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Housing

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The Clinton-Gore Administration A Record of Progress

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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE-PRESIDENT GORE:

Bringing Homeownership Rates to Historic Levels

"There is no more crucial building block for a strong community and a promising future than a solid home."

— President Clinton, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, July 7, 1999

Making the Dream of Homeownership a Reality

Highest Homeownership Rate in History. The Clinton-Gore Administration is dedicated to making the dream of homeownership a reality for all Americans. In 1995, the Administration began an unprecedented partnership with more than 50 key public and private sector organizations to form a National Homeownership Strategy with the goal of helping more Americans become homeowners. The homeownership rate reached 67.2 percent in the second quarter of 2000, the highest ever recorded. In contrast, the homeownership rate *fell* from 65.6 percent in the first quarter of 1981 to 63.7 percent in the first quarter of 1993. There are almost 9 million more homeowners than in 1993. [FY 2001 Budget, p. 127; Department of Housing and Urban Development]

Lowering Interest Rates by Paying Off the National Debt. Debt reduction brings real benefits for the American people -- a family with a home mortgage of \$100,000 might expect to save roughly \$2,000 per year in mortgage payments. Reduced debt also means lower interest rates and reduced payments on car loans and student loans. The Clinton-Gore Administration has eliminated the \$290 billion budget deficit, produced three back to back budget surpluses and paid off \$360 billion of the national debt in the last three years. Public debt is \$2.4 trillion lower in 2000 than was projected in 1993. With the President's plan, we are now on track to eliminate the nation's publicly held debt by 2012.

Record Levels of Homeownership Assistance. In the early 1990s, the Federal Housing Administration

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Section 8
housing
Sept. 2000

(FHA) was losing money and near bankruptcy. Today, FHA and its Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund are healthier than ever, with a March 2000 actuarial review showing that the total value of the Fund in FY 1999 was more than \$5 billion above previous estimates. FHA is one of the country's leading providers of single family mortgage insurance. Many homebuyers are unable to qualify for mortgages without FHA insurance. In 1999, FHA insured more than 1.3 million loans representing a record \$124 billion in insurance authority -- more insurance commitments than any other year in history. Eighty percent of FHA loans go to first-time homebuyers and FHA insures about 40 percent of all home mortgages to African American and Hispanic homebuyers. In January 2000, FHA began insuring larger home mortgage loans across the country -- up to nearly \$220,000 in some areas for single-family homes. [William Apgar, Assistant Secretary for Housing/FHA Commissioner, Testimony before the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, 9/15/99; HUD Press Release, 1/5/00]

Building New Homes. In February 1999, HUD, the National Association of Home Builders, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together to build an additional one million new homes over the next 10 years in cities all across America. ✓

Helping Renters Buy Their First Home. The President and Vice President created a homeownership voucher program in 1999 that will allow 50,000 families to use their Section 8 rental assistance vouchers to become first-time homebuyers. Under the new program, the same HUD funds helping pay a family's rent will instead be used for the family's monthly mortgage payments. - day, month

Providing Incentives to Save for a Home. President Clinton signed legislation creating Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives through federal matching funds for low-income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, a key part of his 1992 community empowerment agenda. ✓ In FY 1999, \$10 million was awarded to establish savings accounts for over 10,000 low-income workers in 40 communities, and an additional \$10 million will be awarded in FY 2000. The President's budget provides \$25 million for IDAs to create over 20,000 new accounts in FY 2001.

Protecting Senior Citizens from Mortgage Fraud. HUD ended a scheme by con artists that victimized senior citizen homeowners by charging thousands of dollars in unnecessary fees for reverse mortgages. Reverse mortgages allow older people to borrow against the value of their homes.

Doubling the Number of Fair Housing

Enforcement Actions. To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, HUD has committed \$37 million to 67 fair housing centers around the country to assist in fighting housing discrimination. In FY 2000, the President won \$44 million to fight housing discrimination, which includes \$6 million to continue the audit-based fair housing enforcement initiative started last year. The audit will include 3,000 to 5,000 tests for housing discrimination. HUD will provide funds to local non-profit groups and enforcement agencies to monitor and act against housing discrimination. The Clinton-Gore Administration filed 3,660 cases between 1993 and June 2000 to enforce fair housing laws -- more than any other Administration, with double number the cases in the President's second term than in the first. For instance, the Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Producing More Affordable Housing for All Americans**Working to Increase the Low-Income Housing Tax**

Credit. Since its creation in 1986, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) has given states tax credits of \$1.25 per capita to allocate to developers of affordable housing. While building costs have increased 40 percent in the last decade, the amount of the credit has not been adjusted for inflation. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have proposed to increase the cap on the LIHTC from \$1.25 per capita to \$1.75 per capita — restoring the value of the credit to its 1986 level and helping to create up to 180,000 new low-income rental housing units over the next five years.

Creating More Affordable Housing with the HOME Program.

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program provides more than \$1 billion a year to create affordable housing for low-income households. HUD provides funds to State and local governments to strengthen public-private partnerships and to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing, with primary attention to rental housing, for very low-income and low-income families. HOME's flexibility empowers people and communities to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities. As of June 2000, HOME has provided 325,547 housing units -- an average of 40,000 units a year. President Clinton's FY 2001 budget includes \$1.65 billion for this program. [Department of Housing and Urban Development; HUD Press

Release, 2/7/00]

Addressing the Problems of Homelessness.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been committed to helping homeless Americans become more self-sufficient. The Department of Housing and Urban Development alone has invested nearly \$5 billion in programs to help homeless people since 1993 -- more than three times the investment of the previous Administration. The Administration's Continuum of Care approach has helped more than 300,000 homeless people get housing and jobs to become self-sufficient. The Continuum of Care made clear that homelessness was more than simply a housing problem, and focused attention on long-term solutions which included housing as well as job training, drug treatment, mental health services, and domestic violence counseling. President Clinton won a record \$1.02 billion for the program in FY 2000 -- a \$45 million increase from the previous year, and has proposed \$1.2 billion in FY 2001. This includes \$105 million for rental assistance vouchers to help the homeless move to permanent housing with supportive services. The Clinton-Gore Administration is also proposing to expand access to mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which the homeless may be eligible through a new \$10 million program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, States, and large counties. [Fred Karnas, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Programs, HUD, Statement before the House Veteran's Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, 6/24/99]

Helping to Ensure People with HIV and AIDS

Have Access to Housing. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that people with HIV and AIDS have fair access to housing. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has established the National Office of HIV/AIDS Housing to help people with HIV/AIDS pay for housing. Funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program is more than four times larger now than in 1993. In December 1998, the Vice President announced the release of \$200 million to help communities prevent people with HIV/AIDS and their families from becoming homeless. In addition, HUD and HHS have launched collaborative efforts to combine housing assistance, medical and social services for people living with HIV/AIDS, including testing outreach programs and other special efforts for people with multiple diagnosis. In 1999, HOPWA provided housing assistance for 41,500 households and over 51,000 persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. [Department of Housing and Urban Development]

Helping Individuals with Disabilities Transition into Community-Based Settings.

In July 2000, Vice

President Gore announced that the Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development will commit to a new investment, subject to appropriations, of nearly \$20 million over five years in a public-private partnership with the National Project on Self-Determination entitled Access Housing 2000. This effort will focus on expanding the availability of accessible, affordable housing to individuals with disabilities who have very low incomes and who currently reside in nursing homes, their parents' homes, and other community-based residential programs. The project will begin with approximately 400 beneficiaries, with a goal of reaching 2,000 persons at full implementation. ✓

Providing Housing Assistance to Native Americans.

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 gives Indian Housing Block Grants to Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages or their Tribally Designated Housing Entities, providing communities with more flexibility than ever before to plan and develop programs that best meet locally determined needs for housing assistance. In FY 2000, \$620 million – the Administration's full request -- is available to tribes for IHBG assistance; in FY 2001, the President is requesting \$650 million. ✓

Transforming Public Housing

Reforming the Public Housing System. The Clinton-Gore Administration is implementing the most far-reaching changes in public housing in decades by demolishing the worst housing developments, cracking down on bad management, rewarding residents who work and cracking down on crime. President Clinton enacted reforms in 1998 to reduce segregation in public housing by race and income, encourage and reward work, bring more working families into public housing, and increase the availability of subsidized housing for very poor families. In addition, the new public housing law is helping to improve living conditions and reduce crime in public housing. ✓

HOPE VI: Revitalizing Public Housing. HOPE VI was developed in 1993 as a result of recommendations from the National Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing. The Commission recommended revitalization in three general areas: physical improvements, management improvements, and social and community services to address resident needs. The Clinton-Gore Administration will approve the demolition of an unprecedented 100,000 severely distressed public housing units by Fall 2000 and rebuild them with lower-density, townhouse-style developments which can serve as anchors for neighborhood renewal. To date, HUD has demolished over 47,000 units between the HOPE VI and Public ✓

Housing Capital programs. HUD has awarded \$3.54 billion in grants to spur economic development and change the shape of 85 public housing developments nationwide.

Bringing Computers to Public Housing Neighborhoods Across the Country. The Clinton-Gore Administration has created more than 800 Neighborhood Network learning centers, which are innovative public/private partnerships that bring state of the art technology to public housing across America and help people learn critical computer skills. Neighborhood Networks throughout the nation are working with community partners to help low-income residents bridge the digital divide, open doors to economic and educational opportunities and improve their lives and communities. For example, since opening in May 1996, the Versailles Arms Computer Learning Center in New Orleans has helped more than 100 residents secure jobs after completing computer training.

Transforming Public Housing Developments into Campus of Learners. President Clinton's Campus of Learners Initiative provides public housing residents with an opportunity to live in a college-like setting that is focused on learning. The initiative will transform selected public housing projects in cities across the nation into campuses where every resident is pursuing educational opportunities. Public housing authorities use private- and public-sector resources to provide job training, education, and employment opportunities public housing residents. This initiative is part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's larger effort to transform public housing and stimulate welfare reform.

Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families. President Clinton has secured 110,000 new housing vouchers in the last two years to help welfare recipients and hard-pressed working families move closer to job opportunities. This year, he is proposing \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to subsidize the rents of low-income Americans and enable them to move closer to job opportunities. Of the 120,000 new vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. ✓

Revitalizing Our Nation's Communities

Encouraging Investment in Underserved

Communities with the New Markets Initiative.

President Clinton's New Markets Initiative will help bring economic development and renewal to communities that have not benefited from the soaring economy by spurring more than \$22 billion in new investment in urban and rural areas. On July 25, 2000, the House passed the President's New Markets Initiative in a historic bipartisan agreement that included extension and expansion of Empowerment Zones, and an increase in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. The President has taken three New Markets Tours of underserved communities, which have helped generate more than \$1 billion in private sector investment commitments. ✓

Expanding High-Speed Internet Access. President Clinton's third New Markets tour highlighted the importance of closing the digital divide and bringing the benefits of technology to underserved communities. High-speed Internet access is becoming as important to the economic vitality of a community as roads and bridges are today, allowing people to upgrade skills using distance learning and helping businesses communicate electronically with customers and suppliers. The President's FY 2001 budget includes a new \$25 million program at the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities -- using grants and loan guarantees.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas.

Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton-Gore Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities, including 50 rural ECs, which are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. This would have a dramatic effect in the areas with high unemployment, weak economies, shortages of affordable housing and other problems. The President won \$70 million in funding for Rural and Urban Empowerment Zones in FY 2000 -- after Congress initially provided no funding. On July 25, 2000, the House passed a bipartisan agreement that would extend and expand the incentives in the existing EZs, as well as create nine new Round 3 Empowerment Zones. The Administration's agreement with Speaker Hastert also includes a first-time commitment for additional funding for Round 2 EZs. ✓

Expanding Access to Capital through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI).

Proposed and signed into law by the President in 1994, the CDFI Fund is helping to create a network of community development financial institutions in distressed areas across the United States through

grants, loans and equity investments. In FY 1999, funding was increased 19 percent to \$95 million, and President Clinton successfully worked to maintain that investment in FY 2000. In FY 2001, the President is proposing \$125 million.

Strengthening Community Reinvestment. In November 1999, President Clinton enacted financial modernization legislation, which also included provisions to guarantee that our financial system will continue to meet the needs of underserved communities. Under the law, banks cannot expand into activities such as securities or insurance underwriting unless they can demonstrate that they are meeting the credit needs of all the communities they serve, including low- and moderate-income communities. The law also provides additional support for grass-roots community development by authorizing a new Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs (PRIME), to provide business advice to low- income microentrepreneurs. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/12/99]

Creating Livable Communities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have proposed an extension of their Livable Communities initiative, which expands the choices available to communities to ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. As part of this initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed record funding for public transit and other programs to ease traffic congestion while reducing air pollution; matching grants to help neighboring communities develop "smart growth" strategies; and funding to provide communities with new information tools, and improve public safety by sharing crime data. The President also proposed tax credits for Better America Bonds, a new financing tool generating billions in bond authority for investments by state, local and tribal governments to preserve green space, protect water quality, and clean up abandoned toxic waste and industrial sites.

Creating New Tools to Help Families Move from Welfare to Work. Since enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law, millions of families have moved from welfare to work. With the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and low-income non-custodial fathers into jobs. To fully implement this initiative, the President's FY 2001 budget allows grantees an additional two years to spend Welfare-to-Work funds. It also proposes \$255 million for Fathers Work/Families Win grants to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families. The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to hire long-term

welfare recipients. The President's Access to Jobs initiative helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work, and this year the President is proposing \$150 million for this initiative, double last year's level. In addition, the President is seeking to make it easier for low-income families to own a reliable car that can get them to work by allowing families to use Individual Development Accounts to save for a car and by allowing states to conform their food stamps vehicle policy with a more generous TANF vehicle policy.

Promoting Community Revitalization. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) promote community revitalization throughout the country, providing annual grants to more than 900 metropolitan cities and urban counties. CDBG funds are used for a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services. Section 108 enables States and local governments participating in the CDBG program to obtain federally guaranteed loans that can help fuel large economic development projects and other revitalization activities. President Clinton gave \$431 million to Section 108 funds in the FY 2000 budget.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment. The Clinton-Gore Administration has completed clean up at more than 525 Superfund sites, more than three times as many as completed in the previous twelve years. Clean up of more than 91 percent of all sites is either completed or in progress. The Administration has leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for Brownfields redevelopment. The Administration also signed into law the Brownfields Tax Incentive to lower the short-term costs of brownfields clean-up. - a d d ?

Lowest Overall Crime Rate in 25 Years. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, America has experienced the longest continuous drop in crime on record. Violent crime rate fell 7 percent in 1999 and 27 percent since 1993. The murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point since 1967. The overall crime rate is the lowest in 25 years. This is the eighth consecutive year serious crime has declined nationwide. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have put 100,000 additional police on the streets through the COPS program, and more than 536,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers have been prevented from purchasing guns through Brady background checks since the President signed the Brady Bill into law. [Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports for the United States 1998, 1999]

Making Our Communities Safer. In April 2000, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo launched BuyBack America -- an unprecedented national campaign to buy back unwanted guns and raise awareness about gun safety. Eighty-four communities have pledged to use HUD funds to purchase tens of thousands of unwanted firearms, reducing deaths and injuries caused by gun crimes, accidents and suicides. The buybacks are designed to reduce the toll of gun violence that claims an estimated 30,000 lives and wounds another 100,000 people each year in the United States. Building on this effort, the President announced a new gun buyback partnership with District of Columbia law officials. Under the initiative -- the largest ever in D.C. and one of the largest ever in the country -- \$350,000 will be available to purchase an estimated 7,000 guns through a local gun buyback. In addition, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will trace all guns recovered in the buyback.

August 2000

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BACKGROUND ON THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECORD

November 4, 1999 ✓

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS BUILD ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S SIX-YEAR RECORD OF PROMOTING GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES. Since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been committed to tapping the potential of America's urban and rural communities. They have a demonstrated record of creating new initiatives and expanding existing initiatives to promote community and economic development. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with the private sector, states, and localities to help revitalize America's communities by bringing capital, jobs, and opportunity to distressed areas and cleaning up the urban environment. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have created or expanded the following initiatives over the last six years:

Helping to Bring Private Enterprise and Capital to Distressed Areas. The Clinton-Gore Administration has renewed the commitment of the Federal government to help bring private enterprise into underserved communities and improve access to capital for low-income households, minorities, and traditionally underserved borrowers.

- **Fighting to Preserve the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) under Financial Modernization.** President Clinton made clear that he was prepared to veto long overdue legislation to modernize the financial landscape, if it allowed a bank with an unsatisfactory CRA rating to take advantage of the new powers under the bill. As a result, the conferees on the financial modernization bill provided that, for the first time, a bank's CRA rating is relevant to its merger or expansion in non-banking activities. In addition, President Clinton fought to eliminate provisions that would have excluded some banks from CRA coverage and limited the effectiveness of the merger application review process. President Clinton thus assured that CRA remains vital and relevant in the new financial landscape.
- **Strengthened and Simplified CRA.** In April 1995, the Clinton Administration reformed the CRA regulations to emphasize performance. According to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), the private sector has pledged more than \$1 trillion going forward in loans to distressed communities – and more than 95 percent of these financial commitments have been made since 1992. Banks made \$18.6 billion in community development loans in 1997 alone. Lending to minority and low-income borrowers is also on the rise.
- **Created the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.** Proposed and signed into law by the President in 1994, the CDFI Fund, through grants, loans, and equity investments, is helping to create a network of community development financial institutions (CDFIs) in distressed areas across the United States. The CDFI Fund's activities leverage private sector investments from banks, foundations, and other funding sources. Since the Fund's creation, it has made more than \$190 million in awards to community development institutions and financial institutions. This investment is expected in the next two to three years to leverage three to four times the amount of the investments in total capital raised for CDFI's. There are approximately 270 CDFIs certified by the CDFI Fund throughout the nation. In FY 1999, funding for the CDFI Fund was increased 19 percent to \$95 million from \$80 million. In FY2000, the CDFI Fund will receive \$95 million.

