State

To: Kathi Way
From: Keith Mason
5-10-94

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Olympia, Washington 98504-0095

May 4, 1994

Mr. Keith Mason
Deputy Assistant to the President
Intergovernmental Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Mason:

I want to thank you for the recent opportunity to attend your briefing on the Clinton Administration's welfare reform proposal. I have asked my staff and other stakeholders to review the materials and help evaluate its strengths and to present our concerns. The enclosed document is a summary of this effort. It should be noted that Don Wolgamott, Governor Lowry's representative, and I have not had an opportunity to thoroughly brief the Governor on the proposal and the enclosed represents staff thinking only at this point.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. We are prepared to assist in any way possible. Although I will not be able to make it to the follow-up meeting on May 5, Dave Andersen from my staff will attend.

Sincerely,

Jerry W. Friedman

JERRY W. FRIEDMAN
Assistant Secretary
Economic Services

Enclosure

cc: Don Wolgamott
Jean Soliz

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

COMMENTS ON THE WELFARE REFORM ISSUE PAPER
May 4, 1994

A. TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOLLOWED BY WORK

1. Full Participation

- *A Full Participation Requirement is Unwieldy & Costly.* We believe a full participation requirement is not a viable approach because of the associated administrative burden and costs, and that such a requirement would not help to achieve the overall goals of welfare reform. Developing an employability plan, ongoing case management and monitoring, and corrective action are staff-intensive and expensive. The cost of related and necessary support services (e.g., child care) for both the federal government and states would also increase significantly.

2. Training, Education & Employment Services

- *Personal Responsibility Contracts.* We support the concept of personal responsibility contracts, but administering these contracts would be staff-intensive and expensive. Unless sufficient funding for contract development and monitoring is provided, this provision would be unworkable.

- *Individual Assessment & Local Needs.* We agree with a stronger focus on employment and self-sufficiency, but successfully achieving this goal requires effective assessments of participants' circumstances and needs. Assessment and case management must be funded and tailored to support individual needs to effectively in support long-term independence from welfare.

  Federal policy should also be sensitive to the unique local needs and labor market conditions. For example, timber and fishing communities in Washington State are experiencing severe economic downturns which would clearly impact job training and employment opportunities and program design.

- *Job Development & Job Creation.* The key to a more vital JOBS program is the increased availability of jobs which include benefits and pay a living wage. We wholeheartedly endorse stronger and more effective linkages with economic development efforts. The federal government should build on the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit program and look for additional incentives for employers to hire program participants.

- *Federal Leadership in Hiring Program Participants.* As one of the nation's largest employers, the federal government should itself be a model by developing more flexible civil service requirements in appropriate job classifications and making a concerted and systematic effort to hire program participants.

3. <u>Time Limits</u>

- *Jeopardizing the Safety Net.* The AFDC program must continue to provide a safety net to meet basic needs of children and families. Arbitrary time limits on program benefits could place thousands of children in this state in jeopardy of falling through the safety net, and produce unacceptable social costs such as increased homelessness and child welfare caseloads.

  This year the Washington State Legislature enacted legislation stipulating a four-year time limit for program benefits and establishing sanctions for noncompliance with program requirements. After the four-year threshold, grant benefits would be reduced by ten percent per year. We believe this timeframe is reasonable and that a gradual grant reduction – rather than abrupt program termination – is less likely to result in adverse effects to children.

- *Reasonable Exceptions & Adequate Support Services.* Time limits sanctions should be imposed only against individuals who have been provided the opportunity and support services (e.g., child care) necessary to successfully participate in the JOBS program, and there must be reasonable exceptions for clients with special needs. States should be allowed extensions for four-year degree and accreditation programs when such programs are appropriate and will help ensure long-term self-sufficiency.

- *Local Labor Market Conditions.* Allowances must be made for local labor market conditions, and states should be given the flexibility to allow time-limit extensions if employment opportunities are not reasonably available.

- *Creating a Level Playing Field.* We support increasing the allowable value of automobiles, savings and other resources which increase the likelihood of a successful and long-term transition from welfare to work.

- *Separate Tracking of Funds.* We recommend separate tracking of funds expended for services beyond a two-year time limit separately, but not creation of a separate funding stream for such benefits. Establishing a distinct funding stream would result in an unnecessary and cumbersome administrative burden for states.

4. <u>Work for Those Who Exhaust Their Time Limit (the WORK Program)</u>

- *Workfare & Work Experience.* Based on evaluations in this and other states, we believe workfare or similar components which require recipients to "work off" their grant to be costly and difficult to manage. Extensive experience with the Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) has shown this to be an effective tool if it used as part of a self-sufficiency plan which leads to employment. As a large-scale program, however, CWEP has not been cost-effective or successful model on which to base welfare reform. We believe that as an enhancement, the considerable resources of the federal government should be enlisted to increase WORK capacity at federal job sites.

- *Targeting School-age Parents.* Targeting school-age parents is consistent with the direction established by this state's legislature and our agency. We are concerned, though, with having adequate federal funding for the case management and supports necessary to provide services to every eligible school-age parent.

- *Financial Incentives for High School or GED Completion.* We support a state option to provide financial incentives for completion of high school or a GED.

5. <u>Work-for-Wages Program Design: Insufficient WORK Slots</u>

- *Continued Federal/State Partnership.* The penalty of reduced match for ongoing cash benefits for states with insufficient WORK program slots is inconsistent with the concept of joint federal/state responsibility for the AFDC program. This presumes the availability of work slots in areas where mandatory participants reside. This may not be realistic in all localities.

B. MAKING WORK PAY/CHILD CARE

1. <u>Earned Income Credit (EIC)</u>

- *Continued EIC Expansion.* We strongly support the continued expansion of the Earned Income Credit (EIC) as an effective and administratively simple mechanism for rewarding employment efforts and alleviating poverty among children and families. We also support the recent extension of EIC benefits to childless individuals.

- *The Advance EIC Option.* We recommend establishing stronger employer standards on advising employees about the Advance EIC option, and considering a requirement that program participants take advantage of the Advance EIC.

- *Replacing Current Income Disregards with the EIC.* Because it is not intrusive and is administratively simpler, consideration should be given to using the EIC to replace the current work incentive system ($30 plus 1/3) for AFDC recipients.

- *The EIC & Work Supplementation.* The EIC should be available to persons in work supplementation jobs. EIC eligibility for these participants will reduce direct and supportive services costs for such items as child care, transportation and clothing.

2. <u>Child Care</u>

- *Maintaining IV-A Child Care.* Adequate funding and support for child care is critical to the success of welfare reform. We support increased funding and the use of voucher-based child care payments to families in lieu of income disregards. These changes would result in more consistent child care eligibility rules across programs and the removal of procedural barriers which restrict access. For example, a working AFDC recipient sanctioned for failure to cooperate with child support enforcement can continue to receive AFDC child care benefits if otherwise eligible. However, a JOBS participant sanctioned for the same reason loses his or her eligibility for JOBS child care benefits.

  We also support a rule change regarding the initial eligibility date for transitional child care. Eligibility should begin after the last month for which a family received AFDC. This would be consistent with FSA language and intent, and would lessen the state's administrative burden in making retroactive eligibility determinations and payment adjustments.

- *Expanding Child Care to Low-income Working Families.* We believe successful welfare reform must be supported by additional investments in child care for both AFDC and low-income, non-assistance working families. The federal matching rate for AFDC child care should be increased and new federal funds provided for child care for low-income families. These two populations should not have to compete for child care dollars.

We support the full-service entitlement option guaranteeing a child care subsidy to all working poor families who need it. If the full-service option is removed due to fiscal constraints, we recommend expansion of FSA transitional child care from 12 to 24 months. An expanded benefit period would allow a continuity of child care services essential for parents to retain employment and become financially stable.

- *Investments in Quality & Supply.* Despite the need for increasing the supply of licensed care, federal matching funds cannot be used for resource development, i.e., expanding that supply. We support the proposal for funding investments in child care quality and supply, but would like to see the licensing process included as a matchable function under Title IV-A.

  The proposal places a strong emphasis on meeting parents' needs for child care, but lacks a balancing focus on children's developmental needs. We recognize child care as a service that supports both the parent and child, and the proposal should address funding to support quality care which meets children's developmental needs.

- *Coordinating Rules Across Child Care Programs.* The proposal acknowledges the need for a seamless child care system, yet develops no concrete solutions. While we recognize the critical need for coordination across programs to help families gain access to services, we do not see this as the solution the problem many families are struggling with -- understanding and negotiating the maze of federal mandates and eligibility criteria governing each program. The federal government must take the lead in developing consistent and simplified policies which support easy access and effective state and local program coordination.

- *Child Care Subsidy Rates.* Federal funding must support state rates which reflect the reasonable cost of care and geographic differences, and rates which are sufficient to support quality, developmentally-appropriate child care.

C. PROMOTING PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY & PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY

1. Child Support Enforcement

- *Coordination with Tribes.* We recommend working with tribal governments to address issues of Indian law and tribal sovereignty in relation to the Title IV-D program. Currently, tribes are not bound by federal or state child support legislation, and this has stymied states in developing intergovernmental agreements with tribes and resulted in significant, time-consuming litigation.

