rounded person.

**4th hour:** No speaker during the lunch hour

**\*Note: 5th and 6th Hour are a combination session, but you may still attend just one if you need to. You will benefit more from the activity if you are able to be there for both hours\***

### 5th Hour

**Speaker:** Emma Estrada, Yoga and Transcendental Meditation Instructor

**Topic:** In the first part of her session, Ms. Estrada will discuss ways to relieve tension that can build up from everyday stress. She will explain how people are physically capable of releasing all stress from their bodies through meditation, relaxation, and different focusing techniques.

### 6th Hour

**Speaker:** Emma Estrada, Yoga and Transcendental Meditation Instructor

**Topic:** The second part of Ms. Estrada's session will actually take students through the techniques of relaxation. Students will be able to apply the knowledge that Ms. Estrada has taught them in the first session.

# Press Release for Discovery Workshop 1999

**What:** Discovery Workshop 1999

**When:** May 4, 1999

**Where:** Free State High School  
4700 Overland Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049

## **For immediate release:**

On May 4, 1999, Free State High School will be hosting the Discovery Workshop 1999. The workshop is a student generated and promoted idea, with the help of several faculty members and will be the first all-day seminar offered at Free State. There will be speakers on different motivational and positive topics to help students discover potential in areas not traditionally taught in a high school curriculum. Students will sign up to hear the speakers and attend the workshop rather than their usual classes and all students are eligible to attend on a first come, first serve basis.

Speakers will include Terry Allen, Head KU Football Coach, speaking on developing and accomplishing goals, Patti Bailey, AP Politics and AP U.S. History teacher at Free State High School, speaking on communicating assertively and effectively, The Honorable Deanell Tacha, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, speaking on the importance of job satisfaction and finding a fulfilling career, and Emma Estrada, Yoga and Transcendental Meditation Instructor, speaking on ways to cope with stress through relaxation (more details attached). The topics are all centered on the idea of getting the most out of life and pushing oneself to his or her fullest potential. This workshop will continue each year as a positive way to wrap up the end of the school year.

The Workshop will last all day with speakers each hour that classes are in session, excluding the lunch period from 11:25-1:00.

## **Schedule of Speakers:**

**1<sup>st</sup> hour- 8:10am to 9:10am: Terry Allen**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> hour- 9:15am to 10:15am: Patti Bailey**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> hour- 10:20am to 11:20am: Deanell Tacha**  
**5<sup>th</sup> hour- 1:00pm to 2:00pm: Emma Estrada, part 1**  
**6<sup>th</sup> hour- 2:05pm to 3:05pm: Emma Estrada, part 2**

**For more information or if you are interested in covering the event, please contact:**

Lisa Boyd, LFS Assistant Principal- 785-832-6050  
Laura Swan, Student Sponsor- 785-865-5272  
Phyllis Copt, Teacher Sponsor- 785-832-6050 ext. 7146

# High school to offer lessons in adulthood

BY FELICIA HAYNES

JOURNAL-WORLD WRITER

Free State High School wants its seniors, and the rest of its students, to be better prepared for life as adults.

Toward that end, the school is sponsoring a "Discovery Workshop" Tuesday with four speakers scheduled to appear throughout the day. Students can sign up to hear Kansas University football coach Terry Allen talk about goals or 10th U.S. Circuit of Appeals Judge Deanell Tacha discuss finding a fulfilling career.

"It is up to us to take the responsibility of helping each other become more positive and productive people," said Laura Swan, president of the senior class and a student sponsor of the event.

The idea for the workshop came from students, and the event has been organized by the students with the help of several faculty members.

Hundreds of students have signed up for the sessions.

The idea behind the workshop, scheduled during senior week, was to bring motivational speakers in to discuss dealing with stress, setting goals,

communication and finding fulfillment.

"We wanted to do some kind of self-esteem seminar, but we want to stay away from the topic of self-esteem," said Phyllis Copt, the teacher sponsor of the event. Instead, they chose topics that can help students lead better lives.

"We wanted to give the seniors something," Copt said. "As the seniors go on to college, they're going to have to deal with these things."

The workshop has been in the works since early March.

Each session will run an hour. Allen will speak from 8:10 a.m. to 9:10 a.m.; Patricia Bailey, a history and politics teacher, will speak from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. about communicating with others and being assertive; Tacha will speak from 10:20 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.; and Emma Estrada, a yoga instructor, will speak from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and from 2:05 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. on relieving tension and relaxation techniques.