- *135 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.* The Clinton Administration has designated 135 urban and rural Empowerment Zones (EZs) and Enterprise Communities (ECs) across the country. This includes a First Round of EZ and ECs, designated in 1994 and a Second Round, designated in January, 1999. Designated communities were chosen on the basis of their strategic revitalization plans, and receive special incentives and resources to help carry out their plans. The EZ/EC initiative has already leveraged over \$10 billion in additional public and private sector investment in community revitalization efforts. The First Round EZ/EC initiative was proposed by President Clinton and passed by Congress in 1993. The Second Round was also proposed by the President, and the President and Congress, in FY 1999, provided first-year funding for the new EZs and ECs. In FY2000, Rural/Urban Empowerment Zones will receive \$70 billion.
- *The Economic Development Initiative and Section 108 Loan Guarantee.* EDI grants are used to infuse capital into community development projects, enhancing the debt financing provided by the Section 108 loan guarantee program. Together, the programs support critical economic development in distressed communities. Estimated jobs supported by EDI and the Section 108 loan guarantee have grown by 300,000 from 1994 to 1998. During this time period EDI and the Section 108 loan guarantee program have funded \$3.5 billion for more than 650 separate project commitments.

Helping to Bring Jobs and Opportunity to Distressed Areas. A cornerstone of the Administration's community empowerment agenda is helping to bring jobs and opportunity back to distressed areas:

- *\$3 Billion Welfare-to-Work Jobs Initiative.* The Clinton Administration fought for a \$3 billion welfare-to-work jobs initiative, as part of the Balanced Budget Agreement. The Administration is implementing these welfare-to-work grants directly to both cities and states for allocating additional resources to help long-term, hard-to-serve welfare recipients find and keep jobs.
- *Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit and Work Opportunity Tax Credit.* The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit, enacted in the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, provides a credit equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment, and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the second year, to encourage the hiring and retention of long-term welfare recipients. This credit complements the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which expands eligible businesses to include those who hire young adults living in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. In FY 1999, the President requested and Congress accepted extending the credit through June 30, 1999.
- *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Expansion.* President Clinton's FY 2000 budget included an expansion of CDBG. The final budget increases funding for CDBG from \$4.750 billion in FY 1999 to \$4.775 billion in FY 2000, a \$25 million expansion this year.
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Cleaning Up the Urban Environment through Brownfields Redevelopment. The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched a landmark effort, including the Brownfields Tax Incentive, to clean up and redevelop Brownfields sites. In total, the Brownfields action agenda has marshaled funds to clean up and redevelop up to 5,000 properties, leveraging between \$5 billion and \$28 billion in private investment and creating and supporting 196,000 jobs.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE ARE BUILDING ON THEIR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES THIS YEAR.

While Americans are enjoying the fruits of our strong economy, we still need to do more to improve conditions in underserved urban and rural communities and connect these communities to the economic

mainstream. To address this need, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are working on several fronts:

The New Markets Initiative. President Clinton's FY 2000 balanced budget provides a new initiative designed to create the conditions for economic success by prompting approximately \$15 billion in new investment in urban and rural areas through:

- *America's Private Investment Companies (APICs).* Just as America's support for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation helps promote growth in emerging markets abroad, APICs will encourage private investment in this country's untapped markets, by leveraging up to \$1.5 billion in investment in new development projects and larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner city and rural areas. In the recently signed, VA/HUD appropriations bill, APICS were provided with \$20 million in funding. This amount would leverage up to \$800 million of new investment in America's underserved communities.
- *The New Markets Tax Credit.* To help spur \$6 billion in new equity capital, this tax credit is worth up to 25 percent for investments in a wide range of vehicles serving these communities, including community development banks, venture funds, and the new investment company programs created by this initiative (see below). A wide-range of businesses could be financed by these investment funds, including small technology firms, inner-city shopping centers, manufacturers with hundreds of employees, and retail stores.
- *SBIC's Targeted to New Markets.* For over 40 years, SBA's Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program has provided roughly \$20 billion in equity and debt financing to more than 85,000 different companies, helping them to grow from small businesses to household names, like AOL and Staples. However, too little of the capital invested has benefited our cities and rural distressed communities. Through new regulations which were proposed this fall, SBA will now be offering more flexibility and new financing terms for Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) that invest in underserved areas.
- *New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) Firms.* NMVC firms will make both capital and expert guidance available to small business entrepreneurs in inner-city and rural areas. Ten to twenty NMVC firms are planned. SBA will match the equity and technical assistance of private investors.
- *Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund.* The budget proposes to expand funding for the CDFI Fund to \$125 million--a \$30 million increase from 1999. The Fund increases the availability of credit, investment capital, financial services, and other development services in distressed communities. The signed VA/HUD appropriations bill for FY2000 included \$95 million for the DCFI Fund that will expand the capacity of the network of community development financial institutions across the country, spurring the flow of capital to distressed neighborhoods and low-income residents.
- *BusinessLINC.* The President's FY 2000 budget includes seed money to expand Business LINC --- an innovative public-private partnership launched by Vice President Gore --- for new markets in economically distressed communities. BusinessLINC (Learning, Information, Networking and Collaboration) is designed to encourage large businesses to work with small business owners and entrepreneurs. BusinessLINC is being led in the private sector by the BusinessRoundtable, which has dedicated its resources to establish local coalitions throughout the country.

- ***Microenterprise Lending and Technical Assistance.*** Microenterprise initiatives in the FY 2000 budget include the PRIME Act, which will provide microenterprise technical assistance through competitive grants to microenterprise development organizations that focus on low-income entrepreneurs. As proposed in the Financial Modernization Act (H.R.) PRIME will be administered by the SBA. President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's proposal also includes a doubling of support for technical assistance in SBA's Microloan Program and a doubling of support for SBA lending to leverage over \$75 million in new microlending. The microenterprise strategy will also involve new funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and for SBA's One-Stop Capital Shops. On October , the President vetoed the Commerce-State-Justice Appropriations bill which did not include funding for any of these provisions.
- ***New Markets Lending Companies (NMLC).*** For the first time in many years, SBA will approve approximately 10 new non-bank lenders --- firms authorized to originate loans under SBA's largest loan program -- the 7(a) General Business Loan Guaranty program. Under the 7(a) program, SBA guarantees up to 80% of a loan made by a lender to a creditworthy small businesses that cannot otherwise secure financing on reasonable terms. Firms must have a strategy to target lending to underserved areas.

Additional Initiatives Designed to Improve Conditions In Underserved Rural & Urban

Communities: President Clinton and Vice-President Gore have proposed the expansion or establishment of the following additional initiatives designed to create the conditions for economic success by encouraging new investment in urban and rural areas:

- ***Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.*** The FY 2000 budget proposes full funding for ten years for the Second Round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, which were designated in January, 1999. This includes \$100 million over ten years for urban EZs; \$40 million over ten years for rural EZs; and \$3 million for rural ECs. The FY 2000 budget also includes \$50 million to create a new Regional Empowerment Zone Program to assist First and Second-Round urban EZ and ECs in linking their economic development strategies to their broader regional economies. The recently signed VA/HUD appropriations bill provides \$70 million in funding for Rural/Urban Empowerment Zones. All of the Urban and Rural EZs (20 zones) and rural Enterprise Communities (20 ECs) that were designated by the Vice President in January 1999 as Round II zones will also receive funding.
- ***Regional Connections.*** Regional Connections will provide competitive funding to States and partnerships of local governments to develop and implement new, locally driven "smarter growth" strategies that create more livable communities by addressing economic and community development needs across jurisdictional lines. Regional Connections, as part of the Administrations' Livability Agenda, will complement existing federal programs that respond to growth and investment patterns. The budget proposes funding at \$50 million in FY 2000.
- ***The Economic Development Initiative and Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program.*** This program supports critical economic development in distressed communities in conjunction with the Section 108 loan guarantee program to help bring economic development to residents. Over the past 5 years, \$3.5 billion in EDI loan commitments have been made -- these will create an estimated 300,000 jobs in low- and moderate-income communities during the life of the EDI program.¹ In FY 2000 many

¹ "Consolidated Annual Report To Congress For HUD's Community Development Programs," 1996.

projects will be eligible to participate in the Community Empowerment Fund Trust, a pilot program, which will enable the pooling of loans and the creation of a private sector secondary market for economic development loans. The CEF specifically targets Welfare-to-Work and City-Suburb Business Connections, building upon the success of HUD's EDI and Section 108 loan guarantee program.

- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. Since its creation in 1986, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) has given states tax credits of \$1.25 per capita to allocate to developers of affordable housing. While building costs have increased 40 percent in the last decade, the amount of the credit has not been adjusted for inflation. Therefore, President Clinton and Vice President Gore propose to increase the cap on the LIHTC from \$1.25 per capita to \$1.75 per capita -- restoring the value of the credit to its 1986 level and helping to create additional 150,000-180,000 new low-income rental housing units over the next five years. ✓
- Play-by-the-Rules. This program will allow renters with solid payment track records to own a home. The 2000 Budget proposes a second round of \$15 million for this initiative. ✓
- Helping America's Communities Redevelop Abandoned Buildings. Redevelopment of Abandoned Buildings, as part of the Administrations' "Livability Agenda," would attack one of the primary causes of blight in urban neighborhoods: abandoned apartment buildings, single-family homes, warehouses, office buildings, and commercial centers. Under the proposal, HUD will provide \$50 million in competitive grant funds in FY2000 to local governments to support the demolition or deconstruction of blighted, abandoned buildings. ✓

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD OF STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

November 4, 1999

Since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been committed to empowering and supporting working families and to tapping the potential of America's urban and rural communities. They have a demonstrated record of creating new initiatives and expanding existing initiatives to support children and families and to promote community and economic development. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with the private sector, states, and localities to help revitalize America's communities by bringing capital, jobs, and opportunity to distressed areas and cleaning up the urban environment. At the same time, this Administration has worked with our state and local partners, the business community, and community-based organizations to support working families – moving them toward self-sufficiency and out of poverty. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have created or expanded the following initiatives over the last six years.

SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

Expanded EITC to Put Money Back in Working Families' Pockets

- The EITC helps working families supplement their earnings through tax credits. In President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan, EITC was expanded to make work pay for 15 million working families.
- In 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million Americans out of poverty – more than twice as many as in 1993. The average family received an EITC credit of \$1,890.

Minimum Wage Hike Increased Pay By \$1,800 for Full-time Workers

- In 1996, the President and Vice President fought for and won a minimum wage increase from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour for nearly 10 million workers.
- Now, the President is fighting for another minimum wage increase – \$1 over two years – to make work pay for 11.4 million workers and help ensure that parents who work hard and play by the rules can raise their children out of poverty.

Provided Health Care to Low-Income Working Families

- The President has successfully fought to increase low-income families' access to health care by allowing states to expand Medicaid to cover low-income two-parent families who work and working with states to ensure that uninsured families receive Medicaid when eligible.

Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965

- The President, with bipartisan support from the Congress, created the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 allocated \$24 billion over five years to provide affordable health insurance to children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to purchase private insurance through State-designed programs.
- On September 8, 1999, President Clinton announced that all 50 states and every territory are participating in this new program, bringing us closer to our goal of providing insurance for up to 5 million children through a combination of Medicaid and CHIP.

Improved Access to Affordable and Quality Child Care

- Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, federal funding for child care has increased by 80 percent, helping parents pay for the care of about 1.25 million children.

- The 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years to provide child care assistance to families moving from welfare to work. Last year, the President succeeded in securing \$140 million in new funds for after-school care and \$173 million for child care quality activities.

Initiated \$3 Billion Welfare-to-Work Initiative

- The Clinton-Gore Administration fought for a \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative as part of the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement. During FY 1998 and FY 1999, nearly \$2.7 billion in grants have been awarded to states, local communities, and tribes across the nation to help long-term welfare recipients, and certain low-income fathers, work and support their families.
- Funds are targeted at individuals and communities facing the greatest challenges. To date, these resources are helping nearly 100,000 individuals to get or keep a job.

Helping People Get to Work

- With the Administration's leadership, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorized \$750 million over five years for the President's Job Access initiative and reverse commute grants.
- The Omnibus Budget Act included \$75 million for this program in FY 1999, and in May, Vice President Gore awarded grants to 179 communities in 42 states around the country to assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and other low-income workers. The program is funded at \$75 million for FY 2000.

Welfare-to-Work Housing Vouchers ✓

- In 1999, the President proposed and Congress approved \$283 million for 50,000 new welfare to work housing vouchers for current and former welfare recipients who need housing ✓ assistance to get or keep a job.
- Families will use these welfare-to-work housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing that will help eliminate ✓ emergencies which keep them from getting to work every day on time. The FY 2000 budget funds 60,000 new housing vouchers.

Helping People Who Want to Work but Can't Find a Job

- Acknowledging that finding a job often takes time, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 provided funds for work slots and food stamp benefits to help those who are willing to work, but through no fault of their own, have not yet found employment.

Passage of Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit and Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit, enacted in the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, provides a credit equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment, and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the second year, to encourage the hiring and retention of long-term welfare recipients.
- This credit complements the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which expands eligible businesses to include those who hire young adults living in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. In FY 1999, the President requested and Congress accepted extending the credit through June 30, 1999.

Introduced \$500 Per-Child Tax Credit, Benefiting 13 Million Children from Low-income Families

- 27 million families with 45 million children are receiving the \$500 per-child tax credit included in the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement.
- As a result of the President's efforts, 13 million children from families receiving the EITC will also benefit from the \$500 child tax credit.

Increased WIC by \$1 Billion

- Under President Clinton, participation in WIC has expanded by 1.7 million – from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1999. Funding has risen from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion.

Helping Working Families to Buy Food

- In July 1999, the President took executive actions to help ensure working families who need Food Stamps have access. These steps include:
 - ✓ new policy making it easier for working families to own a car and still receive food stamps
 - ✓ new regulations simplifying rules so that families do not have to report income as often and states won't be penalized for small errors in projecting families' future earnings
 - ✓ a new public education campaign to educate working families about food stamps

Established of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)

- In 1992, the President proposed to establish IDAs to empower low-income families to save for a first home, post-secondary education, or to start a new business. The 1996 welfare reform law authorized the use of welfare block grants to create IDAs.
- In 1998, the President signed legislation creating a five-year \$125 million IDA demonstration program. In FY 1999, \$10 million was awarded to establish savings accounts for over 10,000 low-income workers in 40 communities, and the President proposed to double the commitment to \$20 million in FY 2000.

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION: FROM HEAD START TO GEAR-UP TO PELL GRANTS

Expanded Head Start By Nearly 70 Percent

- Since 1993, President Clinton and Congressional Democrats have expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from nearly \$2.8 billion in FY 1993 to nearly \$4.7 billion in FY 1999.
- The program now serves an estimated 835,000 children, reaching more kids than at any time since its creation in 1965 and more than 200,000 additional children than in 1992.

Launched the Reading Excellence Program

- Two years ago, President Clinton launched the America Reads Challenge, a multi-faceted effort to help states and communities ensure that all children can read well and independently by the end of the third grade.
- The program received \$260 million in FY 1999 and another \$286 million has been requested in FY 2000 to allow the program to continue. The funds help to train reading tutors and coordinate after-school, weekend and summer reading programs linked to in-school instruction. In addition, over 1,000 colleges have pledged to use federally-financed work-study positions for tutoring programs.

Helping Students Most in Need

- Title I funds provide over \$8 billion to help 11 million low-income students benefit from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards.

Strong Investments in Educational Technology

- The Clinton-Gore Administration has made strong investments in educational technology. Funding for education technology at the Department of Education has increased from \$23 million (FY 1993) to \$698 million (FY 1999) to \$801 million (FY 2000 request).
- States and local communities are given a great deal of flexibility in how they use the money for computers, teacher training and software -- but they are required to develop a plan for ensuring equity.
- The "E-rate" provides \$2.25 billion in discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet. Discounts are 90 percent for the poorest schools that need it most, and 20 percent for the wealthiest schools. E-rate was a critical part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which the President signed into law.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities

- Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program has been expanded to provide safe and academically enriching after-school opportunities for nearly 400,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.
- In his FY 2000 budget, the President proposes to triple funding to \$600 million, reaching 1.1 million students.

Creation of Youth Opportunity Grants

- President Clinton proposed the \$1.25 billion Youth Opportunities Grants program, a five year grants initiative that was authorized as part of the 1998 Workforce Investment Act. This program focuses primarily on out-of-school youths. The program provides them with job training and has a strong emphasis on mainstreaming youth into the private sector, both in terms of immediate job placement and work-based learning opportunities to increase long-term employment prospects.
- The Youth Opportunities program will receive \$250 million this fall and will make a significant attack on concentrated poverty and unemployment. This initiative represents a strong investment in Empowerment Zones and Communities and other urban and rural areas that are considered high-poverty areas.
- The main goal of the program is to increase employment in the private sector, increase college enrollment and decrease dropout rates.

Creation of the GEAR-UP Initiative

- Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the new mentoring initiative GEAR-UP was created to better prepare up to an estimated 260,000 low-income middle school children for entrance to and success in higher education.

- GEAR UP grants will fund partnerships involving more than 1,000 organizations, such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H programs, Salvation Army, libraries, arts organizations, local chambers of commerce, and individual companies such as Wal-Mart, Unisys, Hewlett-Packard, Bell Atlantic, and the New York Times Newspaper in Education Program.
- In August 1999, \$120 million in grants were awarded to 164 partnerships and 21 grants to states (for statewide program).

Assisting Migrant Children and Families

- Migrant families face difficult obstacles to gaining the education and training they may need to improve their standard of living. President Clinton improved the Migrant Education Program in the 1994 reauthorization, and won a 16 percent increase in FY 1999.

Expanding Pell Grants

- President Clinton and the Congressional Democrats have increased the Pell Grant maximum grant amount from \$2,300 in FY 1993 to \$3,215 in 1999. In 1999, nearly 4 million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever.

HELPING TO BRING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND CAPITAL TO DISTRESSED AREAS

Expanding Microenterprise Lending and Technical Assistance

- Microenterprise development programs provide access to capital, other financial services, and training to those traditionally bypassed by the mainstream financial sector, such as the poor women, minorities and those in economically distressed areas.
- President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's proposal also includes a doubling of support for technical assistance in SBA's Microloan Program and a doubling of support for SBA lending to leverage over \$75 million in new microlending.
- The microenterprise strategy will also involve new funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and for SBA's One-Stop Capital Shops.

Cleaning Up the Urban Environment through Brownfields Redevelopment

not included

- The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched a landmark effort, including the Brownfields Tax Incentive, to clean up and redevelop Brownfields sites. In total, the Brownfields action agenda has marshaled funds to clean up and redevelop up to 5,000 properties.