- *Establishing Awards in Every Case.* Federal goals for paternity should be more realistic standard than requiring establishing paternity in all out-of-wedlock births. We oppose making states fully responsible for benefits paid to cooperating mothers when paternity has not been established within a specified timeframe.

  If states would be required to establish paternity awards in non-IV-D cases, funding issues and practical program problems must be addressed. For example, an out-of-wedlock birth may involve an unmarried (non-AFDC) couple residing together. Under current law, a parent residing in the home of the child is meeting his/her financial obligation for that child, and establishing a child support award in such cases is problematic.

  We support incentive payments (similar to the $50 pass-through) to improve mothers' cooperation with the IV-D agency's efforts to establish paternity. Incentive payments should funded through the Title IV-A and be sufficient to encourage cooperation, and these payments should not be treated as income to AFDC recipients.

  OBRA 1993's hospital affidavit program should be expanded to provide IV-D funded genetic testing at the request of the putative father, who might otherwise be unwilling to sign a paternity affidavit.

- *Ensure Fair Award Levels.* We recommend further analysis of the separation of powers law be conducted prior to implementing any provision requiring states to establish an expedited administrative review process for the purpose of modifying superior court (judicial) support orders.

  We support establishing a national child support guideline which is flexible and takes into account the cost-of-living in different parts of the country.

- *Collect Awards That Are Owed.* We support requiring all states to maintain a central order/payment distribution facility and establishing a federal Child Support Enforcement Clearinghouse, including a national directory of new hires. These changes would us in collecting support when absent parents cross state lines and/or change jobs.

  Providing states with additional access to IRS asset information would also enhance the ability of IV-D agencies to locate an obligor's assets and income.

We endorse performance-based incentives for states. Establishing such incentives would promote outcome-based program standards and encourage states to operate their IV-D agencies in an efficient, business-like manner.

It should be noted, however, that the information systems development costs for these changes would be substantial.

- *Child Support Enforcement & Assurance (CSEA).* We support this optional proposal, which assures a reliable income to a family. This provision should not diminish support the effectiveness of IV-D agencies as long as other state incentives continue.

- *Enhancing Responsibility & Opportunity for Non-custodial Parents.* We strongly support federal support for education, training and employment opportunities to non-custodial parents.

2. <u>Responsibilities of School-age Parents</u>

- *Minor Mothers Living at Home.* This option, which already exists for states, has generally not been used because in many instances minors could be placed in greater jeopardy in a parent's home. A study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (October 1993) indicated 38 percent of women on public assistance in this state were sexually abused while growing up, and 42 percent of women on assistance who were pregnant teenagers were sexually abused. Minor parents who are ineligible for AFDC and choose to live outside the family home can put themselves and their children at great risk. Reasonable exception criteria to protect children must be established if this proposal is implemented.

  A responsible option is establishing protective payees for minors living in an arrangement the state determines to be inappropriate. This alternative has the advantage of ensuring appropriate grant expenditures, providing budget mentoring for teens, and maintaining contact with children who otherwise might not have adult guidance.

- *Mentoring by Older Welfare Mothers.* We have developed and continue to support mentoring in this state, and welcome additional federal support. Self-esteem building and role-modeling are effective strategies to assist school-age parents when coupled with other educational and support services.

3. **Encouragement for Responsible Family Planning**

- *A National Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy.* We strongly endorse this campaign and suggest teens should be involved in all phases of the planning.

- *Increasing Funding for Family Planning Services through Title XIX.* Increased funding and access for Title XIX recipients to clinical and outreach services will help ensure the success of other prevention approaches.

- *Family Caps.* We prefer concentrated family planning efforts over harsher provisions. There is no evidence frozen grant values would cause low-income individuals to make more responsible family planning decisions.

4. **Learning from Prevention Approaches that Promote Responsibility**

- *Demonstration Grants.* We welcome the opportunity to submit grant proposals for comprehensive demonstration projects designed to enhance self-esteem, promote responsible decision-making and encourage self-sufficiency for youth. A strong evaluation component is essential to a successful program.

5. **Supporting Two-Parent Families**

- *Eliminating the 100-hour Rule.* We support removing the 100-hour rule limitation, which is arbitrary and punitive to families who are working toward self-sufficiency. Washington State has submitted a waiver request to eliminate the 100 hour rule, and we are currently locked in challenging negotiations with federal officials about cost neutrality. This provision would remove a barrier and enable this state to do the right thing. We also support elimination of the state option to limit assistance to two-parent families to six-months. All states should have a uniform, twelve-month program.

D. COORDINATION, SIMPLIFICATION & IMPROVED INCENTIVES

1. **Coordination, Simplification & Improved Incentives**

- *Program & Eligibility Simplification.* We strongly support the federal initiative to consolidate and simplify income support programs. Disparities in program and eligibility requirements between the AFDC program and the Food Stamp programs cause errors, increase administrative costs, and create confusion for program beneficiaries. The development of uniform eligibility criteria should begin immediately, and must occur prior to major information systems changes.

- *Improved Incentives.* We encourage increased allowances for automobiles and savings, and believe that asset accumulation should not be limited to microenterprise development. Permitting greater personal savings allows participants to use funds for higher education, extraordinary job costs (e.g., car repairs) and supports equitable access to new job opportunities.

- *Income Disregards.* If income disregards for working AFDC recipients are continued, we recommend eliminating the current time limits on these disregards. This change would assist participants to make a smoother transition to self-sufficiency and allow families' circumstances to stabilize.

2. <u>A Performance-Based System</u>

- *Performance-based Outcomes & Quality Control* We would welcome using this opportunity to focus more on program outcomes and less on process measures. We would also like to suggest revitalizing the current federal quality control system, and developing a stronger link between federal policy development and quality control.

3. <u>Financing</u>

- *Unfunded Mandates.* We applaud President Clinton's commitment to minimize unfunded mandates to states, and believe the goals of this welfare reform proposal cannot be achieved without enhanced federal funding for benefits, services and the necessary systems and administrative changes. We are concerned with the capacity of the federal government to fund the proposed changes, and that cost projections for implementation are unrealistically low.

- *National Tracking Requirements.* The proposal to develop and implement a national tracking requirement is unrealistic given current-level resources, the probable costs and the extreme complexity of such an undertaking.

- *Use of Gambling Taxes to Fund Reform.* We oppose using a gambling tax to fund welfare reform. Such a tax is inconsistent with tribal sovereignty and self-government, and would undermine the capacity of tribes to provide needed human services to their members. We understand that this matter is being reconsidered.

- *Linkage with the President's Health Care Reform Proposal.* We strongly concur with the linkage to the President's health care reform package. Washington has been one of the leaders in state-level health care reform, and we understand that a successful revitalization the nation's welfare system cannot be accomplished without meaningful reform of our health care infrastructure and service delivery.

AUG 26 REC'D

AUG 26 REC'D

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Way

Draft response for POTUS and forward to CHR by:

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Please reply directly to the writer (copy to CHR) by:

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Remarks:

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2) 828-3339
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August 19, 1994

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I am writing in response to your letter of July 11, 1994 regarding President Clinton's welfare reform proposal, The Work and Responsibility Act of 1994.

You can count on my enthusiastic support for passage of this proposal. I will encourage Vermont's Congressional delegation to work with your representatives on Capitol Hill to ensure passage of this much needed legislation.

I have consulted with my executive staff in the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Social Welfare regarding how the President's proposal, if enacted, would affect the continuation of our 1115 demonstration project that was implemented on July 1, 1994. While we strongly support the President's proposal, we believe our approach to time-limited AFDC benefits is in several respects significantly different from his proposal.

Because our legislative branch invested so much in the design of our formulation of welfare reform and because our project is quite unusual in that it includes two experimental groups, in addition to the control group, there is a considerable likelihood that Vermont will want to continue many components of its demonstration project. It is my understanding that renegotiation of the waivers is done by the departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture and the individual state on a case-by-case basis. Possible future actions on our part to continue our demonstration project should in no way detract from our strong and active support for President Clinton's proposal. We view our demonstration project and his proposal as complementary.

AUG 26 REC'D

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HOWARD DEAN, M.D.
Governor

State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Montpelier 05609

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August 19, 1994

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear ~~Ms. Rasco~~ Carol,

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Thank you for seeking input from governors relative to this major initiative. I look forward to working with you to bring your efforts in welfare reform to fruition in the near future.

Sincerely,

Howard Dean, M.D.
Governor

HD/mko

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Way

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AUG 24 REC'D

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor

gust 5, 1994

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We appreciate the fact that many of our provisions could become program changes rather than the subject of waivers as we really see this effort as more than a demonstration project. We also feel that demonstration projects take on the air of a temporary change and that is not the message that we want to share with those we serve and the supporting community.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor

EBN:dcr

STATE OF NEBRASKA

EXECUTIVE SUITE
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone (402) 471-2244

AUG 24 REC'D

August 5, 1994

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Rasco:

Thank you for sharing the President's welfare reform proposal. The Work and Responsibility Act of 1994 does, in fact, support the need for state flexibility and with this latitude we should be able to develop a system to support those we serve who are preparing to enter the labor market.