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— Felicia Haynes' phone message number is 832-7173. Her e-mail address is fhaynes@ljworld.com.

## Boston University

ELIE WIESEL  
*University Professor and  
Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities*

745 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
617/353-4566



May 20, 1998

Laura Swan  
2811 Stratford Road  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Dear Laura Swan,

Please forgive the delay - I have been constantly travelling and your letter only just reached me.

Thank you for writing. I am always pleased to hear from young people after they have read *Night* and I am honored that you have chosen to write your report on me. I am glad you were able to learn from my memoir; perhaps you can help to teach those who are unaware of those events. *Night* was difficult to write, but it is important to speak about that time.

It is up to all of us - your generation and mine - to make sure the past is never repeated. I have hope for the future because of young people like you. So - keep on reading and studying - more and more.

With best, best wishes-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Elie Wiesel".

Elie Wiesel

# Facsimile Cover Sheet

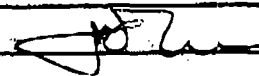
To: Melanne Verjeer  
 Company: The White House  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: 202/456-6244

From: John Rosenthal  
 Company: Meredith Management Corporation  
 Phone: (617) 965-2200  
 Fax: (617) 965-7308

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pages including  
 this cover page: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Hi - attached is an OPEd  
 written by Pam Solo who  
 will be joining us on Tuesday.



Katy -  
 make  
 sure  
 Neena  
 knows  
 about  
 this, mty

## Choice of Titles:

Every Teenager is At Risk

OR

Creative Outlets Make the Teen Years Less Combustible

By Pam Solo

As the horrific details of the massacre at Columbine High School continue to unfold, we are entering a period of reflection and questioning about what could possibly have led seemingly normal teenagers down such a deadly path.

There has been a perhaps inevitable rush to draw conclusions and prescribe remedies, even before we have had time to examine and think deeply about the causes of what is clearly a spreading social disease. In our polarized society, advocates are racing to legislate changes. One side argues for prayer in the schools, the other for gun control. Neither the merits of faith, nor the reasonableness of keeping guns out of the hands of children, should divide the country.

We will also revisit some old arguments about the ways popular culture and youth culture influence and shape young people's values and behavior in America. There are many examples of vulgar, dehumanizing and violent music, movies and video games. We would all be better off if these didn't exist. That's what advocates of gun control say about guns. But they do exist. And in a free-market society, trying to curtail the making and distribution of music, videos and games would be even more problematic than the relatively straightforward task of controlling the sale of handguns. Furthermore, as seductive as it may seem, we cannot legislate our way out of the culture of violence that we have created.

This does not mean that we should not pass laws, consistent with our Constitution, which will work to make us a safer and saner society; laws that, while necessary, may not go far enough.

In the face of very deep problems, such as the ones that the Columbine High School tragedy force us to acknowledge, the pursuit of a national dialogue that can take us beyond polarized preconceived notions and popular ideas is a moral and political imperative. We cannot spend the next weeks finger-wagging and assigning blame, when the truth is so complex. The explosion of violence in Littleton, Colo. can be attributed to so many sources of social breakdown. So it must follow that the search for solutions and for healing will have to take us down many paths.

One of those paths should be to nurture and support the culture of creativity as the best antidote to the culture of violence. Both exist. Both are strong and compelling. But we can overwhelm the culture of violence by methodically supporting those organizations

and institutions that provide children and teens with creative outlets for their imaginations and their developmental energies. Last year the Institute for Civil Society and the Artists Rights Foundation issued a report **CREATIVITY AND TODAY'S TEENS** where we asked teens what they thought of creativity and popular culture. Our research asserts that popular culture is a vital link to youth. Teens told us that they value creativity, see it as a positive force, want outlets to develop their creativity and see popular culture – film, music and software – as an important means to express their creativity. Much is happening in our culture that is creative and humanizing and that builds on the inevitable stages of kids' lives in which they are prone to take risks, behave impulsively and may even seem to have lost all reasonableness. In a sense, we need to realize that every teen is an at-risk youth. It is the very nature of adolescence.

Teen alienation can be and is addressed by channeling the drives of young people for individuality and identity into creative endeavors in the arts, and by making popular culture a tool for positive self-expression. For example in Iowa City, Iowa, the United Action for Youth project offers a Synthesis Arts Workshop where kids have access to a state-of-the-art recording studio, video cameras, television production equipment and animation and darkroom equipment to express themselves and build on the interests and talents of young teens.