Created the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund

- In 1994, President Clinton proposed and signed into law the CDFI Fund. Through grants, loans, and equity investments, the Fund has created a network of approximately 270 CDFIs in distressed areas across the nation. CDFI activities leverage investments from banks, foundations, and other sources.
- Since the Fund's creation, it has made more than \$190 million in awards to community development institutions and financial institutions. This investment is expected to leverage three to four times the amount of the investments in total capital raised for CDFIs over the next few years. In FY 1999, funding for the CDFI Fund was increased 19 percent to \$95 million.

Strengthened and Simplified the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

- President Clinton made clear that he was prepared to veto long overdue legislation to modernize the financial landscape, if it allowed a bank with an unsatisfactory CRA rating to take advantage of the new powers under the bill. As a result, the conferees on the financial modernization bill provided that, for the first time, a bank's CRA rating is relevant to its merger or expansion in non-banking activities. In addition, President Clinton fought to eliminate provisions that would have excluded some banks from CRA coverage and limited the effectiveness of the merger application review process. President Clinton thus assured that CRA remains vital and relevant in the new financial landscape.
- In April 1995, the Clinton-Gore Administration reformed the CRA regulations to emphasize performance. According to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), the private sector has pledged more than \$1 trillion going forward in loans to distressed communities – and more than 95 percent of these financial commitments have been made since 1992.
- Banks made \$18.6 billion in community development loans in 1997 alone. Lending to minority and low-income borrowers is also on the rise.

The Economic Development Initiative (EDI) and Section 108 Loan Guarantee

- EDI grants are used to infuse capital into community development projects, enhancing the debt financing provided by the Section 108 loan guarantee program. Together, the programs support critical economic development in distressed communities. Estimated jobs supported by EDI and the Section 108 loan guarantee have grown by 300,000 from 1994 to 1998. During this time period EDI and the Section 108 loan guarantee program have funded \$3.5 billion for more than 650 separate project commitments.
- In FY 2000 many projects will be eligible to participate in the Community Empowerment Fund Trust, a pilot program, which will enable the pooling of loans and the creation of a private sector secondary market for economic development loans. The CEF specifically targets Welfare-to-Work and City-Suburb Business Connections, building upon the success of HUD's EDI and Section 108 loan guarantee program.

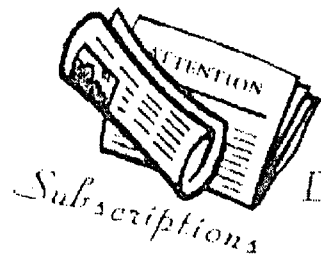
135 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

- After pushing to have Empowerment Zones (EZs) and Enterprise Communities (ECs) passed into law, the Clinton-Gore Administration has designated 135 urban and rural EZs and ECs across the country. The First Round EZ/EC initiative, which included 105 EZs/ECs, was proposed by President Clinton and passed by Congress in 1993. The Second Round of 30 EZs/ECs was also proposed by the President, and in FY 1999 the President and Congress provided first-year funding for the new EZs and ECs.
- Designated communities were chosen on the basis of their strategic revitalization plans, and receive special incentives and resources to help carry out their plans. The EZ/EC initiative has already leveraged over \$10 billion in additional public and private sector investment in community revitalization efforts.
- Rural/Urban Empowerment Zones will receive \$70 billion in FY2000. All of the urban and rural EZs (20 zones) and rural enterprise communities (20 ECs) that were designated by the Vice President in January 1999 as Round II zones will receive funding.

Providing Community Resources

not included

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds activities such as economic and neighborhood revitalization, job creation, public services, community development and renewal of distressed communities.
- In 1999, CDBG funds assisted nearly 200,000 households in up to 900 communities around the country that are eligible for CDBG funding.
- President Clinton's FY 2000 Budget included an expansion of CDBG. The final budget increases funding for CDBG from \$4.750 billion in FY 1999 to 4.775 billion in FY 2000, a \$25 million expansion this year.



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October 28, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ✓

Today I am signing into law H.R. 4461, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2001. I commend the Congress for presenting me an acceptable version of this bill that provides critical funding for our Nation's farmers and ranchers, improves the safety of our food supply, and provides assistance to low-income families and rural communities.

I am pleased that the Act fully funds my Food Safety Initiative at \$383 million, a \$57 million, or 17 percent, increase over FY 2000. These funds will improve food safety for all Americans by allowing the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase surveillance activities and inspections of domestic and imported food, accelerate responses to outbreaks, and perform vital research on ways to reduce pathogens in food so that we can advance a more science-based food inspection system. I also commend the Congress for dropping the objectionable language provision that would have prevented USDA from fully implementing the Egg Safety Action Plan that I announced in December 1999. This will now allow USDA and FDA to vigorously pursue the goal of cutting in half the number of salmonella illnesses from eggs.

While the Congress did not provide the full amount of my requested increase for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, thereby failing to ensure that this vital program can achieve the goal of 7.5 million participants, the program will be able to serve a monthly average of just over 7.3 million individuals. I am pleased that the Act adopts my proposal to expand the vehicle allowance for the Food Stamp program, which will assist the many working poor families for whom owning a vehicle is the one item that makes them ineligible for food stamps. In addition, the Act will provide a much-needed increase in nutrition assistance for low-income families with high **housing** costs, by increasing the Food Stamp program **housing** allowance. The two changes mean that families do not have to choose

among buying food, paying their **housing** costs, or having a more reliable car. However, I am disappointed the bill did not restore food stamp eligibility for certain legal immigrants, as proposed in my Budget.

Loans and grants for priority rural development programs will increase under the Act to \$9.9 billion this year, a \$2.7 billion increase over FY 2000. These funds will help diversify the rural economy, improve the quality of life in rural communities, and bring more rural areas across the "economic divide" that separates too many parts of the country from the historic economic expansion underway. I am especially pleased that the Act includes several of my proposals to address geographic areas of rural America that have long struggled with persistent poverty, including \$34 million targeted to Indian reservations for health clinics, child care centers, water systems, and job opportunities; and \$10 million for the Mississippi Delta Region to create better job opportunities and strengthen local financial intermediaries. The Act will also provide over \$100 million in loans and grants to help close the "digital divide" by financing local Internet service and broadband transmission in rural areas.

The Act increases USDA's conservation technical assistance to farmers and ranchers by over \$50 million from the FY 2000 level. Part of these funds will be used for a one-third increase in technical assistance to producers who are improving their animal waste management systems, as part of my Clean Water Action Plan. I am disappointed, however, that the Act cuts financial assistance for these and other conservation projects through the Environmental Quality Incentives program, and provides none of the funds I requested for the Farmland Protection Program that preserves farmland and helps communities manage urban sprawl. Also, while it is certainly helpful that the Act increases the Wetlands Reserve Program by 100,000 acres, it is far short of reaching the 250,000 acres per year I proposed for this program. I am hopeful that the next Congress and the next Farm Bill will recognize that farmers were the first environmentalists and that Federal farm programs should be structured and funded to improve the environment while boosting farm income.

I am also pleased that the Act provides vital payments to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses from natural disasters. However, the more than \$4 billion in emergency funds in this Act, combined with more than \$7 billion in farm assistance for the current crop year that was enacted this summer, represents the third year in a row the Congress has had to supplement farm income through major emergency appropriations, due to the failure of the 1996 Farm Bill. I am hopeful that the reforms enacted this year to the crop insurance program will mitigate the need for future ad hoc crop loss legislation. I continue to believe that USDA's farm income assistance program must be overhauled to target funds to family farmers based on their actual income losses on crops they are growing now, not paid out inordinately to corporate farms based on what they grew years ago. My Administration is reviewing the emergency funding provisions in this Act, and these funds will be released as needs dictate.

I am concerned that the bill contains an ineffective provision regarding importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs that represents little more than a false promise to the American public. While I am supportive of efforts to allow American consumers to gain access to lower-cost prescription drugs, the language included in the Act contains several loopholes that effectively render the provision meaningless. Among other serious flaws, drug manufacturers can deny importers access to FDA-approved labeling that is required for reimportation, and therefore, drug companies are likely to block reimportation of their medications. In addition, because this reimport authority expires after 5 years, private and public sector interest in investing in this system will be limited. Not only does this provision fail to provide

discounts, it also does not address the larger issue of the lack of prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries.

I am also concerned that language in this Act restricts Presidential ability to initiate certain new agricultural and medical trade sanctions and maintain old ones, as congressional approval of such sanctions will now be required. This could disrupt the ability of the President to conduct foreign policy, and could provide potential targets of U.S. actions with time to take countermeasures. The bill permits exports of U.S. farm and medical products to Cuba, but constrains these trade opportunities by barring the U.S. Government, and severely limiting U.S. private banks, from providing financing assistance to Cuba. In addition, the legislation purports to restrict the President's ability to authorize certain travel-related activities in Cuba. We are concerned that this provision could be read to impose overly rigid constraints on our ability to conduct foreign policy and respond to immediate humanitarian and operational concerns including, inter alia, protecting American lives, ensuring upkeep of American diplomatic installations, and assisting in both Federal and State prosecutions in the United States in which travel to Cuba may be required. We do not think that the Congress intended to curtail such activities by this legislation. Accordingly, my Administration will interpret this provision, to the extent possible, as not infringing upon such activities.

Also, I note that this bill will provide select U.S. industries with a subsidy above and beyond the protection level needed to counteract foreign subsidies, while providing no comparable subsidy to other U.S. industries or to U.S. consumers, who are forced to pay higher prices on industrial inputs or consumer goods as a result of the anti-dumping and countervailing duties. I call on the Congress to override this provision, or amend it to be acceptable, before they adjourn.

I am also concerned that this bill prohibits the Office of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment from supervising, managing, or directing the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Policy disputes between the Congress and the Administration should not degenerate into personal attacks. Under Secretary Jim Lyons and his office are essential to numerous national environmental, forestry, and conservation initiatives, and have provided strong leadership in this regard throughout my Administration.

There are a number of provisions in the Act that may raise Constitutional issues. These provisions will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution:

-- Section 719 of the Act specifies that funds may not be used to provide to any non-Department of Agriculture employee questions or responses to questions resulting from the appropriations hearing process. To the extent that this provision would interfere with my duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed," or impede my ability to act as the chief executive, it would violate the Constitution, and I will treat it as advisory.

-- Section 730 of the Act purports to constrain my ability to make a particular type of budget recommendation to the Congress. This provision would interfere with my constitutional duty under the Recommendation Clause, and I will treat it as advisory.

-- Finally, there are provisions in the Act that purport to condition my authority or that of certain officers to use funds appropriated by the Act on the approval of congressional committees. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any

other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in INS v. Chadha.

I urge the Congress to approve the remaining FY 2001 spending bills expeditiously, and send them to me in an acceptable form.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 28, 2000.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 28, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
(October 27, 2000) ✓

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4635, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and **Housing** and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001" and the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001."

This Act will fund vital **housing**, community development, environmental, disaster assistance, veterans, space, and science programs. Specifically, it provides funding for the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and several other agencies.

The Act funds a number of my Administration's priorities, including the Corporation for National and Community Service. National Service gives young people the opportunity to obtain funding for a college education while addressing community challenges that range from tutoring children and serving in community policing projects to building **housing** for the homeless. In addition, the Act will allow students in elementary schools, high schools, and colleges to participate in service-learning programs that provide substantial academic and social benefits, including the opportunity to learn responsible citizenship.

I am pleased that the Act provides full funding of HUD's highest priority: \$13 billion for the renewal of all Section 8 contracts, thereby assuring continuation of HUD rental subsidies for low-income tenants in privately owned **housing**. I am also pleased that the Act provides \$453 million for 79,000 incremental **housing** assistance vouchers for low-income households. In addition, the Act adequately funds programs to help distressed communities. These programs include Community Development Block Grants, assistance to the homeless, the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, and rural and urban empowerment zones. The CDFI Fund helps to create a network of community development banks across the country, thereby spurring the

flow of capital to distressed neighborhoods and their currently underserved, low-income residents. Likewise, the rural and urban empowerment zones will help to revitalize communities so that they can take advantage of the strength of the economy and help those left behind in our economic boom. Additionally, \$1.1 billion is provided for homeless assistance grants, enabling localities to continue to shape and implement comprehensive, flexible, coordinated "continuum of care" approaches to solving homelessness.

I am pleased that the Act adequately funds Fair **Housing** programs, which will enable HUD to expand significantly its activities aimed at reducing the level of **housing** discrimination nationwide.

The Act provides \$7.8 billion for the EPA, which will enable the agency to carry out programs to protect our environment. I am pleased that the bill adequately funds the EPA's efforts to enforce environmental laws, enabling the agency to help protect the health and quality of life of Americans. I am pleased that the Act minimizes the inclusion of anti-environmental riders. Without my Administration's efforts, these riders would have given special deals to special interests, such as preventing action at numerous sites needing cleanup of sediments contaminated with PCBs and other chemicals, delaying an EPA rule to reduce harmful emissions from diesel-fueled trucks and buses, and hampering commonsense initiatives to help businesses and consumers conserve energy and save money.

I am disappointed, however, that the final bill includes anti-environmental riders that my Administration opposed. I continue to oppose the use of the budget process to adopt these kinds of proposals without the benefit of full and open public debate through the regular legislative process. I urge Congress to refrain from sending me any additional anti-environmental riders on remaining bills. Although I am signing this legislation into law with these riders attached, I am directing the agencies to consider ways to implement them that will have the least harmful effect on the environment.

I am pleased that the Act sustains U.S. leadership across the scientific frontiers. This Act maintains the Nation's investment in discovery through innovation, which has fueled unprecedented economic growth for the past decade. The Act contains a \$529 million increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF) -- the largest increase ever -- for a total investment of \$4.4 billion that will boost university-based research and ensure balanced support for all science and engineering disciplines. Increased investments will spur new discoveries in the fields of information technology, nanotechnology, biocomplexity, and other areas of fundamental science and engineering. The Act also adequately funds the new Scholarship for Service program at NSF, a component of the Federal Cyber Services, which will provide scholarships to students pursuing academic careers in Information Assurance. One of the five education and training initiatives in the National Plan for Information Systems Protection, this program supports the Administration's efforts to protect the Nation's critical infrastructures by increasing the number of skilled technologists working for the Federal Government. In exchange for up to 2 years of scholarship support, students will work for the Federal Government for an amount of time at least equal to the scholarship period.

This Act will also help to expand our investments in space exploration by including a \$684 million increase, to \$14.3 billion, for NASA. The Act fully funds the Space Launch Initiative that will improve the economics of space transportation dramatically. The additional resources will help the agency meet its human space flight needs more safely and at lower cost through the development of a new generation of space launch vehicles and enable NASA to establish a sustained presence at key research sites in our solar system.

I am pleased that this Act adequately funds FEMA to help cope with unforeseen disasters. The \$1.3 billion in contingent emergency funds, along with the \$297 million appropriated, ensures that the country is well-prepared to deal with unforeseen natural disasters.

I am also pleased that the Act provides my requested \$22.4 billion for veterans' medical care, benefits, and the National Cemetery System. This \$1.5 billion increase over last year represents the largest increase ever requested by an Administration. It will allow us to treat more veterans in the medical care system with high-quality and timely care, improve the delivery of veterans' disability and education benefits, and ensure that our Nation's veterans are honored in cemeteries that are maintained as National Shrines. The bill also takes the long-overdue steps of improving benefits for World War II Filipino veterans with service-connected disabilities who live in the United States, by providing the same disability, burial, health care, and long-term care benefits that other veterans receive.

I am also pleased today to be able to sign into law the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001, now that the Congress has dropped an unacceptable rider that would have prevented the Army Corps of Engineers from revising its operating manual for the Missouri River, which is 40 years old and needs to be updated. This action will enable the Army Corps to move forward to achieve a reasonable balance among the competing interests of the many people who seek to use this great American river, while addressing the needs of the fish and wildlife species that depend upon it. To ensure a thorough discussion and review of the issues raised concerning revisions to the manual, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior will consult fully with other Federal agencies, with State and local officials, and with interested stakeholders on the specific measures that the Army Corps may need to undertake during FY 2001. As part of this effort, the Army Corps will work with the parties to explore alternatives to, and modifications of, any proposed Federal actions on the lower Missouri River that may affect downstream landowners or barge traffic. Furthermore, the Army Corps will not make changes to its river operations under this legislation that will have significant adverse impacts on the downstream landowners or barge traffic.

I am disappointed that the final bill does not include my request for the CALFED Bay-Delta program or sufficient funds to restore endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest, and includes no funds for new construction projects for the Florida Everglades and the Challenge 21 and recreation modernization programs, or for construction of the emergency flood control outlet at Devils Lake, North Dakota. These omissions are especially striking in light of the bill's inclusion of nearly 240 unrequested Corps of Engineers projects totaling over \$300 million.

I want to acknowledge the efforts the Congress has made in appropriating \$20 million for the establishment of the Delta Regional Authority, a Federal-State partnership focused on promoting economic growth in the Mississippi Delta region.

Finally, I am pleased that the final bill provides \$17.8 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE). This funding supports environmental restoration projects at DOE sites throughout the country and cutting-edge scientific research such as the Spallation Neutron Source. It also includes essential funds for maintaining the safety and reliability of our nuclear weapons stockpile. Although the bill does not include my full request for the Climate Change Technology Initiative, it does provide almost \$70 million more than the FY 2000 enacted level. Included in this Initiative is \$375 million for solar and renewable energy, more than a 20 percent increase over the FY 2000

level for this program. The bill also provides \$203 million in additional funding to address the damage caused by the Cerro Grande fire. I am concerned, however, that the bill contains limits on the term of office for the first person appointed to the position of Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy and would restrict the President's ability to remove that official to cases of "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance of office." Particularly in light of the Under Secretary's significant executive authority and responsibility in nuclear security, I understand the phrase "neglect of duty" to include, among other things, a failure to comply with the lawful directives or policies of the President.

I am proud that my Administration and the Congress were able to work together successfully on two bills to resolve our respective differences and produce an Act that effectively addresses critical needs of the American people.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 27, 2000.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt)

For Immediate Release
As prepared for delivery

October 17, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN D. PODESTA
ON BUDGET AND EDUCATION TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

WASHINGTON, D.C.
October 17, 2000

Good morning. Now, I've come here today to talk about where we are and where we need to go in these final days of negotiating the fiscal 2001 budget. But before I get into that, I'd like to say a few words about the events that have been unfolding in recent days.