We have worked very hard to develop our reform proposal which culminated in our Legislature passing LB 1224, the Nebraska Welfare Reform Act. Many of the provisions of this act mirror those proposed by the President and with their successful implementation we will truly see an end to welfare as we know it. Our bill not only changes the delivery system for Public Assistance, but recognizes the fact that all facets of the community must pull together in order to support those seeking employment and to provide jobs that will offer a living wage with reasonable supporting benefits.

We appreciate the fact that many of our provisions could become program changes rather than the subject of waivers as we really see this effort as more than a demonstration project. We also feel that demonstration projects take on the air of a temporary change and that is not the message that we want to share with those we serve and the supporting community.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor

EBN:dcr

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY
AUG 23 REC'D

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Way

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Remarks:

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AUG 23 REC'D

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states more flexibility in implementing policies that target each state's demographics and unique circumstances is crucial to the success of the federal welfare reform initiative.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on The Act.

Sincerely,

Augius Narbutas

AUGIUS NARBUTAS
Deputy Secretary

cc: Governor Bruce King

New Mexico DRUG FREE It's a State of Mind!

NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348
(505) 827-7750

August 16, 1994

AUG 23 REC'D

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Ms. Rasco:

Thank you for your letter conveying to our state the options proposed in The Work and Responsibility Act of 1994. Governor King has asked me to respond to your letter.

The state is currently evaluating various welfare reform initiatives under the auspices of a state legislative subcommittee and work group, to determine which direction the State of New Mexico wishes to pursue. The expansion of options available to the state proposed in The Work and Responsibility Act of 1994 is wholeheartedly supported by New Mexico. Allowing states more flexibility in implementing policies that target each state's demographics and unique circumstances is crucial to the success of the federal welfare reform initiative.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on The Act.

Sincerely,

Augius Narbutas

AUGIUS NARBUTAS
Deputy Secretary

cc: Governor Bruce King

AUG 25 REC'D

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BRERETON C. JONES
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August 18, 1994

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

Thank you for your recent letter providing a list of state options which would be available under the Work and Responsibility Act of 1994. The objectives of the proposed legislation with its emphasis on the development of self-sufficiency is consistent with my own vision of reform. I am encouraged that states would have much more flexibility with the implementing of various options through the state plan process. I believe that if we are to be successful in our reform efforts, states must be given the latitude to tailor their plans to fit the requirements unique to their state's present population.

I appreciate the President's leadership in providing states an opportunity to more easily address some of the areas of concern in the existing welfare system. I will welcome the opportunity to initiate some of the reforms in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Brereton C. Jones
Governor

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Office of the Governor
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort
40601

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

IN REPLY REFER TO PG

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER
GOVERNOR

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August 4, 1994

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

Thank you for your letter detailing the many state options Maryland would have to consider in order to tailor the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (AFDC) to our own specific social economic circumstances. I have advocated for a long time that states should have the maximum amount of flexibility to customize national programs to local conditions.

My staff has reviewed the areas of state options mentioned in your letter. They overwhelmingly agree that with greater flexibility, they would do a better job.

I would suggest that the administration work with states to add the following kinds of things that would result in real flexibility with our effort to reform welfare.

1. **Administrative Waivers**

Consider amending the Section 1115 waiver process in AFDC to include granting of waivers without regard to fixed time limits and federal cost neutrality. Innovations require risk. The present waiver process places all of the financial risk for innovative ideas on the states. The federal government should share in that risk. For example, Maryland's Primary Prevention Initiative recently won first place from the Southeastern Region of the Council of State Governments as an outstanding innovation that promotes preventive health, check-ups, immunizations, and school attendance. Preliminary data indicates that the positive cost benefits that we anticipate this program generating, will not become apparent over the relatively short duration of the demonstration. Greater flexibility concerning time frames and federal cost neutrality would greatly enhance the conception, growth, and development of initiatives such as our PPI.

In addition, such waivers could be offered on a limited basis to ease administrative complexity for specified periods of time. The Food and Nutrition Service has such waiver authority which allows states to manage more effectively.

2. **<u>Flexibility to Coordinate the Effects of Exercising These Options or Other Government Means-Tested Programs</u>**

The goal of the increased flexibility envisioned in the Administration's plan is increased tailoring of AFDC to increase recipient self-sufficiency. This cannot be totally fulfilled if the states cannot also tailor the effects of these options on other means-tested programs. For example, a state may choose to count less earned income in calculating an AFDC family's benefit. However, the power of taking this option is severely diminished if this increased income would only result in a lower Food Stamp benefit as it would now under current law.

3. **<u>State Options to Coordinate the AFDC Program with Other Government Means-Tested Programs</u>**

The Administration's proposal speaks highly of program simplification, yet this valuable goal is not apparent in the details. For example, we were very disappointed by the proposal which stopped short of valuing a recipient automobile in the same way for both AFDC and Food Stamps. People are confused and frustrated with what seem to be such arbitrary and confusing differences. There should be greater, not less, coordination among these programs. An important step in this direction would be giving the states the ability to develop common definitions for the group being helped, what their income is, and what their assets are.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue. If you want any further information on these points, please call Katherine L. Cook, Acting Executive Director, Income Maintenance Administration, Department of Human Resources at (410) 767-7338.

Sincerely,

Don Schaefer

Governor

cc: Deputy Secretary Lois Y. Whitaker
Ken Mannella

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Way

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: ______

Draft response for CHR by: ______

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: ______

Please advise by: ______

Let's discuss: ______

For your information: ✓

Reply using form code: ______

File: ______

Send copy to (original to CHR): ______

Schedule ? : ☐ Accept ☐ Pending ☐ Regret

Designee to attend: ______

Remarks: ______

State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

Bruce Sundlun, Governor

AUG -3 REC'D

State House,
Providence

July 28, 1994

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol:

Thank you for your letter of July 11th about the President's welfare reform proposal, and his grants of waivers.

I remember President Clinton's luncheon speech to the Governors at the Library of Congress the day before he was Inaugurated, when he spoke about his plan to cut down on the delay of waivers, from which he and all other governor's had suffered. He has delivered on that promise, and Rhode Island has been a beneficiary. Secretary Shalala granted a waiver in 90 days for our RIte Care statewide health care plan for pregnant women and children age 0 - 6. On August 1st the plan starts to be implemented.

Best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

Bruce

BS:cb

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, PROVIDENCE

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS

PROVIDENCE RI

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U.S. POSTAGE

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Way

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by:

Draft response for CHR by:

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by:

Please advise by:

Let's discuss:

For your information: ✓

Reply using form code:

File:

Send copy to (original to CHR):

Schedule ? : ☐ Accept ☐ Pending ☐ Regret

Designee to attend:

Remarks:

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

MARGARET R. LOWE, COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030

July 22, 1994

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

AUG -- 5 RECD

Dear Ms. Rasco:

Governor Walter Hickel asked me to respond to your recent letter. Thank you for providing information about the expanded state options proposed in the Work and Responsibility Act of 1994.

We were pleased to see that the President's plan provides a broader range of options to the states in designing their Aid to Families with Dependent Children programs. We were also gratified to learn that the plan calls for building on the existing JOBS program. As you may know, Governor Hickel wrote to President Clinton early last year and explained the importance to Alaska of policy changes in these areas.

My staff is studying the President's proposal and analyzing its potential impacts in Alaska. We are not prepared at this time to offer specific comments. We are concerned about the potential up-front costs of such sweeping changes in policy and will be looking closely at the cost of implementation. We welcome your invitation to comment and will do so when we have completed our analysis.

The Governor and I are delighted to see welfare reform moving forward on the domestic policy agenda and eager to be involved in working toward solutions to the challenging problem of increasing welfare dependency. We are confident in our nation's ability to achieve positive, lasting change in this area and we are ready to contribute to the effort.

Sincerely,

Margaret R. Lowe

Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed.S.
Commissioner

cc: Governor Hickel
Jan L. Hansen, Director

STATE OF ALASKA
Office of the Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services
P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601

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Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washinton, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

(505) 827-3000

June 27, 1994

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

As Governor of New Mexico, I support your plans to reform welfare as outlined in the proposal released on June 14, 1994. New Mexico's efforts have stressed education and training as preparation for employment which is consistent with the issues in your plan. Our desire is to assure the dignity of our citizens while providing them with opportunities to become self sufficient.

You have taken courageous steps by bringing this vital issue to the forefront and involving states and Governors into the discussions. I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this historic action and appreciate not only being heard by you, but seeing you act on the concerns of Governors. Your plan offers us the flexibility for initiating positive changes to the provision of needed services to our citizens through the ideas incorporated in your welfare reform proposals. All welfare reform efforts must continue to strengthen individual and family efforts toward education, job skill enhancements and self sufficiency, including supportive services.

New Mexico is ready and waiting to begin working with you and your administration to implement the welfare reform initiatives.

Sincerely,

Bruce King

BRUCE KING
Governor of New Mexico

MH

7-10
To: Kathi Way
From: Keith Mason

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 1994

CONTACT: Chuck Pellar
(517) 373-7394

Governor Engler Comments on Clinton Welfare Plan

Michigan Governor John Engler today commented on President Clinton's welfare reform proposal.

"We support the principles embodied in this proposal because it builds on the lessons learned through the welfare initiatives of the individual states. Many of the concepts are similar to what we have been doing in Michigan for almost two years under To Strengthen Michigan Families: welfare should be a temporary transition to self-sufficiency; emphasis should be placed on the need for education and training leading to employment; more emphasis is needed in the area of child-support enforcement; and programs to encourage family stability should be expanded.