A very wise rabbi once wrote, "If culture is to be more than the product of a hothouse, then it must grow out of the soil of daily living, and in turn affect the inner stronghold of the human personality. Culture has to grow from within outward, from the concrete existence, conduct and condition of man."

The culture of violence cannot be changed from without. It can be changed only by giving kids and teens the chance to explore and express their own creativity.

*Pam Solo is the founder and president of The Institute for Civil Society in Newton, Mass.*

Dr. James Garbarino, author of Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them

In the Lost Boys, Dr. James Garbarino focuses on boys in prison, and the factors that led them to commit the crimes that landed them there. He speaks of a societal condition in which children are exposed to more violence than ever, and that some children are more susceptible to its dangers. Add to that a decrease in time parents spend with their children, increased access to violent weapons, and video games which dis-connect children from the notion of crime and killing, all of which create an environment of "social toxicity."

**On "Social Toxicity" and Blame**

- "The conditions of social toxicity are there across society---the gun culture, kids being awash in imageries of violence, the decline of adult time with kids," [The Atlanta Journal, May 31, 1998]
- "Where do you point the finger? You'd need at least two handfuls of fingers." [American Journalism Review September, 1998]
- "There's evidence that from the early 1970s to the late 1980s, that the percentage of American kids who were sufficiently troubled to need professional mental health services doubled from about 10 percent to about 20 percent. During that same period, the exposure of children to a whole variety of toxic influences in terms of the virulence of graphic, sexualized, and violent imagery increased dramatically over that same period.....We have data on declining adult supervision in children, adult time spent with kids. We have a whole variety of things, including what David Grossman (ph) has talked about -- the new generation of video games that mimic military training to desensitize kids to the actual act of shooting." [Talk of the Nation, 8/12/98]
- "Well, I think there are at least a couple of things. The first is that the capacity, the physical capacity, even the psychological capacity of children to do things that have profound consequences ought not to blind us to the fact that we're still talking about children and very young adolescents who think and feel like other children and very young adolescents. We know that you could put a nine-year-old in a car and he might physically be able to drive a car, but I don't think many of us would want nine-year-olds driving cars. The crime that they commit needs to be understood not in terms of its consequences, but in terms of who it is that's -- that's committing it.

**So I think we need to always be thinking about what is it in the lives of children and young teenagers that brings them to this point? And when it's an individual kid, we typically find an experience of victimization at home or in the community. We find experiences of trauma, coupled with the fact that our culture is offering children scenarios of what to do with rage; what to do with the feeling of injustice all the time.**

And these kids aren't inventing the scenarios that they are living out. They're borrowing

them from images that are presented to them on a regular basis. And that combination of troubled individual kids and these horrible scenarios is very dangerous. When you get more than one kid together, you have the added element that sometimes the sum of their parts is very different from them individually.

I'm sure a lot of people remember the book "In Cold Blood." It was very clear that horrible murder that was committed in Kansas -- that neither of the perpetrators, in that case adults, would have committed that crime alone. But together, it was a kind of awful chemistry between them, and I think actually all three of the cases you've mentioned -- the recent one of the two boys just this past month, and the case from last year or two when the boys dropped someone off the roof -- have all of those elements in it of at least one troubled boy provoking a situation with another boy, and then living out one of these scenarios. But they're doing it like children watching "Titanic" or some other melodramatic scenario, only in this case it's obviously a very lethal one." [Talk of the Nation, 8/12/98]

## **Mental Health**

- "I spend most every week -- I sit down with a youth who's either in prison or on trial for murder. And one of the striking things about it is how often, how terribly often you can see in their childhood by the time they're eight or nine-years-old a discernible definable mental health problem that isn't addressed well at all.

We're still only responding with professional intervention to something like a third or a half of kids with identifiable mental health problems in childhood. And it's very clear that overwhelmingly kids who end up killing or committing very severe acts of violence come from that population. The most common diagnoses is the diagnoses of what's called conduct disorder, which really means that the kid has gotten wrapped up in a pattern of very negative anti-social destructive behavior. And typically what happens is kids are suspended because of that or they're moved to another school rarely do they get effective mental health intervention. And that's the group from which most of the severe chronic violent juveniles come.