Just last night, we were saddened to learn of the tragic loss of our friend and partner for progress, Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan. Mel spent four decades in public service, fighting for health care, for economic development, and for better schools. I know he will be missed by the people of Missouri and by so many other Americans he touched over the years.

Last week, we lost seventeen brave soldiers in an apparent terrorist attack on the USS Cole. This tragic loss reminded us that, even when America is not at war, our men and women in uniform risk their lives in the cause of peace.

And on this day of sad news, we've also received some hopeful signs from Egypt. Only a few hours ago, President Clinton announced that Israel and the Palestinians had agreed to take immediate steps to end the current confrontation between them -- to stop the recent wave of violence and bloodshed. They've also agreed to work with us in consultation with the UN Secretary General on a fact-finding committee to determine how and why the violence happened and how to prevent it from happening again. After all that's occurred, I don't need to tell you that the road ahead will be difficult. There's no guarantee of success. But as the President has reminded us time and time again, not to try is to guarantee failure. And I'm very proud that the President went to the Middle East under these difficult circumstances and has helped the people of this troubled region begin to find their way back to the path of dialogue.

Now, as I said, I'm here this morning to discuss this year's budget. It is happening in a new era of budget surpluses, in the hot-house environment of an election year, and it is being fought over the issues that will affect America for years to come -- from bringing prosperity to every corner of our nation to meeting the challenges of the Aging of America. At the end of this budget process, if the President has anything to say about it -- and I believe he will -- we will have a budget that's fiscally responsible, reflects the values of the American people, and invests in the future, especially in the education of our children.

In the last few weeks, we have started to make some progress for the American people.

Congress passed -- and the President signed -- an historic Interior Appropriations bill that for the first time sets up a dedicated and protected fund to buy and protect precious land -- from neighborhood

10/17/2000
through
10/20/1999

parks to pristine wilderness.

We also negotiated a Transportation Bill, that among other things, will help set a national drunk driving standard at .08 percent blood alcohol content -- a change that will save hundreds of lives every year.

We've put together a VA-HUD bill that makes a number of important investments in America's future. First, it funds the President's Enterprise Communities and Empowerment Zones initiative, to help bring new investment to our most hard-pressed communities. It includes funding for 79,000 new housing vouchers for low-income families -- nearly 20,000 more than last year. It increases funding for the cutting-edge research being conducted at the National Science Foundation, for the space explorations of NASA, and for technologies to increase fuel efficiency to help reduce our dependence on oil. It included an historic increase in funding for Veterans' health care and benefits. Lastly, the bill makes critical investments in protecting our environment.

And in July, we passed a Defense Appropriations bill to keep our military strong and prepared to defend America's interests around the world.

All this shows that we can make progress, even in an election year. That's the good news. The bad news is that we haven't made anywhere near enough progress, and time is running out. We are already more than two weeks past the end of the fiscal year, and Congress has yet to complete and send to the President eight out of thirteen spending bills. Because of that, the President has had to sign three continuing resolutions in order to keep the government open for business. And it is now clear that Congress will ask him for another one at the end of the week.

How did we get bogged down again this year? Back in January, House Speaker Dennis Hastert vowed to pass appropriations bills on schedule. It didn't happen. Congressman Tom Delay said Congress would finish the bills before the start of the Republican Convention. The Convention came and went and 11 of 13 spending bills hadn't even been sent to the President. Majority Leader Dick Armey said the plan was to adjourn by October 1st. Another broken promise. The fact that they've blown one deadline after another hasn't stopped them from taking one five-day weekend after another.

Why couldn't they deliver on their promises? I think the explanation is obvious. The Republican leadership and President Clinton have a basic disagreement about the fundamentals of an effective government. The Republicans would rather not draw attention to this disagreement -- because their position is at odds with an overwhelming majority of the American people. So instead, time and again, they defer, dodge and delay. The majority party simply cannot commit themselves to President Clinton's strategy of fiscal discipline, targeted tax cuts, and important investments in our people that has brought our country from an age of deficits to an era of surpluses. The budget that President Clinton sent Congress back in February remained true to that strategy. It was a balanced budget that would strengthen Social Security and Medicare, put America on-track to pay down the debt by 2012, while at the same time making key investments in education, technology, the environment, and health care, including adding to Medicare a voluntary and affordable prescription drug benefit.

The Republican majority took a very different path. They spent most of 1999 concentrating on a big, bloated tax cut plan that President Clinton rightly vetoed. They spent most of this year attempting to put this humpty dumpty tax scheme back together again, piece by piece. The result: wasted time, wasted effort, and wasted opportunity. Not

withstanding their solemn pledge to the American people, it was simply impossible for them to pass a realistic and responsible budget in a timely manner.

We see that every day as their spending bills are loaded up with record amounts of pork. Now of course every year there's a certain amount of unnecessary spending. We all know that. But this Republican Congress is breaking new records. Don't take my word for it, listen to Republican Senator John McCain, the person the Republican leadership named as their watch dog of wasteful spending. Well, here's his review of their efforts. He says that pork barrel spending this year is "the worst ever -- a free for all."

Every dollar of unnecessary pork spending is another dollar not going to our most pressing priorities, especially something that is essential to keeping our economy strong: paying down the debt. As you've heard the President say many times, paying down the debt will keep interest rates down, investment up, and the economy growing. But it only works if you keep at it over the long term, and the Republicans can't seem to think that way.

The President makes debt reduction a habit, not a gimmick. Republicans are talking about debt reduction in an election year. The President remains committed to debt reduction every year. That's why his budget plan puts us on a path to paying down the publicly held debt entirely by 2012.

Every homeowner knows, to build a house you need a strong foundation. And that's what Congress needs to do in this budget -- build a strong foundation for America's future. They need to pass a criminal justice budget that gives us safer streets and stronger communities, that puts 50,000 more community police on the streets and cracks down on dangerous gun criminals. They need to pass the President's New Markets Initiative, to give businesses the same incentives to invest in our new markets at home that we give them to invest in poor countries overseas.

They need to pass a budget that enforces civil rights, and ensures stronger efforts for equal pay for women, insists on fairness for immigrants, and closes the digital divide. They need to pass a budget that funds our diplomatic efforts abroad, and helps secure our embassies against terrorist attacks, so that America can continue to lead the world in the 21st Century.

Most importantly, we need to invest in our number one priority -- the education of our children. And we must ensure that our dollars are used to produce real results -- so that our children can learn in classes that are smaller and in schools that are modern, not crumbling to the ground.

The average American school building is now more than 40 years old. At least 60 percent of the schools in every state are in need of repair. And studies have shown that overcrowded and antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning. If we expect students to lift themselves up, we shouldn't put them in schools that are falling down.

The President has called for tax credits to help communities build or modernize 6,000 schools, and grants and loans for emergency repairs in 5,000 schools a year for five years. We have a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives ready right now to pass school construction tax credits. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership continues to stand in the way and refuses to bring it to a vote.

The leadership is also dragging its heels on increasing our investment in afterschool programs. Study after study shows that

afterschool programs increase student learning and keep children safe and off the street during the late afternoon hours when many parents are at work and juvenile crime soars. Today, I am pleased to announce a new Education Department study confirming the positive impact of national investments in afterschool. Highland Park, Michigan, for instance, has seen a 40 percent drop in juvenile crime in the neighborhood surrounding its locally-run, federally-supported afterschool program. Students in a similar program in Brooklyn, New York saw their grades rise in one or more subjects by five points on a hundred-point scale.

The evidence is overwhelming: investments in afterschool make sense. Yet the majority party's education budget denies afterschool programs to over 1.6 million children who would get it under the President's balanced budget proposal. It also shortchanges efforts to improve teacher quality. And their budget also fails to ensure progress towards hiring 100,000 quality teachers to reduce class sizes in the early grades.

And, most amazing of all to me, the majority's budget invests nothing to help states turn around failing schools or shut them down and reopen them under new management. How many times have we heard Republicans say they want to make our schools more accountable? Well, here they finally have a chance to put their money where their rhetoric is. And they won't do it.

The President, however, will insist upon it. Not because of politics. Not out of pique. But because he believes in it, and because he believes it's right for the country. This should come as no surprise to the Republican leadership. You can look it up in this year's budget -- in the State of the Union Address -- in the President's HOPE Scholarship program -- in our expansion of Pell Grants and Head Start -- in the President's program to bring down the cost of student loans. The President's commitment to his education budget is unwavering, and we will stay at the bargaining table until we have done right by America's children. This is no time to turn back.

We all know that at the end of this process we're going to have a budget. After all, it's in the Constitution. But there are legal obligations and moral ones. There are things you must do, and things you ought to do. Unfortunately, this Congress has deferred, dodged, and delayed on things it ought to do. Congress must pass a budget, but it ought to pass hate crimes legislation. It ought to raise the minimum wage. It ought to enact a real Medicare lockbox, no leaks, no loopholes. It ought to pass an affordable, voluntary prescription drug benefit. Instead of passing a strong, enforceable Patients Bill of Rights, Congress is giving billions of dollars more of Medicare money to the same HMOs that have fought tooth and nail to defeat patients protections. And Congress is doing this without any guarantees that the HMOs will make long-term commitments to the seniors they serve. And as they are increasing payments to HMOs by billions of dollars, they are refusing to fund priority beneficiary, hospital, home health, and other health care provider initiatives. They can increase payments to HMOs -- but they can't seem to find the funds to provide health care for legal immigrants, and for children with disabilities. So today, Secretary Donna Shalala and OMB Director Jack Lew are recommending to the President that he veto this legislation should these untargeted, excessive, and unaccountable HMO payment increases continue to crowd out critical beneficiary health care provider policies.

Yes, it's late in the game. But we're putting some runs on the board. And in the post-season, plenty of games are won in the bottom of the ninth. We can achieve a big victory for the American people if we put our partisan differences aside, let the bipartisan majority of Congress work its will, and put the future of America's families first.

Thank you.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Denver, Colorado)

For Immediate Release

October 14, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT WELFARE TO WORK-TRANSPORTATION EVENT

Mi Casa Resource Center for Women
Denver, Colorado

did not include

11:55 A.M. MDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, come in a little closer. If I'm going to stand up here, I want you in the picture. (Laughter.) Let me, first of all, thank Carmen Carillo for welcoming us here today. I just had a wonderful time upstairs. I went up and talked to all the staff that were up there and met with a lot of the young people who were there. And we're working on trying to educate kids, give young adults the training they need, help young people avoid teen pregnancy and HIV infection. I thought they were terrific.

I just wanted to say -- I wanted to come here today, in part, because of what you're doing here. And those of you who are here, trying to improve your lives represents everything I've tried to do as President. I'm very proud of you and I love this place. (Applause.)

I want to thank the Secretary of Transportation, Rodney Slater, who is, like me, from Arkansas. We've worked together for almost 20 years now. He was underage when I first enlisted his services. (Laughter.) And it will be apparent in a moment why I asked him to come today and join us.

And I want to thank Mayor and Mrs. Webb for their leadership. And thank you, Wilma, for your service in the administration. Denver has prospered under your leadership, done well and you've been a great partner for the Clinton-Gore administration. We've done a lot of things in Denver, we even brought the leaders of the eight big industrial nations here to a conference about five years ago. My friendship with you and the work that we've done with this city have meant a great deal to me, and I thank you so much. (Applause.)

This is the first chance I've had in a couple days to make a public statement, and I think it's appropriate in a way that I make a few remarks about -- before I get into what I came to talk about today -- about the troubles in the Middle East and the terrorist attack, which resulted in the loss of many of our sailors. I'm sure you've been following it.

Some of those sailors are being brought home today, and they'll be brought home over the next several days, both the wounded and those who were killed, and we'll have a memorial service for them on Wednesday. But what I'd like to say to you -- I don't know if in the local press there have been any profiles of them. But a lot of those people who were killed came out of neighborhoods like this. Several Latinos; one young African American girl, only 19 years old, just completed her Navy training. Most of them we're trying to do with their lives what you're trying to do with your lives. And they wanted to do it by serving their country in the United States Navy.

And they were not over there on any hostile mission. They were simply patrolling and keeping the peace and stability of the region. So I hope you'll say a prayer for them and their families tonight. This is a difficult time for them.

It's also very troubling in the region. There was all the troubles you've seen between the Israelis and the Palestinians, who were so close to a peace agreement. There was a hijacking today in the Middle East. We have no idea whether it's related to any of this or not, and we may not know for a while. But I'm going to leave, I'm going to the West Coast from here, then I'm going to red-eye back to Washington and fly over there, to Egypt, tomorrow in an attempt to try to help put things back together. So I hope we'll have your prayers on that, too.

But I ask today you specifically think about those families that lost their loved ones, because most of those folks were just trying to do what you're trying to do, and serve their country. They were wonderful people, very young, so their families need all the support of the all the American people.

Now, let me talk about what I think is the good news of what you're doing and what I think we should be doing to help. In 1992, when I ran for President, I went to the American people with a very simple, but I think profoundly important vision. I said that I thought every person willing to be a responsible citizen should have an opportunity to share in the American dream. And that I thought to achieve that we had to be a stronger community. We had to understand that we were going forward together and that nobody should be left out or left behind.

Well, it turns out most Americans agreed with that, and together the country has made great strides. You all know we've had the longest economic expansion in the history of the United States. We have the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. When I became President, unemployment in Colorado was 6.1 percent; it's 2.7 percent now. Unemployment among African Americans and Hispanics is the lowest ever measured. And together we've had over 22 million new jobs, almost 600,000 right here in Colorado.

But we're also not just better off. I think we're a better nation because poverty is down, crime is down, teen pregnancy is down. Last year we even had a reduction in the number of people without health insurance, for the first time in a dozen years, thanks to the Children's Health Insurance Program. And homeownership, test scores, high school graduation rates and the college going rate, all those are up.

So to paraphrase what Al Gore used to say in 1992, when everything should be up, was down; everything that should be down, was up -- now the things that should be up are up, and the things that should be down are down, and we can be grateful for that.

One of the most important things that would have been almost unthinkable eight years ago is that the welfare rolls have been cut by more than half nationwide. Millions of parents have joined the work force. Now, how did this happen? Well, first, the strong economy helps, because more workers were needed.

Secondly, we changed the rules so that all able-bodied people who can work, have to work. But we obligated the federal government to enable them to succeed as parents, as well as workers, by investing more in training, more in child care and maintaining the guarantee of food and medical care for children. And it's working.

But after all that, it also became necessary to have a system. That's what you have here, in Mi Casa. It's this fabulous system. You don't just deal with one part of a person's problem. People come here,

families can come here and be dealt with. And if there weren't a place like this, even with a strong economy, even with a better welfare reform law, what we've tried to do would not have been nearly as successful.

So all these innovative welfare to work partnerships between the federal government and states and local governments are important. And also in the private sector -- we have 12,000 private companies who've joined our Welfare to Work Partnership and committed to hire people from the welfare rolls. And they have -- these 12,000 companies, themselves, some of them are as small as 40 and 50 employees, some of them have tens of thousands -- but they have hired hundreds of thousands of people from the welfare rolls. By now, I can tell you, the retention rates are better than other first hires in all those companies. And they're doing very, very well.

Denver has been a real leader here, thanks to Mayor Webb and people like Carmen. You offer education, employment, child care services in one place; train potential workers in places like Mi Casa; support employers who train new workers for themselves. So the federal government -- where are you -- (laughter) -- I asked Carmen on the way down here, I said, where do you get the money to run this place? And she said, well, we get some money from the Department of Labor, we get money from the Welfare to Work Partnership.

But the point is, you've got to have some place where the people can come and get what they really need. And the places that are doing best are places that have really put things together. In Denver there's also an effort to help fathers get jobs and pay child support and stay involved with their children's lives.

So here's the point I want to make and here's why I'm here. While the welfare rolls have dropped by more than 50 percent nationwide, which is huge, in Denver the welfare rolls have dropped 90 percent -- 90 percent. (Applause.) Now, once that happens, you've got to focus on making sure the people who get off welfare stay off and that hard-working families succeed. And that's what is happening here now.

But I came here today to talk about what more we can do to help more people get off welfare and stay off. And also to highlight the importance of places like Mi Casa and how we need it everywhere in America. Because we can drive these rolls down even more if we have the kind of operations you have here in Denver. And that's where -- there are some more things we need to do, too, and that's where Secretary Slater and I come in.

One of the most important things in helping Americans move from welfare to work is making sure they can get from where they live to where the job is. And this is still a huge problem nationwide. Listen to this: two-thirds of all the new jobs in America are being created in the suburbs. But three-quarters of the Americans who are still on public assistance live in inner cities or small, rural towns. So you've got the jobs here in the suburbs and the people in the inner cities or out here in the country somewhere.

And our public transportation networks simply have not kept up with the changing patterns and the disconnect between living and working. Now, we can help some people move where the jobs are. Under the leadership of our HUD Secretary, Andrew Cuomo, we have been able to get a bipartisan majority in Congress to go along with giving a lot of people who are eligible for public housing, housing vouchers so they can go find whatever is available. Because, as all of you know, with the growth of the economy there is a real housing shortage -- there is a huge public housing shortage. So housing vouchers have made a difference.

I think we have an agreement with the Congress this year -- I haven't signed the law yet, but I'm pretty sure we got the deal done last week -- to increase the number of housing vouchers next year so we can keep doing this.

But no matter how much we do that, there will still be large numbers of people who live someplace different from where the jobs are, who want to go to work, can go to work and are capable of doing whatever it takes to be a qualified employee.

So we can't continue with a system where people have to take three or four buses to get to work or they can't get to work at all on public transport, so they've got to get a friend or a family member to give them a ride to work every day. And a lot of you are nodding your heads. You know, what do you do if the friend or family members gets sick, what do you do if their kids get sick, what do you do if your kid is sick? There are a lot of problems with this sort of ad hoc system.

And we do have a lot of people, literally, who still can't get a job because they can't get to the job. That is inconsistent with our goal of opportunity for every responsible citizen. It's inconsistent with our responsibilities as a national community to help each other go forward together. And it's inconsistent with helping people get off and stay off welfare.