"Our reforms in Michigan are based on the value of work, strong families, and personal responsibility. Instead of increasing grants, we're increasing opportunities to earn money and become independent. Instead of paying people not to work, we're getting them to go to work."

"In Michigan, we are defining success by the number of people who are positively engaged in constructive activities and by how many get off the welfare rolls and onto payrolls. Success must be measured one worker, one parent, one family at a time -- as they find jobs, grow stronger, and reach independence."

"Flexibility allowing states to design their own programs is essential. This issue has been included in the discussions between the Clinton Administration and

(MORE)

the National Governors' Association, i.e., that the states must be allowed to complete already approved demonstration projects, and the states must be allowed to develop programs and services which address the unique characteristics of the population and economic conditions in each state. In this vein I support President Clintons commitment to approve waivers for the states.

"Many of the issues addressed by President Clinton's proposal are ongoing initiatives in Michigan. We have made several policy changes which 'Make Work Pay' and recipients have responded. The number of welfare recipients working in Michigan has increased from 15.7 percent (33,500) of the caseload in September 1992 to 24.3 percent (52,100) in May 1994. The national average is about 8 percent.

"In contrast to the national statistics, the AFDC caseload in Michigan decreased by almost 7,000 families in the past year (232,795 in April 1993 to 226,138 in April 1994).

"Michigan's commitment to the Social Contract is also paying dividends. DSS figures show that over 72 percent of those expected to participate are actively involved in employment, education, training, or community services.

"I have had the privilege of working closely with the administration in the development of this plan in my role as the Co-chair of the National Governors' Association Welfare Reform Leadership Team. I look forward to working with the Administration and Congress to enact welfare reform which reflects the NGA's principles and addressed our concerns."

-30-

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20201

June 24, 1994

TO: Distribution (see below)

FROM: John Monahan
Margaret Pugh MMP

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Welfare Reform Letters and Statements

For your files, attached you will find a complete set of press releases and statements received from intergovernmental interest groups and elected officials since the President's announcement of the Work and Responsibility Act last week. Also attached you will find an updated list of organization press contacts and surrogates willing to talk about the President's legislation. We will make sure that you receive any future statements of this kind in the Welfare Reform Working Group's daily report. Please feel free to call if you have questions.

DISTRIBUTION

Mary Jo Bane
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WHITE HOUSE:
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Emily Bromberg
Avis LaVelle
Wendell Primus
Melissa Skolfield
Patricia Sosa
Rich Tarplin

June 24, 1994

IGA WELFARE REFORM CONTACT LIST

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

STAFF CONTACTS: Ray Scheppach, Executive Director, 202/624-5300
Barry Van Lare, Policy Director, 202/624-5342

PRESS CONTACT: Rae Bond, 202/624-5300

ELECTED OFFICIALS: Governor Tom Carper (D-DE), Co-Chair of the NGA Welfare Reform Task Force, contact: Liz Ryan 202/624-7724
Governor Zell Miller (D-GA), Member of NGA Welfare Reform Task Force, contact: Ed Kilgore 404/651-7768
Governor Evan Bayh (D-IN), Member of NGA Welfare Reform Task Force, contact: Jeff Viohl 202/628-3343
Governor Howard Dean (D-VT), Vice Chair of the NGA, contact: Kathy Hoyt 802/828-3333

AMERICAN PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

STAFF CONTACT: Sid Johnson, Executive Director, 202/682-0100
Elaine Ryan, Government Affairs Director, 202/682-0100

PRESS CONTACT: Kathy Patterson, 202/682-0100

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

STAFF CONTACT: Sheri Steisel, 202/624-5400

PRESS CONTACT: Susan Seladones, 202/624-5400

ELECTED OFFICIALS: State Representative Bill Purcell (D-TN), Chair of NCSL Human Services Committee, 615/741-1778
State Representative Jane Campbell (D-OH), Co-Chair of NCSL Welfare Reform Task Force, 614/466-5441
State Assemblyman Tom Bates (D-CA), Co-Chair of NCSL Welfare Reform Task Force, contact: Carol Wallisch 916/445-7554
State Assemblyman Wayne Bryant (D-NJ), contact: Valerie Wallace, 609/757-0552

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

STAFF CONTACT: Marilina Sanz, 202/393-6226

PRESS CONTACT: Tom Goodman, 202/393-6226

ELECTED OFFICIALS: Webster Guillory, Chairman of the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO) Board of Directors, 714/834-2734
Kay Beard (D-Wayne County, MI), Co-Chair of NACo Welfare Reform Task Force, 313/224-0902

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

STAFF CONTACT: Barri Tabin, 202/626-3020

PRESS CONTACT: Randy Arndt, 202/626-3020

ELECTED OFFICIALS: Mayor Sharpe James (D-Newark, NJ), President of the NLC, contact: Pam Goldstein 210/733-6400

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

STAFF CONTACT: Tom Cochran, Executive Director, 202/293-7330
Laura Waxman, 202/393-7330; in Portland: 503/226-9477

PRESS CONTACT: Laura Waxman, 202/293-7330 or 503/226-9477

ELECTED OFFICIALS: Mayor Bruce Todd (D-Austin, TX), Chair of USCM Human Services Committee, contact: Laura Waxman 202/293-7330 or 503/226-9477
Mayor Emanuel Cleaver (D-Kansas City, MO), contact: Mary K. Vaughan 816/274-2397
Mayor Michael White (D-Cleveland), contact: Cheryl Davis 216/664-2220
Mayor Norm Rice (D-Seattle), contact: Tom Tierney, 206/684-8260

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Carroll A. Campbell Jr.
Governor of South Carolina
Chairman

Howard Dean
Governor of Vermont
Vice Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300

June 14, 1994

Statement on President Clinton's Welfare Reform Proposal

The National Governors' Association supports the principles embodied by President Clinton's welfare reform proposal, which builds on lessons learned in state welfare initiatives. We believe that such state experimentation will contime to be critical to national progress in welfare reform. We also believe that comprehensive reform must be accompanied by a commitment to allow states to complete already approved demonstration projects.

The President's proposal builds on the 1988 Family Support Act and incorporates many of the reform principles endorsed by the Governors:

- Welfare as a transition to self-sufficiency
- Assistance for those not yet ready for employment or training
- Time-limited cash assistance, including education and training to help prepare for work
- Improved child care and Earned Income Tax Credits for low-income working families
- Enhanced interstate child support enforcement
- Expanded programs to encourage family stability and limit teen pregnancy
- Increased state flexibility in program design
- Improved coordination between Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) and Food Stamps
- Enhanced federal financing, including lower state matching rates

We believe welfare reform is an essential component in restoring responsibility and stability to the American family. The President's proposal is a positive contribution to the welfare reform debate and we particularly welcome its focus on incentives for work and time limits for cash assistance for those able to work.

The Administration consulted extensively with states and localities in developing the welfare reform proposal, and we commend the President and his Working Group on Welfare Reform for their commitment to an open consultation process. Like the Governors' policy, the President's proposal recognizes the importance of work as an alternative to welfare and includes numerous elements designed to enhance state ability to prepare and place recipients in work.

Throughout our discussions, the states have emphasized the importance of flexibility and continued innovation. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to welfare, and states must have the flexibility to develop programs and services that will address the unique characteristics of our welfare populations and economic conditions within our individual states. We applaud the President's efforts, within the framework of his plan, to afford states specific options to try different approaches without having to apply for waivers. These state options include making work pay by expanding earned income disregards and providing advance payments of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

States have invested considerable time and effort in the development of experiments to test a variety of reform initiatives, including many approved by the administration. We must emphasize, however, the importance of allowing states to complete the welfare demonstrations currently underway through waivers and to look favorably on new waiver applications.

Welfare is a complex program. The fundamental changes sought by the President and the Governors will require the enactment of a law that clearly recognizes the balance between the federal role in defining basic policy objectives and the state and local role in crafting the procedures and processes needed to obtain those objectives. The NGA will work closely with the administration and the Congress to ensure that the balance is achieved. Final federal legislation must not become overly prescriptive or detailed.

It should be noted that NGA has not yet seen legislative language and that individual Governors may have additional comments on specific issues as that language becomes available for review.

Our policy does not address specifically the issue of financing. States are concerned, however, that current program costs, such as the cost of assistance to immigrants without other resources, not be shifted to the states in order to pay for the federal share of welfare reform. We will be doing additional analysis of the financing mechanisms as details become available in order to determine the financial impact on states. We are also concerned about any sanctions that would penalize states for failing to adopt mandated intrastate child support procedures or reduce the federal match for basic assistance, such as for failing to meet employment program performance standards. We believe there is a shared federal-state responsibility for providing basic benefits, and we are concerned about a precedent of this kind.

In summary we support the principles in the President's proposal. The Governors note that there are other proposals currently before the Congress that also incorporate a number of these principles and urge Congress to take advantage of this apparent momentum to enact welfare reform as quickly as possible that reflects the Governors' principles and addresses our concerns. We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress to this end.