By the time they've ended to be 15 they've added on problems of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder because of victimization experiences, they've added on depression, a lot of them have anxiety disorders. That's puts a different slant on this idea that these are just kids who show up and turn bad. They come out of a long period of developing problems and they're typically troubled kids who's experience has not been a positive one and has culminated in these terrible events. [Talk of the Nation, 8/12/98]

- I think it's an important part of this issue that is only beginning to be understood. As you say it's often not seen in those terms in childhood, but I'm struck talking with boys now who are 13 to 18 about their early relationships how often this pattern of disrupted and broken relationships of kids who were and felt rejected and who never really made that connection so they're not under the same control -- emotional controls that other kids are.

Because as you point out if a kid has not got that basic attachment, that different emotional rules apply to them, they don't feel bound and governed in their feelings by the sense of connection.

John Bulby (ph) the British psychiatrist who really coined the word attachment, I remember speaking about a boy who had this Reactive Attachment Disorder who very calmly through a cat in the fire without a sense that this was another living being. And that sense of non-connection is certainly one of the most dangerous characteristics of a boy -- again particularly boys, that we could find in a child. And that's one reason why, as you point out, the kids that we're most concerned about, that everyone ought to be most concerned about, are the boys who show cruelty to animals, fire setting, the sense of treating the world -- the alive world, as if it were simply objects. And I think it'll become one of the common themes as we explore this further in the years to come. [Talk of the Nation, 8/12/98]

- "Unless we do something to intervene...children identified as aggressive at age 8 will tend to be aggressive 30 years later." [The San Francisco Chronicle APRIL 21, 1999]

### **On Guns**

- "Well I think they [guns] play at this point in our history, in this point in the evolution of childhood and adolescence, they play a very central role. Because they provide the means, very efficient means, to turn adolescent fantasies or childhood impulses into mayhem. Imagine those boys in Jonesboro with the same fantasy without the access to the guns; trying to implement that fantasy. And you know, it doesn't work.

What's really shocking is the prevalence of guns as a central symbol in the life of children. For example, I remember interviewing eight-year-olds in Chicago, in a suburban part of Chicago, and finding that one out of every three said he or she could get a gun if they needed one. A recent survey found that two-thirds of high school students said they could get a gun in an hour if they needed one.

Now, the question is: Why do they think they need one? I speak with children and they say they need a gun partly because it makes them feel safer, because they don't think the adult world is taking care of them. And two, because it is such a loaded symbol of power in the culture, particularly for a boy who feels shame or a boy who feels humiliated; a boy who feels diminished. Here's a very clear symbol of power that's readily accessible. So I think it's a very dangerous combination in America in the 1990s." [Talk of the Nation, 8/12/98]

- "Even if a 12-year-old then had access to a gun, he would have been less able to point it at a human being and shoot. An increased dose of violence and things like point-and-shoot video games break down children's inhibitions the same way they break down soldiers'," [The Boston Globe, May 21, 1998]

Neara:

Alice P. wondered if  
you had any text on  
this that we could use  
in a response.

Thank you,

— Kathy C x65966

From: "Linda M. Newbert" <lmnlulu@aol.com> on 06/02/99 10:00 AM GMT  
To: First\_Lady@gateway  
cc:  
Subject: Elizabeth Dole's comments on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show"

---

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 152.163.201.191[152.163.201.191]  
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.01; AOL 4.0; Windows 98)  
URL: http://www2.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail\_First\_Lady.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Linda M. Newbert  
EMAIL-ADDRESS: lmnlulu@aol.com  
ORGANIZATION:  
RELATIONSHIP:  
STREET-ADDRESS: 141 SE 32nd ST.  
CITY: Cape Coral  
STATE-PROVINCE: FL  
ZIP-CODE: 33904-4100  
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Ask a specific question regarding Administration policy  
TOPIC: Social Issues  
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen  
SUBJECT: Elizabeth Dole's comments on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show"

[Message]

Dear Mrs Clinton,

This is keeping me awake so I have to write you.

Mrs. Dole Announced on Rosie's show yesterday that the Clinton-Gore Administration cut funding for "Instant Gun Checks". Can you tell me what is the real story behind this. Rosie and the audience members and I'm sure millions of people accross the country were amazed. I know she is campaigning for the Presidency already, so I think a response should come from the White House in some fashion to address these remarks. This is a big issue right now in our country.

I know this administration has always stood for gun control and I know as President Al Gore will continue the effort to get guns off the street and out of Childrens hands as well as Criminals hands. To appear on a very popular show like "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and make that announcement was stunning to say the least.