So from the beginning, in our administration, the Vice President and I have worked with Congress to try to build transportation links to where the jobs are. Three years ago, we proposed something called the Job Access initiative, and we worked with Congress and got a lot of support for it. It basically gives grants to communities to figure out what the solution is in their community, because it's different from place to place. Last year, we funded over \$71 million worth of grants for 42 states and transit authorities used this money to add new routes, to extend the hours of existing routes -- which is a big problem in some places -- and also to create van pools when there is no practical public transit option.

They have brought work to the doorsteps already with this Job Access initiative to the doorsteps of 13,500 employers which has enabled hundreds of thousands of people to find new ways to get to work, take their kids to school and expand their own horizons through trade and education.

Last year, those grants went to six Colorado communities, almost three-quarters of a million dollars to help them design and build transportation links that connect workers to jobs. Today, I'm here to announce that this year, we're going to have \$73 million in grants to 39 states and the District of Columbia; there will be three in Colorado and one I hope will particularly benefit those of you who are here at Mi Casa, \$700,000 to extend bus routes in Denver -- (applause) -- that help people travel to jobs at suburban business parks in the Denver tech center.

Now, upstairs, one of the women asked me upstairs -- she said, you need to do more to get women training and access to nontraditional jobs, jobs that women don't normally hold. And we talked about some things that we've been doing with the unions to train more women to do construction-related jobs -- like you, right? (Laughter.) Is that how you hurt your arm?

And we talked about the work you're trying to do in Silicon Valley and other places to try to train more women to go to work in high-tech industries where there is a huge gender gap in employment participation. And we talked about really nontraditional things like the massive shortage we've got in America for licensed truck drivers now, huge, huge

shortages all over America.

Now, it's tough that you've got young kids because you've got to be gone big chunks of time, so it's not a practical alternative for some. But for some people, it is an alternative. They've got family circumstances, there's nothing they can do.

Our focus here today is to try to do what we can do to help communities like Denver succeed even more and also to try to get other communities to develop a model that you have that has worked so well. You simply can't go to work if you can't get to work; and now more and more people will be able to find work, get there and either move off of welfare or stay off welfare.

Now, let me also say that we're entering the final weeks of the congressional session. We are already well past the end of the budget year, which ended on September 30th. And Congress all wants to come home and campaign, but they have to finish their business first.

And a lot of the business I think they ought to finish relates to the needs of the people who have come through the doors of Mi Casa. Congress should raise the minimum wage -- (applause). I had asked them to raise it by a dollar an hour over the next two years. That would have helped 10 million hardworking American families. (Applause.) I've also asked them to provide more tax relief for working people to increase the child care tax credit and make it refundable, to help give families a long-term care tax credit. A lot of people are caring for elderly or disabled family members and they can't afford to go to nursing homes or they don't want them to, but they need some help at home -- to get a tax deduction for the cost of college tuition, and to help people even with very modest incomes save for their own retirement.

So there are very important things that can be done. I think the earned income tax credit, for which most of you with children are eligible, which has lifted over 2 million people out of poverty just in the last few years alone, should be expanded again, particularly for people with three or more kids. The way the earned income tax credit works, you max out if you have a certain number of people. But a lot of people have four kids and five kids, that are trying to work, and I believe they should be able to get more relief. So that's all very important and I hope that will help.

Something else that I think would be really helpful is that our budget has proposals to promote responsible fatherhood and to increase child support paid directly to families -- (applause.) Now, if the states collect your child support, they can withhold a portion of it because of the cost of collecting it. But if the child support is meager, you may not wind up much ahead, even if the father is paying the child support. So we propose to change that. I think there is very broad support for this and I hope and believe it will pass before the Congress goes home.

We also have proposals that would help families save and expand access to child care and housing and health care. So I hope very much that this will pass.

And, finally, let me say for the people who live where the jobs aren't, there is a very important bipartisan initiative that I've worked on with the Speaker of the House, called the New Markets initiative, which would give American investors the same tax incentives to invest in the poor areas in America we now give them to invest in poor areas in Latin America, Africa, Asia or some place else. (Applause.)

I think that a lot more can be done, but I hope and believe that this transportation assistance will really help.

So let me end where I began. We are moving close to a country where there really is opportunity for every responsible citizen. But we're not there yet. We are a stronger American community than we were eight years ago, but there is still friction and sources of division within our American community. Now, we've got the most expansive, strong economy we've ever had. And I think we ought to set our sights on big goals.

Our goals should be prosperity for every family in every community still left behind. Our goals should be no child and no working family in poverty. And I want to say to you is that we can achieve these goals and still keep the overall economy strong for the rest of America. We can pay the debt off in 12 years. We've got to keep interest rates down, we'll keep businesses expanding. It will leave funds for people to make pay raises.

We can do this, but we have to decide to do it. And I just hope that not only in Colorado, but all over America, people will see and hear about Mi Casa because of my trip here. (Applause.) And I hope every place where people feel good because they've reduced the welfare rolls 40 or 50 percent will understand that they can do much better when they see that Denver, thanks to people like you, got it down 90 percent. The transportation will help, but people have to make the initiative at the local level, too.

So thank you -- (applause.)

END 12:15 P.M. MDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased that the Senate has passed a VA/HUD bill that will open the doors of opportunity in America for those who need it most, build on our agenda for national energy security and strengthen our commitment to the environment. With this legislation -- which includes key provisions negotiated by my budget team -- we take an important step toward addressing critical national priorities and opening the doors of opportunity for many more Americans.

This legislation builds upon my opportunity agenda with increased funding for economic development through Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and Community Development Financial Institutions, all part of my New Markets Initiative, and with 79,000 new housing vouchers for low income families. This agreement also increases support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's emergency food and shelter programs which work with States and communities to help the homeless and hungry. We are also strengthening our commitment to national service with additional support for the Corporation for National and Community Service, the first increase since the inception of this critical volunteer agency in 1993.

With this legislation, we support the significant expansion of cutting-edge basic scientific research at the National Science Foundation. This includes research in nano-technology -- the manipulation of matter at the molecular and atomic level -- which holds the promise of scientific breakthroughs in a wide range of fields. It also advances scientific research through support for space exploration at NASA. At especially at this time of elevated fuel prices, I am also pleased that this bill provides resources for technologies to increase fuel efficiency, an essential part of our long-term strategy to reduce dependence on oil.

This agreement also contains increased funding for enforcement of the nation's environmental laws and for the cleanup of polluted waterways. The agreement we reached drops or fixes several objectionable riders that threatened to harm our environment. Yet, while we were able to ameliorate the impact of the remaining riders, we were not able to rid this bill entirely of objectionable provisions, in particular the rider relating to ozone.

This agreement also provides the additional \$1.5 billion I requested for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest increase ever requested by any Administration. This funding will support efforts to improve veterans' medical care and the delivery of key services, including disability benefits.

This agreement is clear proof of the progress we can achieve when we work together to address the nation's priorities.

30-30-30

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Building One America

September 16, 2000

did not include

"If every American really believed that we were one nation under God; if every person really believed that we are all created equal; if every person really believed that we have an obligation to try to draw closer together and to be better neighbors with others throughout the world, then all the rest of our problems would more easily melt away. And so I ask you -- keep in your mind -- the enormous potential you have to reach the heart and soul of America, to remind them that we must be one."

-- President Clinton

Remarks to the Congressional Black Caucus
September 20, 1999

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

Historic Economic Gains. The unemployment rate and poverty rate for African Americans are both at the lowest levels on record, with an average unemployment rate of 7.7% in 2000 (down from 14.2% in 1992) and a poverty rate of 26.1% in 1998 (down from 33.1% in 1993). Median household income for African Americans is up 15.1% (or \$3,317) since 1993.

Tax Cuts For Working Families. President Clinton and Vice President Gore's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two children who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted 1.1 million African Americans out of poverty. This year the President and Vice President have proposed expanding the EITC to provide tax relief to 6.4 million additional working families.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefiting 1.3 million African American workers. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have called for passage of an additional \$1.00 an hour increase.

Creating New Tools to Help Families Move from Welfare to Work. Since enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law, millions of families have moved from welfare to work. With the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and low-income non-custodial fathers into jobs. The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to hire long-term welfare recipients. The President's Access to Jobs initiative helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work, and this year the President is proposing \$150 million for this initiative, double last year's level. President Clinton has secured 110,000 new housing vouchers in the last two years to help welfare recipients and hard-pressed working families move closer to job opportunities, and this year he is proposing \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers.

More than Three Times the Number of Small Business Loans. Between 1993 and March 2000 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 16,100 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a), 504, and Microloan programs. In 1999 alone, the SBA granted 2,456 loans, worth \$386.3 million, to African American small business owners -- more than three times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton-Gore Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities, including 50 rural ECs, which are creating new jobs, new

opportunities and stronger communities. This would have a dramatic effect in the areas with high unemployment, weak economies, shortages of affordable housing and other problems. The President won \$70 million in funding for Rural and Urban Empowerment Zones in FY 2000 -- after Congress initially provided no funding. On July 25, 2000, the House passed a bipartisan agreement that would extend and expand the incentives in the existing EZs, as well as create nine new Round 3 Empowerment Zones. The Administration's agreement with Speaker Hastert also includes a first-time commitment for additional funding for Round 2 EZs

Encouraging Investment in Underserved Communities with the New Markets Initiative. President Clinton's New Markets Initiative will help bring economic development and renewal to communities that have not benefited from the soaring economy by spurring more than \$22 billion in new investment in urban and rural areas. On July 25, 2000, the House of Representatives passed the President's New Markets Initiative in a historic bipartisan agreement that included extension and expansion of Empowerment Zones, and an increase in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. The President has taken three New Markets Tours of underserved communities, which have helped generate more than \$1 billion in private sector investment commitments.

Closing the Digital Divide. Increasing access to technology and bridging the growing "digital divide" has been a top priority for President Clinton and Vice President Gore. The Clinton-Gore Administration's FY01 budget includes a comprehensive initiative to bridge the digital divide, broaden access to computers and training, and create new opportunity for all Americans.

BUILDING ONE AMERICA:

President's One America Initiative. President Clinton has led the nation in an effort to become One America: a place where we respect others' differences and embrace the common values that unite us. The President has been actively involved in public outreach efforts to engage Americans in this historic effort, and followed up on the work of the Initiative on Race by appointing Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the new White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America. The office is working to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country, and build the One America we want for all of our nation's children.

An Administration that Looks Like America. The President has appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history, with twice as many African American appointees as any previous administration. African Americans make up 12 percent of the Clinton Cabinet, 14 percent of Administration appointees, and 17 percent of Federal bench nominations. The President has appointed more African Americans to federal judgeships (62 total) than were appointed during the last sixteen years combined (57 total).

Working to Ensure a Fair, Accurate and Complete Census. The Clinton-Gore Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is as accurate as possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. The 1990 Census had a net undercount of 4 million and 4.4 percent of African Americans were not counted. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President and Vice President are determined to have a fair and full count in 2000, and in February 2000 the President announced new steps to encourage all Americans to participate in Census 2000. The President launched a Census in the Schools Challenge, to ensure that children are counted and educate both students and parents; reiterated that Census information is strictly confidential; and directed federal

agencies to step up activities in support of the Census.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION:

Established Advisory Board for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The President and Vice President established the President's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education and advised on ways to increase the private sector's role in these institutions. In addition, the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education has been vigilant in its efforts to expand college opportunities through enforcement to eliminate vestiges of discrimination in formerly racially segregated higher education systems. The Office for Civil Rights at Education works to ensure minority student access to higher education, impacting both HBCUs and historically white universities.

Increased Funding and Grants for HBCUs. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by over \$250 million between FY92 and FY98 -- an increase of nearly 25 percent. Today, America's 105 HBCUs are educating almost 300,000 African American students.

Record Enrollment. 66 percent of high school graduates went on to college in 1998, compared to 60 percent in 1990. The percentage of African American high school graduates enrolling in college increased from 48 percent in 1992 to 59 percent in 1997 -- the highest number ever.

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History. Since 1993, the Clinton-Gore Administration has increased funding for Head Start by 90 percent. The President's FY01 budget increases funding for Head Start by another \$1 billion -- the largest increase ever proposed for the program -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children. This funding will bring within reach the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002 and builds the foundation for the long-term goal of universal pre-school.

Turning Around Failing Schools. 11 million low-income students now benefit from Title I- Aid to Disadvantaged Students, and all our children are benefiting from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards. In the 1996-97 school year, 28 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were African American. Last year the President won \$134 million for an accountability fund to help turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results through such measures as overhauling curriculum, improving staffing, or even closing schools and reopening them as charter schools. This year, the President and Vice President are proposing to double funding for this fund to turn around the nation's failing schools to ensure all children receive a quality education.

Class Size Reduction Initiative. Last year President Clinton and Vice President Gore won a second installment of \$1.3 billion for the President's plan to help school districts hire and train an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. Already, 29,000 teachers have been hired through this initiative. This year, the FY01 budget includes \$1.75 billion for this program, an \$450 million increase -- enough to fund about 49,000 teachers.

New Plan to Place Quality Teachers in Underserved Areas. This year, the President and Vice President proposed a new \$1 billion teacher quality plan to recruit, train and reward good teachers. The Teaching to High Standards Initiative includes a Hometown Teacher Recruitment program to empower high-poverty school districts to develop programs to recruit homegrown teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers. It

also includes \$50 million for Teacher Quality Rewards, which will reward school districts that have made exceptional progress in reducing the number of uncertified teachers and teachers teaching outside their subject area.

Established the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children. The President and Vice President created and expanded GEAR-UP, a mentoring initiative, to help over 750,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college. This year the President has proposed a 62.5 percent increase to serve 1.4 million students. On September 12, 2000, President Clinton released 80 new GEAR UP grants totaling \$46 million.

New Tax Incentives to Make College More Affordable. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have proposed the College Opportunity Tax Cut, which would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or claiming a 28 percent credit for tuition and fees to pay for higher education. When fully phased in, this proposal would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief annually to help American families pay for college.

Helping Students Finish College. This year, the President and Vice President proposed new College Completion Challenge Grants to help reduce the college drop-out rate, with pre-freshman summer programs, support services and increased grant aid to students. This \$35 million initiative will improve the chances of success for nearly 18,000 students. Currently, 29 percent of African Americans drop out of college after less than one year, compared to 18 percent of whites.

Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions. The Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed a new program to increase opportunities for students at minority-serving institutions that offer four-year degrees. Students would receive two degrees within five years: one from a minority-serving institution, and one from a partner institution in a field in which minorities are underrepresented. This new \$40 million program will serve an estimated 3,000 students.

IMPROVING OUR NATION'S HEALTH:

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton won \$24 billion to provide health care coverage to up to five million uninsured children. In October 1999 the President announced new outreach efforts to enroll millions of eligible, uninsured children. African American children make up 25 percent of all uninsured children -- more than twice their percentage of the overall population. To reach this vulnerable population, the Administration and states have made special efforts to advertise the availability of the program and provide enrollment materials printed in Spanish. This year, the budget includes several of Vice President Gore's proposals to accelerate enrollment of children in CHIP. The President and Vice President are also proposing a new FamilyCare program, which would give States the option to cover parents in the same plan as their children.

New Initiative to Expand Health Coverage to Uninsured Americans. This year, the President and Vice President have proposed a 10-year, \$110 billion initiative that would dramatically improve the affordability of and access to health insurance. The proposal would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities by 2010. President Clinton's initiative will help eliminate racial disparities in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. President Clinton and

Vice President Gore won a 200% increase for this initiative in FY00, and this year they have proposed \$35 million in funding to continue the effort.

Providing Access to Health Care Services for Uninsured Workers. Last year, the President proposed and won \$25 million in funding for a program to coordinate systems of care, increase the number of services delivered and establish an accountability system to assure adequate patient care for the uninsured and low-income. This year, the President has proposed funding this initiative at \$125 million, representing a substantial down payment on his plan to invest \$1 billion over 5 years.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in the Minority Community. Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload. Last year, the President won a \$210 million investment -- a 45 percent increase -- to improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to new HIV therapies. This year's budget continues that investment.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER:

Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration met its commitment to fund an additional 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced a distressed neighborhood grant program to increase community policing in high-crime and underserved neighborhoods. To help keep crime at record lows, in fall 1999, the President won funding for the first installment toward his goal to hire up to 50,000 more officers by 2005. This year, the Clinton-Gore budget includes over \$1 billion to continue the successful COPS initiative to hire more officers, hire new community prosecutors, give police the tools and technology they need to fight crime, and to fund community-wide crime fighting efforts.

Preventing Hate Crimes. The President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which provides for longer sentences for hate crimes, and hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have repeatedly called for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act in order to strengthen hate crimes laws. The President's FY 2001 budget includes \$20 million to promote police integrity and for hate crimes training for federal, state, and local law enforcement.

Expanding Civil Rights Enforcement. In FY 2000, President Clinton won a six percent increase in funding for federal civil rights enforcement agencies including \$82 million for the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, a 19 percent increase. In the FY01 budget, the President and Vice President have proposed \$698 million in funding for civil rights enforcement agencies, a 13 percent increase, to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct) and fair housing and lending practices; help the EEOC reduce the backlog of private-sector cases; and allow HUD to take steps to reduce housing discrimination.

Working to End Racial Profiling. To help determine where and when racial profiling occurs, the President directed Cabinet agencies to collect data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of individuals subject to certain stops by federal law enforcement. The President has also supported increased resources for police integrity and ethics training and to improve the diversity of local police forces.

Working to Pass Common-Sense Gun Laws. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have repeatedly called on Congress to build on the success of the Brady Law by quickly passing a set of common sense gun safety measures designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands and save lives. The Administration has proposed legislation, that passed in the Senate last year with a tie-breaking vote by Vice President Gore, that

would require background checks on all firearm sales at gun shows; require child safety locks for every handgun sold; bar the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips; and ban the most violent juvenile offenders from owning guns for life.

More than Half a Million Felons, Fugitives and Domestic Abusers Denied Guns. Since the President signed the Brady Bill into law, more than 536,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers have been prevented from purchasing guns through Brady background checks. This year, the President and Vice President have proposed a State-based licensing system for handgun purchases. Under the proposal, every purchaser of a handgun must first have a valid state-issued photo license, showing that the buyer has passed a Brady background check and a gun safety training requirement.