Carroll Campbell

Governor Carroll Campbell
Chair

Howard Dean

Governor Howard Dean
Vice Chair

Thomas R. Carper

Governor Tom Carper
Co-Chair
Welfare Reform Leadership Team

John Engler

Governor John Engler
Co-Chair
Welfare Reform Leadership Team

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471

Roy Romer
Governor

June 14, 1994

The Honorable William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 21510

Dear Mr. President:

I want to add my strong support to your efforts to restructure our nation's welfare system. It is important that we change from the current system of writing checks to one focused on helping employable adults move rapidly into productive work and improving the long-term self-sufficiency of families.

Most families in Colorado leave the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program within one year. However, many of these families face barriers such as lack of health insurance, inadequate child care or low paying jobs that force them to return to AFDC. Welfare reform must recognize and address these underlying factors to provide real opportunities for self-sufficiency.

As you know, earlier this year, Colorado was granted a waiver by your administration to begin one of the nation's most stringent and innovative welfare reform programs. Under this pilot program, AFDC recipients who refuse to enter job training or to take a job will be permanently removed from welfare rolls after two years. In addition, participants will be given a cash amount to purchase food, rather than food stamps. I appreciate having the opportunity to move forward with these programs, which we hope will help Coloradans get off welfare and stay off it. We look forward to continuing to work with your administration to develop effective strategies for implementing welfare reform in Colorado and the nation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my concerns about welfare reform. First, I am concerned that welfare reform may present significant economic challenges to the states. I agree that long-term self-sufficiency efforts will require an investment of resources. However, Colorado, as many other states, is not in the position to implement new federal mandates without sufficient federal funding. States must be given enough flexibility to implement reform within the resources that are available.

Page Two

Second, I am concerned that proposed reforms not assume that any type of job is better than no job. "Make-work" or jobs that will disappear when subsidies run out will not solve our real problems. In addition, if welfare recipients are perceived as taking jobs from others who are marginally employed, the reform effort may be seen as further impoverishing another group of citizens. Colorado is prepared to work with the administration to develop effective job development strategies.

Finally, I agree that personal responsibility for support of children is extremely important. A strong emphasis on child support enforcement will have a positive effect on children and family self-sufficiency. I am encouraged to see that some costs for these changes will be addressed with enhanced federal funding.

In conclusion, I am strongly committed to welfare reform and support your efforts to "end welfare as we know it." Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important initiative and for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer

Roy Romer
Governor

RR:wkg

STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS

THOMAS R. CARPER
GOVERNOR
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
(302) 739-4101
(302) 577-3210

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 14, 1994

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT: Sheri L. Woodruff
(302) 739-4101 Dover
(302) 378-7800 Home
(302) 575-6800 Pager

GOVERNOR CARPER ISSUES STATEMENT PRAISING CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE

(Dover, Del.) -- Governor Thomas R. Carper today announced his strong support for the broad principles embodied in President Clinton's welfare reform package, expected to be unveiled later today in Kansas City, Missouri.

According to Carper, "I strongly support the principles incorporated in President Clinton's welfare reform package and am pleased to see that it closely mirrors policies we seek to implement here in Delaware. The people of Delaware and this country will be well-served by the Administration's proposed plan, in light of its emphasis on: encouraging individual responsibility by requiring clients to enter into mutually agreed-upon contracts that outline goals and expectations; expanding client participation in Job Opportunities and Basic Skills programs such as Delaware's nationally-acclaimed "First Step" initiative; and emphasizing 'work over welfare.' Just as important, the Clinton Administration plan provides additional funding and incentives to support the transition from welfare to work, including increased child care and added tools for states to improve child support collection."

-- more --

Carper continued, "President Clinton should be commended for his leadership and creativity in developing a reform plan that provides Americans with the opportunity to improve their lives and achieve self-sufficiency. Because the Administration consulted closely with governors and their program directors in developing this proposed package, the recognition that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution to this challenge will serve states well by allowing them to craft programs based upon the specific needs of their residents. This flexibility, illustrated by the President's inclusion of several state options within his plan, allows states more latitude than has previously been the case to solve their own problems and to address their particular challenges head-on."

Governor Carper is the Democratic co-chair of the National Governors' Association (NGA) Welfare Reform Leadership Team. The 12-member working group explores welfare reform policy and programming from around the country and is working to build bipartisan consensus around a national plan on behalf of the NGA.

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GOVPRESS 685

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR ZELL MILLER OF GEORGIA
ON PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORM PROPOSAL

In 1992, candidate Bill Clinton promised to "end welfare as we know it." With the proposal announced today, President Clinton has moved to redeem this pledge, and has made welfare reform a top legislative priority for Congress.

As the Governor of a state which has led the nation in welfare reform, I welcome the President's proposal. It offers welfare recipients a clear path into productive work in the private sector, and it requires all Americans to play by the same rules and take personal responsibility for their lives.

I am especially pleased that the President has incorporated into his proposal so many of the reforms pioneered here in Georgia, including strong child support enforcement measures, a requirement that minor mothers on welfare remain at home, and the ability to limit payments for additional children without the complicated and burdensome process of securing a waiver from federal agencies.

The President's proposal should receive immediate attention in Congress.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR

June 14, 1994

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my support for your proposal on welfare reform. The mood of the nation regarding the receipt of welfare benefits has shifted, thus necessitating new strategies to assist families to become self-sufficient. Your concept of a two-year limit is a bold proposal which will challenge both the families who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) assistance as well as the states to strive even harder to assist families to become independent of public assistance. I applaud your courage to change a system that has gone unchanged for so many years. I also thank you for seeking the input and support of the Governors in drafting this sweeping reform. Your current proposal, to focus on teen parents and to help AFDC families to get changes that will not require them to return to the welfare rolls shows your broad-based concern for the factors that lead to dependence on government.

In the months ahead, as your proposal works its way through Congress, you can count on my support for your welfare reform plan. It is only by working together at the federal and state levels that we can have cohesive policies that will benefit the families of this nation.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and hard work that has led to this reform proposal. America's families will be better off because of your vision which has been followed by timely action.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

John Waihee

JOHN WAIHEE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
BOISE 83720-1000

CECIL D. ANDRUS
GOVERNOR

(208) 334-2100

June 9, 1994

The Honorable William F. Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Like you, I have observed the operation of the welfare system over many years and have concluded that, in most cases, it does not lift citizens up into a new, self-supporting way of life but only makes them slightly more comfortable in their poverty.

In reviewing your plan for welfare reform, it seems to me it is right on target in requiring recipients to regard it as only a temporary measure while they acquire the training and experience to become independent. Somewhere along the line, a program that was designed to help people face a temporary income shortfall has turned into the "dole," and your proposal makes the right course correction to turn it, instead, into a program designed to empower people and enable them to stand on their own.

I support your proposal and have instructed the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to assist however it can to adapt the program to Idaho's needs and to cooperate fully in helping make it a reality.

With best wishes for success,

Sincerely,

Cecil D. Andrus

Cecil D. Andrus
Governor

CDA:cw

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BRERETON C. JONES
GOVERNOR

THE CAPITOL
700 CAPITAL AVENUE
FRANKFORT 40601
(502) 564-2611

June 13, 1994

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I want to thank you and congratulate you on your commitment to undertake welfare reform. As you know, we have discussed the need for meaningful welfare reform since the early days of your administration. I also want to thank you for giving other Kentucky officials the opportunity to participate in discussions with your office on this important subject. We feel that the partnership we are developing will allow both of us to accomplish our goals in this important area. Also, I am most impressed by your willingness to allow the states to exercise flexibility in coordinating their own initiatives in partnership with the federal government.

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of your efforts and my commitment to continue to work with you on these and other matters for which we share a common concern.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Brereton Jones

Brereton C. Jones

/srb

State of Louisiana
Department of Social Services
OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT
755 RIVERSIDE NORTH
P. O. BOX 94065 – PHONE – 504/342-3950
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-4065

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

GLORIA BRYANT-BANKS
MSW, ACSW, BCSW
SECRETARY

June 13, 1994

Welfare Reform Working Group
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Talking Points: Overall Plan,
State Issues: Financing, Flexibility,
and Waivers, Waivers

ATTN: Keith Mason

Dear Mr. Mason:

I agree in principle with the approach you are taking to these issues.

Sincerely,

Howard L Prejean

Howard L. Prejean
Assistant Secretary

HLP/cdp

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

MARIO M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

June 14, 1994

Mr. President:

I commend you for making welfare reform one of your Administration's top priorities and for tackling this complex and critical issue. Many of the themes and principles embodied in your proposal are consistent with New York's own welfare reform initiatives, and I support your efforts to promote the value of work, responsibility and self-sufficiency. I share your aim to make public assistance transitional, with its primary focus on jobs.

The program that you have outlined is certainly a laudable proposal for achieving our shared goals. Although there are certain fiscal and program issues of concern to New York, we plan to work with members of your Administration and the Congress to resolve them.

I look forward to working with you to address these matters and to meet the goal of reforming the welfare system.

Respectfully,

Mario M Cuomo

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DAVID WALTERS
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
212 State Capitol • Oklahoma City, OK 73105

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 14, 1994

CONTACT: Steve Hill
Press Secretary
(405) 523-4251

GOVERNOR WALTERS SUPPORTS CLINTON'S WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE

Washington, D.C. — Governor David Walters announced his support for President Clinton's welfare reform package that the President unveiled today in Kansas City, MO.