Please respond.  
Thank You,

Linda M. Newbert

212-286-1111

151 EAST 83RD STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10028

GAIL FURMAN, PH.D.  
PSYCHOLOGIST  
CHILD/ADOLESCENT/ADULT

From: "Linda M. Newbert" <lmnlulu@aol.com> on 06/02/99 10:00 AM GMT

To: First\_Lady@gateway

cc:

Subject: Elizabeth Dole's comments on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show"

---

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 152.163.201.191[152.163.201.191]  
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.01; AOL 4.0; Windows 98)  
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Linda M. Newbert

GAIL FURMAN, PH.D.  
PSYCHOLOGIST  
CHILD/ADOLESCENT/ADULT

212-286-1111

151 EAST 83RD STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10028

**HANDGUN CONTROL**

ONE MILLION STRONG . . . working to  
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**FAX COVER SHEET**DATE: 5-19-99TOTAL PAGES (including this cover sheet): 2 3SENT TO (FAX number): 456-2878PLEASE DELIVER TO: Neera Tandon

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Handgun Control, Inc.  
Management

Robert J. Walker  
President

June Foster  
Executive Assistant  
to the President

FAX NUMBER: 202/371-1776

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Neera - call me if  
this isn't clear - I'll  
enlarge it into 2 parts.  
June  
289.5770

If you have any difficulty receiving this transmission, please call 202/289-5770

# HOW RESPONSIBLE ARE WE?

This time - in Jonesboro, Arkansas - we have again witnessed the shameful American tragedy of children killing children.

As members of the motion picture and television industry, we implore our fellow professionals to join in assuming a leadership role to stop our contributions to this insanity.

True, blame lies as well with the National Rifle Association, Congress, violent video games, violent music, violent homes, etc. - and with those unwilling to face the reasons for the murders of our children.

But we who create entertainment must honestly acknowledge and urgently address the responsibility we all have to eliminate excessive or gratuitous or unpunished violence in films and television.

Otherwise, children will continue to kill children.



# COMMITTEE TO END VIOLENCE

|                     |                        |                        |                  |                       |                           |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Eddie Albert        | Jeff Corey             | Alana Jackson          | Allan Manings    | John Rich             | Leonard Stern             |
| Steve Allen         | Norman Corwin          | Michael Jackson        | Delbert Mann     | Pat Rich              | Gloria Stuart             |
| Paul Almond         | Sam Denoff             | Norman Jewison         | Larry D. Mann    | Rick Rosenberg        | Maxine Stuart             |
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| Norma Barzman       | George Eckstein        | Hal Kanter             | Jayne Meadows    | Stanley Rubin         | Mr. & Mrs. Malachi Throne |
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| Meredith Baxter     | Ray Evans              | Dr. Edward Kaufman PHD | Burt Metcalfe    | Linda Sandrich        | Mel Tolkin                |
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| Al Brenner          | Mike Garelick          | Nancy Lawrence         | Patricia Neal    | David Shapira         | Robert Welskopf           |
| Michael Brown       | John Gay               | Richard Lawrence       | Murray Neidorf   | Mel Shavelson         | Dan Whitmore              |
| Allan Burns         | Larry Gelbart          | Gene Levitt            | Barrie Nelson    | David Shaw            | James Whitmore            |
| Jean Butler         | Jennifer Warren Gimbel | Diana Herbert-Levitt   | Claudette Nevins | Leni Sheldon          | Leslie Whitmore           |
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| Judy Cahn           | Sy Gomberg             | Felicia Lemmon         | Louis Nye        | Richard Allan Simmons | Jason Wingreen            |
| Joe Campanella      | Walter Grauman         | Jack Lemmon            | Carroll O'Connor | Bernard Slade         | Lee Winkler               |
| Stanley Chais       | Everett Greenbaum      | Barbara Poe Lavee      | David Percelay   | George Slavin         | Robert Wise               |
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| Peggy Chantler-Dick | Charlie Hauk           | Bob Lewin              | Dorothea Petrie  | Ben Starr             | Bud Yorkin                |
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| Bob Christiansen    | Arthur Hiller          | Jay Livingston         | Ted Post         | Gloria Strook-Stern   | Peter Zinner              |
| Hal Cooper          | Marsha Hunt            | Shirley Livingston     | James Ragan      |                       |                           |
| Maxine Cooper       | Peggy Irwin            | Jack Lloyd             | Carl Reiner      |                       |                           |

Sponsored by THE COMMITTEE TO END VIOLENCE! We will next address the NRA and Congress.

If you are interested, send your name, phone & fax to the Committee at 42 Haldeman Rd., Santa Monica, CA 90402 or FAX (310) 476-1256 or (310)454 -6153.