Largest Gun Enforcement Initiative in History. This year, President Clinton has proposed the largest gun enforcement initiative ever. The initiative would provide a record \$280 million to add 500 new federal ATF agents and inspectors to target violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers that supply guns to criminals and juveniles, and fund over 1,000 new federal, state, and local gun prosecutors to take dangerous gun offenders off the streets. This initiative would also expand the ATF's crime gun tracing program by providing tracing equipment and training to 250 additional law enforcement agencies and by creating the first nationally integrated ballistics testing system. The new ballistics testing system will help law enforcement use the unique "fingerprints" of bullets or shell casings left at the scene of a crime to identify gun criminals -- even in the absence of a firearm.

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CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THAT
WELFARE CASELOADS HAVE BEEN CUT IN HALF, RECORD PERCENT OF PEOPLE ON
WELFARE ARE WORKING, AND BUSINESSES HAVE HIRED
OVER ONE MILLION PEOPLE OFF WELFARE
August 22, 2000

Four years ago today, President Clinton signed the landmark welfare reform law, transforming the nation's welfare system into one that requires work for time-limited assistance. Today, the President will announce that welfare rolls are just half of what they were four years ago and, of those remaining on welfare, nearly five times as many are working than when he took office. The Administration will transmit a report to Congress today showing that for the third year in a row, all states subject to the welfare reform law's overall work requirements, met them.

The President will also meet with the Board of the Welfare to Work Partnership, which announced today that it has enlisted more than 20,000 business partners who have hired an estimated 1.1 million welfare recipients since it was launched at the White House in May 1997. The President will challenge the private sector to continue employing welfare recipients and helping these new workers succeed on the job; urge state and local officials to invest in supports for both current recipients and low-income working families; and call on Congress to enact his budget proposals to make work pay, encourage savings, promote responsible fatherhood and expand access to child care, **housing**, transportation and health care.

Caseloads Fall to 35-Year Low

New welfare caseload numbers to be released by the President today show the percentage of Americans on welfare has fallen from 5.5 percent in 1993 to 2.3 percent in 1999 and is now at its lowest level since 1965. The welfare rolls have fallen from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 6.3 million in December 1999 - a drop of 56 percent, or 7.8 million. Nearly three-quarters of this overall decline has occurred since the welfare reform law was enacted, with 1999 caseloads roughly half of what they were in 1996. A 1999 report by the Council of Economic Advisers found that the implementation of welfare reform was the single most important factor contributing to the widespread and continuous caseload declines, accounting for approximately one-third of the caseload reduction from 1996 to 1998. The President began reforming welfare early in his first term, granting waivers to 43 states to require work and encourage

personal responsibility, expanding the earned income tax credit and the minimum wage to make work pay, and pushing the congress for bipartisan national welfare reform legislation which he signed into law in August 1996.

Fivefold Increase In Work Among Welfare Recipients Since 1992

The combination of requirements, incentives and supports to promote work has not only resulted in more families leaving the welfare rolls, but has also dramatically increased the proportion of parents who are combining welfare and work as they transition off cash assistance. New 1999 data show that the percentage of welfare recipients who are working has increased to nearly five times the level when the President took office - from 7 percent in 1992 to an all-time high of 33 percent in 1999 - and has tripled since the 1996 welfare reform. The vast majority of working recipients are in paid employment, with the remainder involved in community service or subsidized employment.

All 50 States Meet Overall Work Participation Goals

New data to be released by the President today show that every state and the District of Columbia met the welfare law's overall work requirement for 1999, which required adults in 35 percent of all families on welfare to be working at least 25 hours per week. The 1999 national participation rate of 38 percent is up from 35 percent in 1998, a particularly impressive gain given the simultaneous 18 percent caseload decline over this same time period. Most, but not all, states met the law's two parent work rates that required 90 percent of two parent families to work at least 35 hours per week: of the thirty-six states subject to the rate, 28 met it.

Research Confirms That People Are Moving From Welfare To Work

A variety of studies cited in the Health and Human Services Report to Congress confirm that an increasing number of families are moving from welfare to work. Interim findings from ten studies funded by HHS found that 62 to 75 percent of former welfare recipients were employed for some or all of the 12 months following their exit from welfare. Moreover, recent independent evaluations ranging from Minnesota to Los Angeles to Connecticut confirm that well-designed welfare reform initiatives have significantly increased the employment of welfare recipients. The Minnesota results also show that welfare reform can increase marriage rates and marital stability among low-income families. According to the Current Population Survey, 36 percent of those receiving welfare in 1998 were working in 1999 - an 82 percent increase from 1992 when just twenty percent of 1991 recipients were working.

Welfare To Work Hiring Initiatives Show Overwhelming Progress

The Welfare to Work Partnership has responded enthusiastically to the President's challenge to the business community to get involved in ending welfare as we know it. Since its launch at the White House in May 1997 with 105 companies, the Partnership has grown to more than 20,000 businesses of all sizes and industries, which have hired an estimated 1.1 million people from the welfare rolls. Business leaders have found that welfare to work hires have the same or higher retention rates than other employees. In a new report to the President, the Partnership notes that average starting salaries for these hires is \$7.80 an hour or \$19,641 a year for those earning a salary. The federal government is also doing its part: under Vice President Gore's leadership, the federal government has hired nearly 50,000 people in dozens of agencies across the U.S., far surpassing the goal of 10,000 hires set in 1997.

More Must Be Done to Reward Work and Responsibility

President Clinton will challenge the private sector to continue to hire those welfare recipients remaining on the rolls and to help these new workers succeed and advance on the job. He will also urge state and local officials to use the resources and the flexibility provided in

the reformed welfare system to invest in services to help current recipients overcome barriers to work and to help working families who have left the rolls succeed in the workforce. Finally, he will call on Congress to enact key components of the Clinton-Gore Administration's FY 2001 budget, including:

-- Making work pay by increasing the minimum wage by \$1 and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to provide tax relief for 6.8 million hard-pressed working families.

-- Helping low-income families save for a better future by creating 20,000 new Individual Development Accounts to help families save for assets that promote self-sufficiency, and allowing families to use IDA savings to buy a car that helps them get to work.

-- Promoting responsible fatherhood by allowing more child support income to go directly to families and funding the \$255 million Fathers Work/Families Win initiative to help 40,000 low-income fathers and 40,000 low-income families work and support their children.

-- Making significant new investments in child care, including \$817 million for child care subsidies, \$3 billion over five years to improve care for our youngest children, and new and expanded tax credits for families and for businesses that provide child care.

--Improving transportation options by doubling Access to Jobs funds for innovative transit solutions, making it easier for working families to own a car without losing food stamps, and allowing families to save for a car through an IDA.

--Increasing access to **housing** by funding 120,000 new **housing** vouchers, including 32,000 for families moving from welfare to work, to help families move closer to a job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable **housing** that will help them get or keep a job.

--Dramatically expanding health coverage by providing a new, affordable health insurance option, called FamilyCare, for parents of children eligible for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and extending existing programs to more families, through an extension of transitional Medicaid, accelerated enrollment into S-CHIP, and new state options to cover older teens and legal immigrants.

*already in
timeline*

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PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION: LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

By signing into law H.R. 3519, the "Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000," President Clinton is launching our latest U.S. effort in the long-term fight against HIV/AIDS and its related threat of tuberculosis. This bill authorizes funding for the Administration's FY 2001 international HIV/AIDS initiatives and will strengthen our response to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. The bill also authorizes new funding for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and authorizes the creation of a World Bank AIDS Trust Fund.

The bill authorizes:

- \$300 million for USAID development assistance programs, including primary prevention and education, voluntary testing and counseling, prevention of mother to child transmission, and care for those living with HIV or AIDS;
- \$50 million for GAVI and \$10 million for IAVI to accelerate the development and delivery of vaccines; and
- \$60 million for international Tuberculosis Control.

The bill also authorizes the creation of a World Bank AIDS Trust Fund to provide grants to hard hit countries for AIDS prevention, care and education over a two-year period.

This legislation builds on the Administration's LIFE Initiative (Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic), an aggressive response to the global AIDS pandemic. The United States has invested more than \$1.4 billion in international AIDS programs since the start of the epidemic.

-- President Clinton is asking Congress for an increase of \$100 million -- to \$342 million -- for international AIDS prevention and care in FY 2001, more than double the FY 99 level. Funds will be targeted to the countries where the disease is most widespread, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Priorities include: stepped up primary AIDS prevention efforts; care and treatment for those infected; care for children orphaned by AIDS, and strengthening the public health infrastructure that can prevent and control the disease.

-- On January 10, 2000, Vice President Gore chaired the first-ever United Nations Security Panel session on a health issue -- HIV/AIDS as an international security threat.

-- On May 10, 2000, the President signed an Executive Order to help make HIV/AIDS-related drugs and medical technologies more affordable and

accessible in beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. Last month, the pharmaceutical industry announced an initiative to reduce prices for anti-retroviral drugs for developing countries.

-- The Peace Corps announced that all 2,400 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 25 countries in Africa will be trained as educators of HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

-- In his State of the Union address, President Clinton announced the Millennium Vaccine Initiative to accelerate the development of malaria, TB, and AIDS vaccines -- vaccines for which there is an enormous need, but little market incentive for industry to develop. The initiative calls for:

-- \$50 million in the President's FY2001 budget as a contribution to the vaccine purchase fund of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI);

-- Presidential leadership to ensure that the World Bank and other multilateral development banks dedicate an additional \$400 million to \$900 million annually of their low-interest rate loans to health care services;

-- significant increases in basic research on diseases that affect developing nations;

-- \$1 billion tax credit for sales of vaccines for malaria, TB and AIDS to accelerate their development and production.

-- The Clinton-Gore Administration made global AIDS and infectious diseases a top priority at the U.S.-European Union Summit in Portugal in May and last month's G-8 Summit in Okinawa, where billions were mobilized from our G-8 partners.

Domestically, the Administration has increased funding for care and treatment through the Ryan White Care Act by close to 350% and nearly doubled funding for research and prevention since 1993. In the President's FY 2001 budget request, including:

-- Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, which helps cities and states care for those living with HIV and AIDS is increased by \$125 million, or 8% to \$1.719 billion;

-- AIDS prevention funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is increased by \$65 million to \$795 million;

-- AIDS research funding to the National Institutes of Health is increased by \$89 million to \$2.111 billion;

-- Funding for substance abuse services targeting those at highest risk of HIV infection is increased by \$6 million to \$128 million;

-- The **Housing** Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) Program at the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development is increased to \$260 million, 12% more than last year. ✓

-- In addition, the President has proposed to fully fund the \$750 million authorized for the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Trust Fund, which provides one-time, \$100,000 relief payments to hemophiliacs who contracted HIV from blood solids during the 1980s, and to their eligible family members.

Facts on HIV/AIDS and other Infectious Diseases in Developing Countries:

-- Last year, AIDS killed 2.8 million people in worldwide and is now the single leading cause of death in Africa; HIV-infection rates are soaring in parts of Asia, and Eastern Europe.

-- In Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa, one half of all 15-year-olds will die of AIDS.

-- Thirteen million sub-Saharan African children have now lost one or both of their parents to AIDS; the number will reach 40 million by the end of the decade.

-- Over 8 million children die each year of diseases like malaria, TB, and diarrheal diseases -- more than 3 million of these deaths could be prevented by existing vaccines.

-- Tuberculosis is the single biggest infectious disease killer of adults worldwide and is the leading cause of death of persons with AIDS.

-- Immunization is one of the most cost effective health interventions. It costs only \$15 to immunize a child, yet in developing

countries, children remain 10 times more likely to die of a vaccine preventable disease than those in the industrialized world. Twenty percent of children worldwide lack access to basic immunization services.

-- Only 2% of all global biomedical research is devoted to the major killers in the developing world.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2000

August 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF **HOUSING** AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: Second Chance Homes for Teen Parents

My Administration has made it a key priority to promote personal responsibility, prevent teenage pregnancy, and to provide young people with the educational and employment opportunities necessary to break the cycle of dependency. We know the devastating effects on young people when they become parents too soon -- nearly 80 percent of single teen mothers end up on welfare and only one-third receive a high school diploma or GED. We also know the impact that this has on their children, who are 40 percent more likely to have low birth weights; need 20 percent more health care; and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect. More-over, girls of teen mothers are a third more likely to become teen mothers themselves and boys of teen mothers are nearly 3 times more likely to be incarcerated than boys of mothers who delayed childbearing.

Under my Administration, I have taken bold steps to promote responsibility and prevent teen pregnancy by taking executive action to require young mothers to stay in school or risk losing welfare payments, enacting welfare reform in 1996, strengthening child support enforcement, and launching a National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We know that these efforts are having an impact: teen birth rates have dropped for the eighth year in a row, falling by 20 percent since their most recent peak in 1991 to the lowest levels since we began collecting these data 60 years ago. But we also know that there are still far too many children having children, and we must do more.

To build on this progress and to reach out to teen mothers at risk of a

repeat pregnancy, my FY 2001 budget includes a provision to invest \$25 million in the creation and expansion of "second chance homes." It is critical that we help teen parents who cannot live with their own parents or other relatives gain access to supportive, adult-supervised living arrangements -- second chance homes -- that offer parenting skills, job counseling, education, and other referrals to help reduce the chance of repeat pregnancies and improve the prospects for young mothers and their children. Where appropriate, these programs should also reach out to involve young fathers in responsible parenting, and to help reconnect these teens with their own parents. An early evaluation of the Second Chance Homes program in Massachusetts has demonstrated that second chance homes can reduce the number of repeat pregnancies. Moreover, this study showed that mothers served by second chance homes were more likely to become self-sufficient, complete high school, and to keep their children's immunizations up to date. With approximately 100,000 repeat pregnancies each year, we must do all that we can to help improve the prospects for teen parents and their children.

Therefore, I direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and **Housing** and Urban Development to work together to implement the following actions:

- (1) Within 60 days, issue guidance to nonprofit organizations (both faith-based and other community-based organizations) and State and local governments to create awareness about the second chance home model, highlight States' responsibility to provide access to adult-supervised living arrangements for minor parents who cannot live at home, provide best practices concerning program design, and provide user-friendly information about existing funding sources for both facilities and services costs, for the creation or expansion of second chance homes; ✓
- (2) Create a joint technical assistance effort to help communities interested in establishing or expanding second chance homes; ✓
- (3) Use all available legal authority to provide organizations interested in establishing second chance homes access to foreclosed, underutilized, and surplus real estate or facilities at the maximum allowable discount. The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development should also explore opportunities to increase the availability of Supportive **Housing** Program funds to second chance homes for teen parents; and ✓
- (4) Clarify that teen parents in second chance homes may be eligible for low-income **housing** vouchers and encourage second chance home operators to accept **housing** voucher holders into their programs. ✓

The swift and collaborative implementation of these actions is vital to achieving our goal of helping teen parents take responsibility for their lives and their children's futures.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 25, 2000

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES PROMOTING HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND HOUSING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Today, in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Vice President Gore announced that the Clinton-Gore Administration will launch a series of major new initiatives designed to promote the delivery of home and community-based services and support for people with disabilities.

The initiatives include a new \$50 million investment in FY 2001 to help states more easily offer services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs; new guidance to state Medicaid directors on Medicaid coverage of home and community based services to help them comply with the recent Olmstead Supreme Court ruling; and a new public-private partnership between the Administration and the National Program Office on Self-Determination to help individuals with disabilities in institutions transition into community-based settings. In addition, the Vice President also announced new plans to increase home ownership; extend work incentives for individuals with disabilities to a broader range of housing assistance programs; and promote the development of new assistive technology for people with disabilities. Finally, the Vice President emphasized the Administration's strong support for health care and work incentives legislation of particular importance to people with disabilities, including a Medicare prescription drug benefit, a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights; a \$1,000 tax credit for work-related expenses for people with disabilities and a \$3,000 long term care tax credit for Americans with long-term care needs.

"I am proud of the progress we have made at turning the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act into reality," Vice President Gore said. "I can think of no better way to build on our progress and celebrate this day than by taking steps towards assuring that Americans with disabilities have the opportunity to live and work in their communities if they so choose."

Today, the Vice President will announce new measures to:

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ADA

Enhance State Capacity to Provide Home and Community-Based Services. Declaring that, "no one should have to live in an institution or nursing home if they prefer to live in the community with the right support," the Vice President announced a \$50 million investment by the Administration in FY 2001 to help states develop comprehensive plans to provide services to persons with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. These new grants, proposed today, will be funded from the previously unspecified portion of the health care quality assurance fund announced in this year's midsession review and are identical to those included in the Medicaid Community Attendant Services and Supports Act of 1999. As a condition of receiving funds, states would actively involve people with disabilities and their families in the development of programs enabling people with disabilities to choose where they want to live and receive services. These funds would be used to:

- Conduct intensive outreach efforts to educate people with disabilities about the home and community-based options currently available to them;
- Enhance inter-agency coordination and single point of entry activities; and
- Identify, develop, and implement strategies to modify state policies that result in the unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities rather than the provision of home and community-based services, and implement other system change activities.

Release New Guidance to States on Home and Community-Based Medicaid Coverage Rules Following the Olmstead Supreme Court Decision. Today, the Vice President announced new guidance to states on their responsibilities in the Medicaid program to support the implementation of the Olmstead Supreme Court decision. States and disability advocates have confirmed that the lack of guidance is undermining their ability to rapidly initiate and provide access to essential home and community-based services necessary to be in compliance with Olmstead. It clarifies existing options to: assist people with disabilities in making a successful transition into the community; expand the availability and quality of community-based services; and ensure that home and community-based services are equally available to all qualifying individuals with disabilities. These guidelines will clarify that:

- Individuals do not have to be confined to their homes for personal assistance services to be covered under the Medicaid home health benefit, and that to require people receiving these services to be confined to their homes is a violation of the Medicaid statute;
- States with home and community-based services are allowed to pay for personal assistance services while waiver participants are hospitalized or away from home;
- States can receive Federal funding for targeted case management for individuals leaving institutions for community residences in order to facilitate their access to necessary medical, social, and educational services in the community; and
- States have the option to provide prevocational, educational, and supported employment services under Medicaid waivers to people of all ages in all target groups.