"I support the President's efforts to reform welfare. The State of Oklahoma has sought regulatory reform in the past to avoid unnecessary and duplicative federal intervention as we try new approaches to solving problems. If the President's plan is enacted, Oklahoma will be able to move forward with these changes," Governor Walters said.

In particular, the Governor said he "supports the President's principle of time-limited benefits, coupled with more education and training. Also, the principle allowing increased flexibility for the states in program design leaves behind a one-size-fits-all mentality that has inhibited state innovations. This will enable us to solve our own problems, different from those of most other states. Oklahoma currently has five welfare reform pilot test proposals around the state that we would like to see implemented."

"Just as important, the Clinton plan includes additional funding and incentives to support the transition from welfare to work. The funding also includes increased child care and the capabilities for our State to improve child support collection efforts," Walters said.

In conclusion, the Governor said, "welfare reform is an essential step to stabilizing the American family and to stabilizing government spending. President Clinton should be commended for his efforts."

# # #

BARBARA ROBERTS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0370
TELEPHONE: (503) 378-3111
TDD (503) 378-4859

June 13, 1994

President William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. President:

I want to congratulate you and your administration for the leadership, courage and vision you have shown on welfare reform. National welfare reform will help give many Americans the tools the need to be self-sufficient, productive members of our society.

Oregon is already enacting many elements of welfare reform. Oregon welfare recipients participate in the JOBS program at twice the national rate. Each month, more than 900 families get off welfare and get jobs because they were given the job skills, child care and job placement they needed to succeed. Overall welfare caseloads have dropped 2.6% in the last year alone, compared to a national increase of 1.34%. Our JOBS Plus pilot project, still awaiting final federal waivers, will give some Oregonians on-the-job mentoring, child care and health care in lieu of traditional welfare.

Once again, Oregon's innovation is in prevention. Most welfare clients are teen mothers. I have made reducing the rate of teen pregnancy a top priority for the remainder of my term so that we can reach our state benchmark of cutting the rate in half by the year 2000. Oregon has also dramatically expanded health care coverage for low-income Oregonians, removing the need for welfare simply to have basic health care services.

Oregon is proud to serve as a model for welfare reform, as we have served for health care reform. We appreciate the support you and your administration have shown in allowing flexibility for states' individual health care innovations, and I look forward to working with you in the same productive way on welfare reform.

Thank you for your courage on this important public policy.

Sincerely,

Barbara Roberts

Barbara Roberts
Governor

State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

Bruce Sundlun, Governor

State House,
Providence

June 13, 1994

President William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I applaud and support your leadership in the area of welfare reform.

I am personally appreciative of the consultation your Administration has provided to the nation's governors in the formulation of your welfare reform plan. In particular, I am in full agreement with the basic tenet of your comprehensive plan that reinforces the values of work, family, opportunity and responsibility.

Both welfare recipients and tax payers have become the victims of an inefficient system. Short sighted approaches to improve the welfare system in the past three decades have discouraged intact families and have promoted welfare dependency.

At the state level, increased numbers of children born to welfare families are living in poverty. While creative programs promoting economic independence are abundant, a cohesive and encompassing national policy is needed to solve a societal problem of this magnitude.

I have introduced a welfare reform bill that mirrors your plan's philosophy. My proposal emphasizes that work is valued by making work pay. It stresses that both parents are responsible to support their children and that parents should not have children until they are ready and able to raise them. I am heartened that the plan you have formulated is consistent with our goal of assisting people gain self-sufficiency.

The President
June 13, 1994
Page 2

I fully support your welfare reform plan and strongly urge the Congress to enact it this year. It is about time that our welfare system is designed to benefit the welfare of all citizens of this country.

Best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

BS:la
0021P.11

State of Tennessee

NED McWHERTER
GOVERNOR

June 13, 1994

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I strongly support your call for Welfare Reform. If there is anything program recipients and taxpayers alike can agree on it's that the present system is greatly in need of reform.

Your plan to build on the successful Family Support Act of 1988 is noteworthy because it permits us to expand our JOBSWORK program, which has been the stimulus for nearly 14,000 Tennessee AFDC families going to work in the past five years.

In addition to the continued emphasis on employment and training, as well as the necessary support for that effort, your plan also renews the call for stronger parental commitment through the regular payment of child support. In doing so, you have placed important emphasis on two elements central to our families gaining self-sufficiency: Work and Child Support.

I applaud your effort, and I am committed to work with you on this vital undertaking.

Sincerely,

Ned McWherter

Ned McWherter

NRW:pgh

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (206) 753-6780

June 13, 1994

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to comment on your administration's proposal for welfare reform. I understand the complex challenge you face in attempting to initiate real change to the current welfare system. I am pleased that you have opened the dialogue and discussion to representatives from states. This state has already responded in detail to Deputy Assistant Keith Mason on this proposal.

As you may be aware, Washington State has been grappling with welfare reform for several years. Legislation was passed in 1993, and again this year that stresses welfare as a temporary measure. Many of the reforms that have been developed at the state level, however, apply to federally funded programs and require changes at the federal level before they can be implemented.

Of the many provisions detailed in your Welfare Reform Issue Paper, the simplification and conformity of application processing for the Food Stamp and AFDC programs is of paramount importance. The efficiencies resulting from this will help to shift resources to achieve the goals of the entire proposal.

I am pleased that welfare reform is focusing on the JOBS program. I believe we can make a difference in peoples lives by offering a mix of services that provides appropriate education, skills training, child care and work experience to help AFDC recipients become self-sufficient.

This state vigorously supports removing the "100-hour rule" limitation. We are currently in the process of seeking a Title IV-A State Plan amendment and associated federal approvals to comply with new state legislation. We need your support on this issue.

President William J. Clinton
June 13, 1994
Page Two

There are some areas of the proposal with which we have concerns, one of which is the two year eligibility time limit. Without a safety net, this will increase homelessness and child welfare caseloads. Washington has adopted legislation that reduces assistance in a graduated manner after four years.

While we support parents having responsibility for minor mothers, the possibility of abusive situations leads us to recommend the alternative of establishing protective payees. We also oppose making states fully responsible for benefits paid when paternity has not been established after one year. And while we strongly endorse the intent to enhance and simplify the federal match rate for states, we believe this will not produce the desired effect. Many states will have difficulty finding additional state funds to draw-down the federal dollars.

Finally, adequate funding must be available to provide the support needed for those moving towards self-sufficiency. Without considerable financial commitment by the federal government, true and lasting reform will not occur.

I look forward to working in partnership with you and the other states to resolve concerns and uncertainties about welfare reform. A continuing dialogue with states is crucial if positive, long-term changes are to take place.

Sincerely,

Mike Lowry

MIKE LOWRY
Governor

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHARLESTON 25305

June 14, 1994

GASTON CAPERTON
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare to announce your welfare reform package, I want to thank you for giving governors and their representatives the opportunity to work closely with your Administration in developing this proposed legislation. The Administration is to be commended for involving the states in direct consultation on such an important issue.

I also commend you for your leadership in undertaking such a difficult task. Our welfare system must be changed to provide a helping hand to our nation's most needy citizens, without creating dependence on welfare as an alternative to self-sustaining opportunities. I am especially encouraged by the importance you are placing on the principles of work and responsibility, and I encourage you to continue to allow the states the necessary flexibility to provide those services in the most appropriate way for their citizens.

You certainly have my support and encouragement as you undertake this difficult task. I look forward to working with your Administration in the months ahead to help make the necessary improvements in providing support for the children and families of West Virginia and our country.

Sincerely,

Gaston Caperton

Gaston Caperton
Governor

GC:ss

APWA
AMERICAN PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION
news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Kathy Patterson/Janet Goss
202/682-0100

APWA, Clinton Proposals Emphasize JOBS Program

Washington D.C.–June 14, 1994--The American Public Welfare Association today welcomed the official release of the Clinton Administration's welfare reform proposal. "President Clinton deserves great credit for putting this issue on the national agenda," said A. Sidney Johnson III, APWA executive director.

Johnson said APWA is pleased that the Clinton Administration's approach--building on the success of the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program, strengthening child care and child support enforcement, streamlining program administration, and a 2-year time limit followed by a mandatory work requirement--parallels many of the recommendations made by the American Public Welfare Association in January.

"We will continue to work closely with the Clinton Administration and the Congress on issues such as administrative capacity and flexibility and cost shifts to the states," Johnson said. "In very large measure states have led the way in demonstrating the success of education, training, and employment for welfare recipients, and states will continue to be critical players in additional program and policy changes."

Particularly good news from a state perspective, Johnson said, is the fact that the administration's proposal includes additional federal funding for the state-federal JOBS program authorized by the Family Support Act of 1988. That education and employment program now enrolls roughly 10% of families recieving AFDC. "The early studies of the JOBS program--notably research in Florida and California by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation--have found the program has a positive impact on employment earnings and on welfare savings. States continue their strong commitment to this approach to achieving self-sufficiency," Johnson said.

The APWA report released in January--*Responsibility/Work/Pride: The Values of Welfare Reform*--outlined a series of proposals including a 2-year time limit that would require employable adults to take a job or enter community work experience after up to two years of education and training. APWA's bipartisan package also calls for "making work pay" including universal health care coverage; stronger child support enforcement; increased federal support for the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program to train recipients for employment; and streamlined administration of benefit programs.

"What the American public wants for and from welfare reform is what the majority of welfare families want, too," the report states. "Job training and work, independence and responsibility, self-sufficiency and pride." The APWA proposals "translate some simple American values into practical public policy."

The American Public Welfare Association is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization representing all of the state human service departments as well as local public welfare agencies and individuals who work in public human services.

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

STATEMENT BY NCSL PRESIDENT ROBERT T. CONNOR ON THE PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORM PROPOSAL

STATE LEGISLATORS AGREE WITH THE GOALS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO REFORM THE COUNTRY'S WELFARE SYSTEM. LEGISLATORS COMMEND THE PRESIDENT FOR THE UNPRECEDENTED CONSULTATION WITH STATE LEGISLATORS DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN. HOWEVER, WHILE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOALS, WE ARE DISAPPOINTED IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S PATH TOWARD ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS.

STATE LEGISLATORS AGREE THAT REFORM MUST: PROVIDE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS; ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO WORK CAN RISE ABOVE POVERTY; PROVIDE ADEQUATE CHILD CARE AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES; AND IMPROVE CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS. WE STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT FEDERAL BARRIERS TO WORK AND FAMILY FORMATION MUST BE REMOVED FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS. THIS CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A PARTNERSHIP AMONG ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

EVEN THOUGH FINANCING AND FLEXIBILITY HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR CONCERN OF STATE LEGISLATORS IN THE WELFARE REFORM DEBATE, THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN IS LACKING ON BOTH FRONTS. THE PATH TO WELFARE REFORM AS OUTLINED IN THE PROPOSAL IS OBSTRUCTED BY UNFUNDED FEDERAL MANDATES AND COST SHIFTING.

THE PROPOSAL IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY CUTTING FEDERAL WELFARE BENEFITS TO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. SINCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SOLE JURISDICTION OVER IMMIGRATION POLICY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVE THE IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER STATES AND LOCALITIES. ELIMINATING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANTS WILL ONLY RESULT IN A DRAIN ON STATE AND LOCAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND PRIVATE CHARITIES -- ALL OF WHICH ARE ALREADY UNABLE TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES.

THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO PROPOSES TO CAP AFDC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. CAPPING AN OPEN-ENDED ENTITLEMENT WILL ONLY PLACE GREATER BURDENS ON STATES AND SHIFT ADDITIONAL COSTS. THE HIGHER FEDERAL MATCHING RATES FOR WELFARE REFORM GIVE THE ILLUSION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WHILE IN FACT, THE PROPOSAL MERELY REALLOCATES EXISTING FUNDS.

MANY OF THE WELFARE REFORM IDEAS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ARE THE RESULT OF STATE INITIATIVES. STATE LEGISLATORS HAVE LONG ARGUED THAT THE STATES MUST MAINTAIN THE FLEXIBILITY TO CONTINUE THESE INNOVATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES OVER 200 NEW FEDERAL MANDATES TO ACHIEVE 'FLEXIBILITY.'

William T. Pound/Executive Director

Susan L. Seladones
Director of Public Affairs
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202/624-5400

FOR EXAMPLE, IN DEVELOPING STATE CHILD SUPPORT REGISTRIES, STATES MUST INCLUDE 15 MANDATED PROVISIONS REGARDING HOW AUTOMATED DATA SERVICES SHOULD FUNCTION. TEN MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS ARE IMPOSED ON EACH STATE'S CIVIL PROCEDURES FOR PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT. WHILE THERE ARE SEVERAL DEMONSTRATION GRANT POSSIBILITIES, THE BULK OF THE OVERALL PROPOSAL IS WEIGHED TOWARD COMPULSORY, PRESCRIBED ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN OPTIONS AND FLEXIBILITY.

STATE LEGISLATORS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THAT FEDERAL WELFARE REFORM INCLUDES:

* ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FINANCING WITHOUT UNDER-FUNDED AND UNFUNDED MANDATES OR COST SHIFTING TO THE STATES

* FLEXIBILITY TO HELP STATES DEAL WITH THE VARIETY OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT MARKETS AND GEAR EDUCATION AND TRAINING TOWARD THOSE NEEDS

* COORDINATION OF OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

* SUPPORT OF STATE SUCCESSES IN CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT WITHOUT PREEMPTING FAMILY LAW OR FEDERALIZING THE PROGRAM

PRESIDENT CLINTON RECOGNIZES THAT STATE LEGISLATORS ARE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PLAN AND WE ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT THE PROPOSAL PHASES-IN POPULATIONS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

NCSL'S WELFARE REFORM TASK FORCE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION AS THE DEBATE CONTINUES. STATE LEGISLATORS HOPE THAT THE DIALOG REMAINS OPEN AND THAT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS CONTINUES.

STATE LEGISLATORS LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION ON THIS CRITICAL ISSUE.

Senator Connor is President of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and serves as Minority Whip of the Delaware State Senate.

For additional information, contact Susan Seladones or Liz Dechert in NCSL's Public Affairs Department at 202-624-5400.

June 14, 1994

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

NEWS

United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

Portland, Oregon
June 14, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ON THE PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORM PROPOSALS

Mayors believe the basic structure of the President's welfare reform plan is sound and fair, and yesterday we adopted a policy resolution which reflects this.

The Clinton Administration has worked hard for more than a year to develop a proposal to redirect the welfare system, making it one that provides training and work and at the same time requires responsibility. We support its basic principles: to prevent teen pregnancy and promote parental responsibility, to make work pay and provide child care, to provide two years of transitional assistance followed by work, and to reinvent government assistance.

But we have concerns relating to several specific provisions -- the importance of utilizing existing employment and training systems and of assuring that the subsidized jobs created through the work program provide a positive experience and sufficient wages to the individual while at the same time addressing community needs.

We also are concerned about some of the provisions intended to promote parental responsibility, particularly those which allow states the option to deny additional benefits to families which have additional children -- the family cap.

Finally, we must oppose the entitlement cuts that would pay much of the costs of welfare reform. Cutting benefits to non-citizens and low income Americans shifts costs to state and local governments and hurts a vulnerable segment of our population. We know there are few good financing options, but there must be a better way.

We look forward to working with the Administration and the Congress to address the concerns we have raised and to craft badly needed reforms to our welfare system, reforms which will benefit both the client and the community.

CONTACT: Mike Brown, Laura DeKoven Waxman, (503) 226-4404, (202) 293-7330

FINAL
ADOPTED
6/13/94

Resolution No. 38

Submitted By:

The Honorable Bruce Todd
Mayor of Austin

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II
Mayor of Kansas City

The Honorable Norm Rice
Mayor of Seattle

WELFARE REFORM

1) **WHEREAS**, it is generally acknowledged that the nation's welfare system is badly in need of reform; and

2) **WHEREAS**, welfare reform should be based on the following principles:

- Preventing individuals from needing public assistance, both through long-term solutions, such as teen pregnancy prevention and education reform, and by targeting the needs of certain populations such as young people;

- serving as a transition to self-sufficiency by assuring that adequate training is provided that will be relevant to the jobs that are available, that there are enough jobs which provide a living-wage, and that child care, health care and other necessary services are provided;

- Supporting two-parent families by removing programmatic disincentives for families to stay together and identifying non-custodial parents, promoting their responsibility and payment of child support, and providing them training and employment assistance;

- Not changing the system at the expense of the children's well-being;

- Providing necessary additional federal resources so that costs are not shifted to state and local governments;

3) **WHEREAS**, the Clinton Administration has engaged in an extensive effort to develop a welfare reform proposal which is soon to be announced and which is intended to "end welfare as we know it;" and

4) **WHEREAS**, the Administration's welfare reform proposal has four basic principles:

- Preventing teen pregnancy and promoting parental responsibility;

- Making work pay/child care;
- Transitional assistance followed by work; and
- Reinventing government assistance,

5) **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the framework of the Clinton Administration's welfare reform proposals and its four basic principles; and

6) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the critical relationship of welfare reform to health care reform and the importance of accomplishing both as quickly as poosible if we are to address many of the nation's basic social problems; and

7) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors has identified several areas of concern in the Clinton Administration's welfare reform proposals, in particular several provisions relating to transitional assistance followed by work and promoting parental responsibility; and

7) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Clinton Administration's proposal for transitional assistance of up to two years followed by work, but believes that it should provide extensive education and training services to help recipients support themselves and their families, thereby reducing their chances of returning to the welfare system; and

8) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these services be channeled through the existing employment and training systems that currently provide workforce development services, and that mayors be recognized partners and play an active role in planning, designing and implementing these employment and training services to meet the needs of local welfare clients.

9) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Conference of Mayors believes that community service jobs developed through the Work Program should be seen as important jobs, not jobs of last resort, and that they are a way of addressing identified community needs. Specifically:

- Mayors and other local government officials need to be actively involved in identifying the jobs to be done and the agencies administering them. Job creation and identification as well as training activities should be coordinated with existing employment and training activities, in particular with Job Training Partnership Act programs and Private Industry Councils.