Create a Nearly \$20 Million Investment in a Public-Private Partnership to Help Individuals with Disabilities Transition into Community Living. Today, Vice President Gore announced that HHS and HUD will commit to a new investment, subject to appropriations, of nearly \$20 million over five years in a public-private partnership with the National Project Office on Self Determination. The agencies are committing \$5.5 million for the first year subject to the availability of the appropriation, and are seeking to commit an additional \$14 million over the life of the partnership. This unique partnership, which will also utilize on

multi-million dollar investments already made by these agencies, is entitled Access **Housing** 2000. It will focus on expanding the availability of accessible, affordable **housing** for people with disabilities and providing necessary support to enable individuals with disabilities make the transition from institutional settings to community living.

Expand Incentives for Employment for Individuals with Disabilities to a Broader Range of **Housing** Assistance Programs. The Vice President announced that the Administration will issue a new rule that would expand incentives for employment for people with disabilities, extending earned income disregards, currently applicable only to public **housing**, to tenant-based Section 8 **housing** vouchers, the HOME program, the **Housing** for Opportunities for People with AIDS program, and the Supportive **Housing** for the Homeless program. The Administration is also working on legislative changes to extend the disregards to the remaining **housing** programs. The new rule will also clarify that deductions for disability-related expenses, such as medical or attendant care expenses, are applicable to the entire range of HUD **housing** programs.

Increase Home Ownership for Persons with Disabilities. The Vice President announced that HUD will send guidance to all approved FHA mortgagees emphasizing the agency's commitment to promoting home ownership for persons with disabilities. The letter encourages HUD's lender partners to make home ownership possible for individuals with disabilities through increased, but prudent flexibility when underwriting their loan applications.

Establish a National Mental Health Coalition to Promote Community-Based Services for Individuals with Mental Illnesses and Substance Abuse Disorders. Vice President Gore announced that the Center for Mental Health Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will work with a broad-based group of public and private organizations, constituencies and consumers to create state and local coalitions to assist persons with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders in accessing necessary services.

Develop and Deploy Assistive Technology and Technology that Enables Universal Design. The Vice President announced an Executive Memorandum requiring that the Interagency Committee on Disability Research publish a report identifying priority areas for the development and advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities, and that Federal agencies then develop a strategy for transferring such technology for the benefit of people with disabilities.

Announcements complement the Clinton-Gore Administration's longstanding commitment to providing high quality health care and work incentives for people with disabilities. The Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed several additional initiatives to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive high quality health care and do not face barriers to employment, including:

- Supporting families with long-term care needs through a \$3,000 tax credit. This new tax credit supports the diverse needs of families by compensating a wide range of formal or informal long-term care for people of all ages with three or more limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) or a comparable cognitive impairment. It would provide needed financial support to over 500,000 non-elderly adults.

- Providing a new \$1,000 tax credit to offset some of the formal and informal costs associated with employment for people with disabilities. Eligible workers with disabilities would receive a \$1,000 tax credit beginning in 2000. This would help about 200,000 to 300,000 people, at a cost of \$700 million for 2000-04.

-- Providing a real Medicare prescription drug benefit for people with disabilities. There are five million people with disabilities on Medicare. The Administration has proposed a Medicare prescription drug benefit option that does not rely on private insurers that have failed to extend prescription drug coverage to people with disabilities; is affordable and meaningful; and adequately financed and part of a plan to improve Medicare.

-- Fighting for a real Patients' Bill of Rights. The Clinton-Gore Administration has been fighting for a strong, enforceable, Patients' Bill of Rights for over two years. The Administration has endorsed the Norwood-Dingell legislation, the only bipartisan proposal currently being considered that: protects all Americans in all health plans; requires all health plans to ensure continuity of care for patients in the middle of a course of treatment; prevents patients accessing emergency room care from financial sanctions; guarantees access to necessary and accessible health care specialists; and meaningful enforcement mechanisms that ensure recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of a health plan's actions.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2000

WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION: ANNOUNCING COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S GOALS TO IMPROVE HISPANIC STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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President Clinton unveiled the following commitments by the private and public sectors towards fulfillment of the five national goals for improving Hispanic student achievement and educational attainment over the next decade:

NON-PROFIT COMMITMENTS

2010 Alliance. To close the achievement gap between Latino children and Anglo, African American, and Asian students by 2010, the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, the National Association for Bilingual Education, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Association for Latino Elected and Appointed Officials will join with leaders from the Ford, Irvine, Kellogg, and Hazen foundations and AT&T, Univision, State Farm Insurance, and General Motors Corporation to convene a summit in Washington, D.C. in October 2000 and commit to a collaborative partnership over the next decade to support the Latino achievement agenda announced by President Clinton at the White House Strategy Session.

The Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies (AHAA). The Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies, the national organization of minority-owned and minority-managed advertising firms, will undertake the first integrated Hispanic communications campaign to close the educational achievement gap between Hispanics and the rest of the student population. Entitled "FuturaMente," the project will be executed through two multi-media campaigns: one will educate the parents of 3-4 year-olds about the importance of early education, and the second will encourage high school youth to pursue a career in teaching.

American Library Association (ALA). The American Library Association has committed to establish a literary award for children's literature that reflects the Latino culture and to elevate the award's prestige to the level of the Newberry or Caldecott awards by 2010. Additionally, the ALA will offer model programs for libraries on how to provide excellent

service to the Hispanic community and initiate an outreach campaign to show other organizations how to create similar model programs.

American Association of Museums (AAM). The American Association of Museums is committed to closing the achievement gap by encouraging museums to meet the needs of Hispanic students by providing teacher training, using technology to link to schools with high Hispanic populations, and making curriculum materials available online. AAM will also create a link on its website to provide information on this outreach campaign, publicize the site in its publications, and seek promising practices from museums to highlight on the site and in its publications.

Reach Out and Read. Reach Out and Read, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing parents with information on the importance of language development and literacy during routine well-baby check-ups, will initiate a major outreach campaign to migrant families.

National PTA and the Hispanic Radio Network. The 6.5 million member National PTA and the Hispanic Radio Network, with 100 affiliate stations in the United States, Puerto Rico and Latin America, announce a new partnership to produce a series of one-minute radio programs that will highlight the positive effects of parental participation on student academic achievement, offer ideas to parents on how to promote safe, effective, community-centered schools, and identify resources targeted to Spanish-speaking parents.

CORPORATE COMMITMENTS

Proctor & Gamble. Proctor & Gamble has contributed \$50,000 to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans for the collaborative development and distribution of an "information kit for organizers" to support Latino parents' efforts to secure a quality education for their children. The information kit will be developed in both English and Spanish and will address the following topics: Parents as First Teachers, A Quality Education for All, Heading Towards College, and Making It Happen in Your Community.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Partnership. HACU has partnered with the St. Paul Companies, State Farm Insurance Companies, and the Target Corporation, to initiate a corporate internship program for Hispanic college students throughout the United States, modeled after its successful federal government internship program which places over 500 interns annually.

Scholastic, Inc., Univision and The National Latino Children's Institute. Scholastic, Univision and The National Latino Children's Institute will lead a nationally focused and locally targeted public awareness campaign entitled "Discover the Excitement of Reading" to support Latino families and caregivers in raising their young children's literacy skills and overall student achievement by nurturing and cultivating the love of reading and storytelling; making quality, affordable children's books available to Latino children; encouraging and promoting new Latino authors; and increasing the number of culturally appropriate materials available for Latino children.

Lightspan, Inc. and The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD). Lightspan and HUD will team up to provide educational technology resources to HUD's over 600 Neighborhood Networks centers in public and assisted **housing** communities across the country. To launch this national partnership, Lightspan will provide assistance and customize the on-line content to meet the needs of the residents at 10 Neighborhood Network centers in Hispanic communities. Governor Thomas R. Carper of Delaware is taking the lead in encouraging and facilitating this dynamic partnership in two of the State's HUD Neighborhood Networks.

Washington Mutual, Inc. Washington Mutual Inc., has committed to expand its high school internship program from 6 to 8 states. This program provides 11th and 12th grade students with a two-year internship opportunity consisting of part-time employment in the bank's financial centers and 80 hours of instruction in workforce preparation and consumer education (e.g. interview techniques, dress code, team work, work place ethics, time management, cultural diversity, conflict resolution, money management). Over the past 26 years, the program has served over 37,000 high school students, including 11,000 Hispanic students.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. Sears, Roebuck and Co. will implement a pilot internship/mentoring program in Miami and Los Angeles. The Sears Future Leaders program will target Hispanic high school juniors and seniors who have demonstrated strong academic performance and leadership potential. Participating students will be guaranteed part-time jobs at Sears during holidays and summer breaks for as long as they maintain at least a "C" average in school. They also will be matched up with manager-level volunteer mentors, who will guide the students in learning business literacy and professional conduct. Interns who meet policy guidelines will be offered tuition reimbursement for college.

Discovery Communications, Inc. Discovery en Espanol (DEN) will create five public service announcements (PSAs) that will be run on the channel regularly for a year beginning in October, 2000, and distributed through any other available medium. Each PSA will focus on one of the five national Hispanic Education goals announced by the President at the White House Strategy Session on June 15th. Discovery en Espanol, in partnership with cable operators across the country, will create versions of the PSAs to air in local communities. Discovery en Espanol is a digital channel owned and operated by Discovery Communications, Inc.

FEDERAL AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council of Economic Advisers' Report. The President's Council of Economic Advisers will release a report entitled, "Educational Attainment and Success in the New Economy: An Analysis of Challenges for Improving Hispanic Students' Achievement." The report documents the gaps in educational outcomes for Hispanics and the importance from both an individual and national perspective of improving Hispanic students' educational achievement. In addition, the CEA's report focuses on the need for greater representation of Hispanics in the rapidly growing information technology sector.

Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will establish a scholarship program to increase the number of students entering and graduating from 2- and 4-year Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and encourage students to pursue careers in the U.S. food and agriculture sector. The scholarship will cover educational expenses for students earning degrees ranging from an Associate of Arts through a doctorate. Following graduation, the scholarship recipients must work at USDA for one year for each year of financial assistance received. The program, which will be called the National Hispanic Serving Institutions Scholars Program, will serve up to 30 students during its first year of funding.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

-- Faculty Exchange with Hispanic Serving Colleges and Universities. The Department of Commerce recently entered into agreements with three Hispanic Serving Institutions, covering 36,000 Hispanic students. The agreements will result in professional exchange programs between DOC executives and HSI faculty, make DOC's world-renowned scientists

available to the HSIs as guest lecturers, and permit the Department to enhance its efforts to recruit HSI graduates for DOC employment. In September, DOC will sponsor a mini-conference for HSI presidents, leaders of the Hispanic community, and DOC executives to promote communications among the entities' executives and facilitate progress on the implementation of the MOUs.

-- Directions 2000 Conference. On September 21-22, 2000, the Department of Commerce will sponsor a conference for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to promote minority participation in DOC grants and other financial assistance programs. Over 190 Minority Serving Institutions of higher learning, including a substantial number of HSIs, will be invited to participate in the conference.

Department of Defense (DOD). The Department of Defense will expand its student teaching internship program to increase the number of Hispanic educators in overseas schools, which serve family members of military personnel. The Department has entered into five new partnerships with Hispanic Serving Institutions and will provide round-trip travel expenses to entice exceptional students who are majoring in education at those colleges and universities to complete their student teaching internships in DoD schools overseas.

Department of Education (DoEd)

-- National Goals and Benchmarks for the Next Decade. The U.S. Department of Education will release "Key Indicators of Hispanic Student Achievement: National Goals and Benchmarks for the Next Decade," which provides national goals to guide federal, state, and local educators, policy makers, and community leaders in improving educational access and quality for Hispanic students. This publication also provides indicators of progress in the following areas for schools, communities and states to follow: early childhood education, learning English, closing achievement gaps and the dropout rate, and increasing college completion.

-- The "Idea Book". DoEd is releasing "Helping Hispanic Students Reach High Academic Standards: An Idea Book," which highlights promising strategies used by schools and communities to help Hispanic students succeed in learning, gaining productive employment, and becoming responsible citizens. The "Idea Book" was developed by the U.S. Department of Education as a guide to support schools and communities in designing successful programs that promote high academic achievement among Hispanic students, including using federal funds. The Department will send the Idea Book to the top 100 school districts with the fastest growing Hispanic student populations.

-- Assisting School Districts with Rapidly Growing Hispanic Populations. DoEd, in partnership with the National Association of Bilingual Education, will launch a series of workshops for school districts on strategies for training teachers to address linguistic and cultural diversity in the classroom, effective bilingual education programs, teaching reading to English language learners, and using community-wide resources to meet the needs of new students and their families. The Department will also provide technical assistance for school superintendents and principals, who work in communities that have recently experienced a large increase in Hispanic students, on building partnerships to improve academic performance and increase high school completion rates.

-- New Grants To Support Hispanic Serving Colleges and Universities. DoEd's Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program will provide \$25.8 million for 76 new development grants to enable eligible Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education expand their capacity to serve Hispanic

students and other low-income individuals. The HSIs may use the funds for faculty development, administrative management, and improvement of academic programs, facilities and student services. Hispanic Serving Institutions enroll the majority of all Hispanic students nationally and also provide access for a large number of other disadvantaged students.

-- Title I Outreach Campaign. DoEd will launch an expansive outreach effort to provide more and higher quality services to very young Hispanic children through Title I pre-school programs. The Department will write to all local school districts, encouraging them to use Title I funds for preschool, urging schools to reach out to Hispanic families, and explaining the flexibility in Title I schoolwide programs in selecting participants and in providing services to Hispanic children and their parents. In addition, the Department will prepare policy guidance on the use of Title I funds for preschools with examples of high quality programs serving large numbers of Hispanic preschoolers.

-- Outreach Campaign with the National PTA. Hispanic families, like all others, want their children to achieve high standards and be successful in school. In partnership, the Department of Education and the National PTA will distribute "Vamos Juntos a la Escuela" (Let's Go to School Together), a videotape for Spanish-speaking families and the schools and organizations that serve them. The tape, which will go to PTAs nationwide serving schools with significant populations of Hispanic students, provides basic suggestions about helping children succeed in school, covering subjects such as parent involvement in education, early childhood, reading and mathematics, and preparing young people for college.

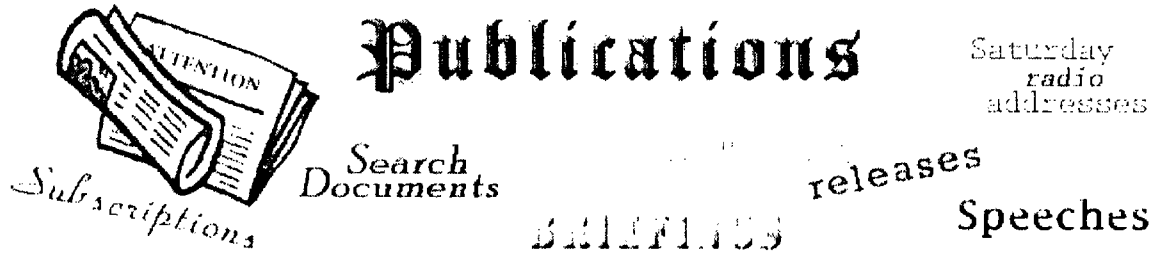
Department of Energy (DOE). For FY 2001, the Department of Energy's Community College Institute (CCI) has committed to quadruple the size of its summer "technical and research" internship program for community college students studying mathematics, science, or other technical subjects. The Department will enhance its internship program by providing additional incentives for interns who agree to mentor other students when they return to their community college after their internships, including reimbursements for textbooks and membership fees and travel expenses to meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) . The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is working in partnership with the Hispanic community to develop and implement an initiative called !!SOY UNICA!! SOY LATINA!! !!I'M UNIQUE!! SOY LATINA!!, a national, comprehensive, multimedia bilingual campaign geared for Hispanics/Latinas age 9 to 14. The initiative will help young girls to build positive self-esteem in order to prevent drug use, and avoid the harmful consequences of emotional and behavioral problems.

HHS, HUD, and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans will work together to provide English and Spanish language materials and educational forums to parents of young children through HUD's Neighborhood Networks and other community-based programs. The parents will receive information on early brain development research, parenting tips, how to access child care subsidies and tax credits, how to choose a child care center, what Head Start has to offer, and other family supports. Starting this summer, this effort will be piloted in six locations across the country serving Latino communities.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Camp David, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

July 13, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ✓

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4425, the Military Construction Appropriations Act, FY 2001, Emergency Supplemental Act, FY 2000, and Cerro Grande Fire Supplemental, which provides funding for military construction and family **housing** programs of the Department of Defense (DoD), and urgently needed supplemental resources.

I am gratified that my Administration and the Congress were able to reach agreement on the FY 2000 supplemental legislation included in H.R. 4425. This important supplemental appropriation provides urgently needed resources to keep the peace and build stability in Kosovo, bolster democracy and reform elsewhere in Southeast Europe, support the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers, provide needed home energy assistance for low-income families, provide further assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd and other natural disasters, including the crisis in Mozambique, and for other purposes.

I commend the Congress for providing the critical resources needed to continue our support for Plan Colombia, President Pastrana's strategy to address Colombia's national security, socioeconomic, and drug-related problems. The \$1.3 billion provided underscores our commitment to support the fight against drug traffickers and benefits the United States by bringing greater peace and prosperity to an important American ally.

Nonetheless, I am concerned that certain provisions of the bill will limit the effectiveness of our assistance. Key initiatives, such as ground-based radar, secure field communications, and force protection are funded at levels below my request. Furthermore, the Congress substituted its own judgement for that of the U.S. and Colombian militaries, and provided funding for only 16 of the 30 Blackhawk helicopters requested for the Colombian Army, providing instead funding for 30 Huey II helicopters. The substitution of Huey IIs for Blackhawks creates logistical and pilot training problems for an already stretched infrastructure in Colombia, and fields a significantly

less capable helicopter for the counterdrug mission.

I am pleased that the bill fully funds our request for military operations in Kosovo. We will work to ensure that the additional resources for readiness, military personnel, natural disaster recovery, defense healthcare, fuel, equipment upgrades, and intelligence support high priority activities within the Department of Defense.

I am disappointed that the bill does not include funding I requested for U.N. peacekeeping operations in the region, requested security and operational needs for embassies in Kosovo, or assistance for economic and democratic reforms in the region. The U.N. mission in Kosovo is performing an extraordinarily difficult but essential task of overseeing civilian administration until the people of Kosovo are able to assume that responsibility themselves. Secure facilities are needed in Kosovo to ensure the security of our employees serving U.S. interests and working to achieve lasting peace in the region. The requested funds support essential civilian infrastructure that would facilitate a prudent exit strategy for Kosovo and achieve long-term stability in the Balkans.