- The jobs should be structured in such a way that long term job slots are created which different recipients may move through so that the administering agency can have confidence that the job will continue to be performed even after a recipient is moved into a private sector job.

- The jobs should provide pay and benefits equal to other workers doing the same work, without displacing current workers and jobs.

- Persons in subsidized Work Program jobs should be eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit benefits. This is necessary to send the message that work pays, and that these are important jobs. It also means that the recipient will be more likely to maintain a decent standard of living during the period he or she is in a community service job.

- Exceptions to the requirement that an individual must work after two years of transitional assistance should recognize individual needs.

- The two-year limit should not apply for the lifetime of the recipient. The program must recognize that future circumstances may require an individual to need welfare assistance again; and

10) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that while The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that both parents should be responsible for both the financial and emotional support of their children, some of the provisions under promoting parental responsibility raise concern:

- While it is agreed that a much greater effort should be made to establish paternity and hold the father as well as the mother responsible for the child, the requirement of naming potential father's should not constitute an invasion of the mother's privacy.

- States should not be allowed to impose a family cap on welfare recipients because a family cap is not a disincentive to having additional children, and merely punishes those children.

- We support the requirement that minor parents live with a parent or another responsible adult, but there must be assurances that the arrangement is in the best interests of the mother and the child (i.e. that the minor parent not be deprived by the adult of the benefits received, that the home provide a safe environment and that needed services be available); and

11) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the three types of entitlement cuts currently being discussed to finance welfare reform:

- Denying SSI, AFDC and Food Stamp benefits to non-citizen recipients who have been in the country less than five years

- Capping the AFDC Emergency Assistance program

- Means-testing the child care feeding program; and

12) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Clinton Administration for the extensive and open consultative process in which it engaged during the development of its welfare reform proposals.

Projected Cost: $9.5 billion

NACo National Association of Counties
Counties Care for America
NEWS RELEASE

440 First St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-2080 202/393-6226 fax 202/393-2630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 1994

CONTACT: Tom Goodman or Traci Dove 202/942-4222

County officials applaud President Clinton on Welfare Reform proposal, but question financing mechanism

Washington, D.C. -- County officials strongly support many provisions of President Clinton's Work and Responsibility Act of 1994 proposal, but strongly oppose its financing mechanism.

"We applaud the President on many aspects of his proposal, namely promoting work and independence; increasing funding for education and training; improving child support enforcement with a federal registry; and simplifying welfare," said National Association of Counties (NACo) President and Pinellas County (Fla.) Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd.

The President's proposal increases funding and the federal matching rate for the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program, child support enforcement and child care for low-income families, which county officials support, Todd said. Also, the proposal helps strengthen families by allowing states to eliminate Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) requirements that penalize married couples; helps child support enforcement agencies in collecting outstanding payments through greater access to federal data; and helps reduce paperwork by simplifying differing and inconsistent rules in federal assistance programs.

"We strongly oppose, however," Todd added, "many of the Administration's proposed financing provisions. The most troublesome provisions are the proposed cap on AFDC Emergency Assistance, and those that would limit immigrants' current eligibility for some federal entitlement programs, such as Supplemental Security Income, Food Stamps and AFDC. These provisions would shift costs from the federal government to county and state governments.

-more-

"A cap on an entitlement program, such as Emergency Assistance, would restrict government's ability to respond in times of crisis and would hurt the very people who the proposal seeks help," she added. Counties and states use Emergency Assistance program funds for a variety of purposes, such as helping families who have lost their homes in case of natural disasters, and preventing homelessness by helping families pay overdue rent and utility bills. In many instances, the use of Emergency Assistance helps prevent the use of more costly federal programs.

In the case of immigration, these reductions would affect Todd's state of Florida, along with other states with large immigration populations -- Arizona, California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas. In many of these states, county governments have the primary responsibility for general assistance and are responsible for people with nowhere else to go for help.

"Setting and enforcing immigration policy is a federal function. The federal government should , therefore, have the financial responsibility for this population," Todd said.

County officials are also concerned as to whether the proposal includes sufficient funding to achieve its goals. In order to adequately implement a time limit on AFDC, there has to be sufficient federal funding for child care, education and training, transportation, and jobs that provide long-term self-sufficiency, Todd said.

"State and local governments are being asked to make significant changes in the way programs are operated -- changes that require staff training and acquisition of new equipment," Todd explained. "Some of the president's proposals, such as phasing-in the program by beginning with younger parents and eliminating the current JOBS targeting requirements, undoubtedly, will help the transition to a new system. NACo, however, is concerned about the stiff penalties, in the form of reductions in the AFDC federal matching rate, for failing to meet performance standards."

Finally, NACo commends the Administration for the consultation process they established with state and local government organizations, and wishes to continue the dialogue as legislation moves forward.

-30-

NACo is the only national organization representing county governments in the United States. Its goals are to improve county government, act as a liaison with other levels of government, present the county position on national issues and advance public understanding of the role of counties.

NEWS
National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

June 15, 1994

TO: Urban Affairs Reporters and Editors

FROM: Randy Arndt, Media Relations Director (202) 626-3158

SUBJECT: President Clinton's Welfare Reform Initiative

Attached is a copy of a letter sent to President Clinton by NLC President Sharpe James, mayor of Newark, N.J., expressing NLC's strong support for proposing welfare reforms "which would grant to many in this country the chance to rise out of poverty through educational opportunities and incentives to work."

Mayor James' letter commends the president for bringing forward a strategy that seeks to reduce poverty as opposed to "assisting the poor to survive in poverty through income maintenance, food stamp programs and housing programs."

The letter also identifies several important areas in which local governments have major concerns about the impact and costs of the president's proposals. One set of questions revolves around the concept of creating community service jobs, such as the extent to which communities would have to participate in these programs and the question of covering various costs. Another area of concern involves the proposals relating to a curtailment of benefits in situations involving households with legal immigrants.

While many cities have only a limited direct role in administering welfare programs, nearly all have had to wrestle with the presence, persistence and effects of poverty on families and individuals, as well as its effects on neighborhoods, attitudes and expectations. The National League of Cities has called for local as well as federal approaches that focus on building capacity, as opposed to shoring up deficits. "Your welfare reform proposals can provide the first step toward achieving these goals," Mayor James wrote in pledging that the NLC members and staff were committed to helping enact a welfare reform bill.

National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington D C
20004
202) 626-3000
Fax (202) 626-3043

June 14, 1994

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 140,000 municipal elected officials representing cities and towns nationwide, I am writing to express our support for your efforts to reform this country's welfare system, and to commend your administration on its outreach efforts to representatives of cities and towns.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is pleased that your welfare reform proposals address many of the concerns echoed by local leaders and reflect many of the principles NLC has advocated for moving individuals from welfare to work, lifting families out of poverty, and encouraging the formation and maintenance of families.

Local officials continue to express grave concern over the growth of poverty in our nation's cities. In past years, it seemed as though the federal response to poverty in America's cities focused less on poverty reduction and more on assisting the poor to survive in poverty through income maintenance, food stamp programs and housing programs. These programs fall far short of reaching all those in need and tend to perpetuate the cycle of poverty in families.

NLC is, therefore, encouraged by your efforts to transform the welfare system in order to reduce widespread poverty in cities and provide opportunities for all persons to attain economic self-sufficiency. Specifically, NLC is committed to working for the enactment of those aspects of the legislation which create a strategy to reduce teen pregnancy, promote responsible parenting, and encourage and support two parent families; support working families with the Earned Income Tax Credit, health care and child care; promote self-sufficiency through access to education and training by expanding the JOBS program; and dramatically improve the child support enforcement system to help reduce the child support collection gap.

While NLC is committed to supporting a welfare program that enables individuals and families to move from welfare to work, we remain very concerned that various aspects of your plan would both add and shift considerable costs on to cities and towns.

Currently, many cities and towns have a limited role in administering welfare. Although NLC members are prepared to further their involvement by providing community service jobs to welfare recipients in need of employment, we are concerned that our cities and towns would be mandated by states to create these community service jobs without the ability to decline participation at the discretion of local elected officials, and without sufficient funding from the state or federal government to pay all costs related to direct wage/salary, fringe benefits, supervision and training.

Moreover, your plan to finance welfare reform by extending deeming in SSI and AFDC for legal immigrants and by capping emergency assistance would impose considerable cost shifts to cities and towns in New York, California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois and Massachusetts, just to name a few. Thus, we are apprehensive that your commendable efforts to introduce a welfare reform plan which reduces poverty and encourages work and self-sufficiency would be seriously undermined by curtailing benefits to a most vulnerable population. That proposal would require local governments already under enormous fiscal pressure to shoulder increased human and fiscal burdens.

NLC members and staff are committed to working with you and your administration to enact a welfare reform bill which would grant to many in this country the chance to the rise out of poverty through educational opportunities and incentives to work, without imposing unreasonable burdens on cities and towns. Your welfare reform proposals can provide the first step toward achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

Sharpe James

Sharpe James
President
Mayor of Newark

Invited Guest

Kansas City Welcomes

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

[illegible] the

Work a[illegible]ct of 1994

TUES[illegible]1:30 A.M.

Commerce Bank of Kansas City

Enter at 10th & Walnut Street

Guests should arrive early

• ADMIT ONE • NO 066

Visit of the President

MAGEE FAMILY