I am also disappointed that the bill does not include requested funding for the multilateral Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt reduction initiative. Debt relief is both a moral imperative and good economics. Each year, most countries eligible for the HIPC initiative spend more on foreign debt service than on health. In many, one in ten children dies before his or her first birthday, one in three is malnourished, the average adult has had only 3 years of schooling, and HIV infection rates are as high as 20 percent. The failure of the Congress to provide this funding will result in delays in implementing debt reduction for qualifying countries, especially those in Latin America that have implemented far-reaching economic reforms. Similarly, while I am pleased that the Congress provided some funding for reconstruction assistance to Mozambique and the other Southern African countries devastated by recent flooding, these countries require additional assistance to recover from natural disasters and continue their progress in implementing economic and democratic reforms.

I am disappointed that requested funding was not provided for a number of other important programs including:

- Projects designated to strengthen our critical infrastructure.
- The Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Trust Fund. This request was part of my plan, announced in the Mid-Session Review Budget, to fully fund the \$750 million Trust Fund by FY 2001. I will work with the Congress to find other ways to achieve this goal. Delay in funding the Trust Fund will mean there will be fewer hemophiliacs with HIV alive to benefit from this program.
- Summer jobs and other education and training opportunities for disadvantaged youth. The request would have ensured that our Nation's young adults were not left behind as States and local areas transition to the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act.

I am pleased that the bill provides \$40 million included in our agreement with the Government of Puerto Rico related to the Navy training facility on the island of Vieques. This will be used for projects that will meet the health, environmental, and economic concerns of the residents as well as fund the referendum to determine the range's future.

I am especially pleased that this legislation includes over \$300 million in relief funds for Hurricane Floyd and other natural disasters. It also includes \$600 million I requested for the Low-Income Home Energy

Assistance Program. This funding will provide needed assistance for low-income families.

The bill provides \$661 million to address the consequences of the fires in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as well as \$350 million for firefighting activities.

While the Congress dropped most of the objectionable riders from the bill, regrettably, the Congress has included several objectionable language provisions:

- Most objectionable is an anti-environmental rider that was not in either the House or Senate version of the bill, which could significantly slow efforts to clean up the 20,000 bodies of water the States have identified as too polluted for fishing or swimming. Before this problematic prohibition became effective, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its final clean water rule, which is the subject of this rider. In the final rule, EPA responded to many of the comments it received, including comments from the States and Members of Congress. The EPA rule grants to the States flexibility in deciding how reductions in water pollution can best be achieved, contains deadlines for the development of State clean water plans and additional time for achieving the pollution reductions States have chosen, and drops provisions that could require new permits for forestry, aquaculture, and animal feeding operations. Moreover, the rule's effective date coincides with the end of the congressional prohibition -- October 1, 2001. This delayed effective date will allow States to develop their plans during FY 2001, under existing clean water rules.
- The bill also includes a rider that would delay until the end of the fiscal year environmental analysis of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water allocations that must be made before major Indian water rights settlements and litigation over the CAP repayment obligation can be finally resolved, thus jeopardizing these important settlements.
- The bill includes riders to Colombia assistance, limiting the use of certain funds to support the initiative, placing caps on U.S. personnel, and requiring detailed certifications concerning Colombian compliance with specific human rights provisions and the Colombian drug eradication strategy. These riders may make it more difficult to provide effective assistance as drug traffickers change their tactics.
- There is also a provision that would create a burdensome reporting requirement for the National Missile Defense Organization.

I am pleased that the Congress has decided not to include statutory language that would have interfered with the Department of the Army's management of the Army Corps of Engineers. The proposed legislative rider would have prevented the Secretary of the Army from clarifying the proper relationship between senior Corps of Engineers officials and the appointed civilian officials of the Army who have responsibility for overseeing the Corps of Engineers' activities. It is important and appropriate that the Congress has retained for these civilian officials, who are confirmed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the means to ensure a clear chain of command necessary for effective organization performance. Weakening this relationship statutorily would raise serious constitutional issues that extend to civilian-military relationships far beyond the Corps of Engineers. I am concerned, however, about language included in the Conference Statement of the Managers setting out certain conditions related to these management issues. As this language does not prevent the Army from proceeding with management improvements, to the extent the Congress has requested additional consultation, this request will be fully honored.

The Congress has also requested that the Army not move forward with these clarifying improvements until ongoing investigations regarding the Army Corps of Engineers are made available and considered. We take this language to refer to the Army Inspector General's investigation of matters related to the Upper Mississippi study, which is the only investigation the Army has underway regarding the Corps of Engineers. I am directing the Secretary of the Army to review potential implications of the Inspector General's investigation for the proposed reforms, to take them into account if relevant, and to consult with the Congress about these investigations as he proceeds with his management improvements.

The Act funds the vast majority of my request for military construction projects, the military **housing** program, and other quality-of-life projects for our military personnel and their families. The requested projects are critical to supporting military readiness and the quality of life of our soldiers and their families. However, I have several concerns with the bill:

-- Continuing a trend of the past few years, the Congress has not provided the requested level of construction funding for the Chemical Weapons Demilitarization program, an important national program. This year's reduction of my funding request by \$20 million threatens the ability of the United States to meet the 2007 Chemical Weapons Convention deadline for the destruction of the U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons. The sooner these weapons are destroyed, the safer we will all be.

-- The Congress has chosen to add funds for projects that DoD has not identified as priorities. In particular, the bill includes \$475 million for 83 projects that are not in DoD's Future Years Defense Program.

-- The Congress has again included a provision (section 124) that would prevent the use of funds provided by this Act for Partnership for Peace Programs in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. Although this provision would have no practical effect in the short term, I believe it could adversely affect U.S. foreign policy initiatives, as well as future NATO-led operations, if it were to become a permanent fixture in future Military Construction Appropriations Acts.

Today, I am designating as emergency requirements the funds -- with two exceptions -- in the Act that the Congress has so designated. The exceptions are for the Department of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management program. The emergency designations are necessary so that urgently needed funds are available for critical needs.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 13, 2000.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 20, 2000

June 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF **HOUSING** AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ✓

SUBJECT: U.S.-Israel Cooperation on Affordable **Housing** and Community Development

In order to enlarge the framework for policy research studies on affordable **housing** and related community development, one of our most pressing domestic problems, and to strengthen relations with the State of Israel for the mutual benefit of the citizens of both countries, I hereby direct the Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development to begin discussions with the Government of Israel on issues pertaining to affordable **housing** and community development, with the aim of establishing a binational commission to structure a cooperative exchange program in this field. The Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development shall convene and chair the American side of this binational commission, and the membership should be composed of experts active in **housing** policy, mortgage markets, residential construction technology, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and related fields of research and practice vital to the health and well-being of towns and cities. All activity undertaken pursuant to this memorandum shall be coordinated with the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I am pleased to announce that new guidance is being released that builds on my Administration's long-standing commitment to reform welfare, reward work, and support working families in their transition from welfare to work. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Transportation are releasing updated guidance on how states and communities can coordinate federal resources to address the transportation challenge in moving people from welfare to work. The guidance provides a variety of innovative strategies that communities can fund, ranging from making public transit more accessible for weekend and evening shifts to helping individuals lease, purchase or repair a car. In addition, the Departments of **Housing** and Urban Development and Health and Human Services are releasing new guidance for **housing** and welfare agencies to work together to help families in public and assisted **housing** move toward self-sufficiency using services, such as job search assistance, mentoring, counseling, transportation, and child care.

A new evaluation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program confirms that promoting and rewarding work has powerful positive impacts on low-income families. The Minnesota results show that welfare reform can substantially increase employment, reduce poverty, decrease levels of domestic abuse, and improve children's behavior and school performance when states combine strong work requirements with investments in supports for low-income working families. Employment and earnings impacts were especially large for families in public and assisted **housing**. This research also found that welfare reform can increase marriage rates and marital stability among low-income families.

These results highlight the importance of the interagency guidance on **housing** and transportation released today and the need for continued investments to support working families. I call on the Congress to enact my budget proposals to support working families: expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, improving access to affordable and quality child care, expanding health care for low-income working families, providing more **housing** vouchers for hard-pressed working families,

helping more low-income families get to work by making it easier for them to own a car or obtain public transportation, and helping more low-income fathers work and support their children.

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For Immediate Release

May 23, 2000 ✓

Details of the New Markets / Renewal Communities Agreement

NEW MARKETS INITIATIVES: This proposals have been constructed with the assistance of the many Members of Congress that are listed as cosponsors below and with substantial input from the Congressional Black Caucus led by Rep. Clyburn and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus led by Rep. Roybal-Allard.

New Markets Tax Credit. The deal includes the President's New Markets Tax Credit to spur \$15 billion in new private equity investment for business growth in our nation's inner cities and isolated rural communities. -- Investors in eligible funds would receive a tax credit worth in present value terms more than 30 percent of the amount invested. Investors would take a 5 percent credit for the first 3 years of investment, and 6 percent for the next 4 years. -- Eligible funds would include a wide range of entities, including community development banks and other community development financial institutions, venture funds, for-profit subsidiaries of community development corporations, America's Private Investment Companies and New Markets Venture Capital Firms. -- The New Markets Tax Credit would be widely available on a competitive basis to funds serving low- and moderate-income communities around the country, those with census tracts with poverty rates of at least 20 percent or median family income which does not exceed 80 percent of area income. -- The proposal costs \$1 billion over 5 years and \$4.5 billion over 10 years. -- The President's proposal had been introduced by Representatives Rangel and Senators Robb and Rockefeller. Important House leadership has also come from Reps. Becerra, Jefferson, Kanjorski, Matsui, Waters, Velasquez, and Rep. Norton, with 38 co-sponsors. In the Senate, the bill has 13 co-sponsors.

America's Private Investment Companies (APICs): This HUD/SBA legislative proposal will create investment funds with minimum private capital of \$25 million (which is eligible for the New Markets Tax Credit), that could then borrow twice that amount at government-guaranteed rates and spur \$1.5 billion in private investment. -- APICs would be structurally similar to the existing SBA Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program, and the Investment Funds of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, but would generally be much larger. -- APICs would fund larger businesses, such as new back office operations, plant expansions,

and conversions of old facilities into modern industrial "incubators" for smaller businesses. Currently, there are few, if any, sources of long-term risk capital for these landmark investments in most poorer communities. -- The agreement authorizes HUD to guarantee up to \$1B in low-cost loans that will match \$500 million in private investors' contribution, to make a total of \$1.5 billion available to invest in low- and moderate-income communities. -- House sponsors include Representatives LaFalce, Kanjorski, Leach, Vento, Lazio, Waters, and Jefferson.

New Markets Venture Capital Firms (NMVC): This SBA legislative proposal would create a new class of venture capital funds that target a lower rate of return (e.g., 10%) and provide more hands-on management assistance to their small business portfolio investments. -- NMVCs would target smaller firms with growth prospects that do not currently have sufficient equity base. -- NMVCs must have \$5 million minimum in private equity, plus \$1.5 million in cash or in-kind commitments raised from private sources to provide operating and management assistance. For investment capital, the SBA would provide up to \$1.50 in low-cost loans for each \$1 that private investors contribute. The SBA would also match privately raised operating assistance one-to-one. -- The agreement authorizes SBA to guarantee up to \$150 million in loans to match \$100 million in private equity, for a total of \$250 million in investment capital for these communities. In addition, the agreement authorizes SBA to make \$30 million in grants to match private commitments for operating assistance to the NMVC's portfolio companies. -- Lead advocates in the House include Reps. Velasquez and Talent. Senate sponsors include Sens. Kerry, Wellstone, Bingaman, Levin, and Cleland.

EMPOWERMENT ZONES:

Empowerment Zones. The agreement authorizes the designation of 9 new Empowerment Zones, bringing the total number to 40 EZs, and extends the duration of the EZ designation in all 40 EZs to 2009. -- In all EZs, the following incentives are available: -- Wage credit equal to 20 percent on the first \$15,000 of qualified wages per employee; -- Authority to issue tax-exempt bonds to promote business development; -- Incentives for EZ business investment by permitting EZ businesses to deduct an additional \$35,000 in capital expenditures; -- Zero-rate on capital gains rolled over to another EZ business investment, and a 60 percent exclusion of capital gains derived from small business stock. -- The agreement includes \$200 million in discretionary investment for existing "Round 2" Empowerment Zones. -- The EZ provision also includes an extension through 2009 of the Empowerment Zone incentives for the District of Columbia. -- The EZ provisions cost \$2 billion over 5 years and \$4 billion over 10 years. -- The President's proposal had been introduced by Representative Rangel. Other key leaders include Reps. Clyburn, Jefferson, and Lobiondo in the House and Sens. Daschle, Dorgan, Torricelli in the Senate. Key leadership for the discretionary funding has come from Reps. DeLauro and Meek (FL), and Senator Robb.

RENEWAL COMMUNITIES:

Creation of Renewal Communities: These newly created Renewal Communities will be available in 40 competitively-selected communities that meet certain criteria showing economic distress in the community. "Renewal Communities" will have the following incentives: -- Zero rate on capital gains derived from businesses located in the renewal communities; -- Wage credit equal to 15 percent on the first \$10,000 of qualified wages per employee; -- Incentives for RC business investment by permitting RC businesses to deduct an additional \$35,000 in capital expenditures; -- Commercial revitalization tax deduction to promote commercial development; -- Sponsors of the House Renewal Communities include Rep. Watts, Talent, and Davis (IL).

EXPANSION OF THE LOW INCOME **HOUSING** TAX CREDIT: ✓

Low Income **Housing** Tax Credit. The deal includes the President's proposal to expand the low income **housing** tax credit by 40 percent, from \$1.25 per capita to \$1.75 per capita, and to index the credit for inflation thereafter. -- The tax credit, which is administered by the states, currently helps to build 90,000 affordable **housing** units each year, but demand for the credits outstrips supply by three to one, and more than 5 million low income Americans live in inadequate **housing**. -- The proposal would help create an additional 180,000 units of affordable **housing** over the next five years for low-income families. -- The proposal costs \$1 billion over 5 years and \$6 billion over 10 years. -- The President's proposal had been introduced by Representatives Rangel and Johnson, with 372 co-sponsors in the House, including most members of the Ways & Means Committee. Senator Mack introduced the Senate version, with 78 co-sponsors.

ALLOWING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO QUALIFY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE FUNDS:

The provisions included in this agreement will allow faith-based organizations to qualify for substance abuse prevention and treatments funds on the same basis as other non-profit organizations. -- Both the President and Vice President believe that faith-based and community-based organizations can play an important and constructive role in addressing some of our nation's most pressing problems, including preventing and treating substance abuse. At the same time, the Administration has been clear that the "charitable choice provisions" included in this agreement and in other legislation the President has signed can and must be construed and implemented consistent with the constitutional line between church and state. -- The provisions are substantially similar to the charitable choice provisions included in the welfare reform law signed by the President in 1996 and in the substance abuse bill that passed the Senate on a bipartisan basis last fall.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2000 ✓

CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION 2001 BUDGET PROPOSALS: FOSTERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to bringing economic prosperity to the Mississippi Delta region and other areas of the country which have not benefited from the nation's soaring economy. In the Delta region, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and over half of the counties have had poverty rates over 20 percent for the past four decades. The per capita income in the Delta's distressed communities is only 53 percent of the U.S. average. To address these problems, the President's 2001 budget proposes \$159 million to increase specifically economic opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, including \$30 million to create a new Delta Regional Authority to bring the resources of a federal-state partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help provide the infrastructure and job training needed to make prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Establishing a Delta Regional Authority

Targeting Distressed Areas: The Delta Regional Authority's funding will be targeted to the counties with the highest poverty and unemployment rates, and lowest per capita income. The DRA will include: -- \$25 million for area development such as distressed counties programs, physical infrastructure and job training; -- \$3 million for assistance to participating state and local economic development entities; and -- \$2 million for technical assistance and administrative expenses.

Fostering a Coordinated Effort: The Delta Regional Authority will foster close coordination between State and local officials and the Federal government, led by the Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President. The Governors of the seven member States will serve as DRA members, with one Governor elected to serve as the States' Co-Chair. This can be accomplished through authorizing legislation that has been introduced in the House and Senate.

Providing \$107 Million in Targeted Economic Development Assistance for the Delta Region

Supporting Rural **Housing** and Economic Development: The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development will provide \$22 million in Community Development Block Grants to support rural **housing** and economic development. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process for economic revitalization and community development initiatives in the Delta region. ✓

Improving Public Works and Infrastructure: The Commerce Department will provide \$10 million through targeted Economic Development Administration funding for public works and infrastructure grants. These grants require a State or local match, except in extremely distressed communities.

Increasing Funds for Transportation Improvements: The Transportation Department will provide a total of \$69 million in funding targeted to the Delta region, including: -- \$48 million for new bridge and highway infrastructure in the Delta, including \$25 million specifically for I-69 and the Great River Bridge; -- \$20 million in transit funds, consisting of \$15 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program for public transit buses and bus facilities to provide affordable transportation and \$5 million from FTA's Access to Jobs and Reverse Commute Grants to promote vanpools, new bus routes, and other transportation alternatives; and -- \$1 million from Federal Highway Administration administrative funds for technical assistance, including training on Federal programs and developing a tourism marketing plan and a regional transportation plan -- with efforts toward these goals to begin this year.

Supporting Rural Business: The Department of Agriculture will provide \$6 million in funding to support rural businesses, including: -- \$4 million for the Intermediary Relending Program, which finances loans to intermediary borrowers who in turn re-lend the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, and others for the purpose of improving rural economic opportunity--the \$4 million represents loan subsidy costs and would support a loan level of \$8 million; and -- \$2 million for Partnership Technical Assistance grants, to help underserved communities create strategic plans, better use USDA's Rural Development grant and loan programs, create jobs, improve the quality of life, and build strong, sustained economic growth. These grants will be run through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

Investing \$22 Million in the People of the Delta Region

Providing Training for Dislocated Workers: The Department of Labor will provide resources through the Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Program, which provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help dislocated workers return to work as quickly as possible. The Labor Department will partner with the Departments of Commerce, **Housing** and Urban Development, Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services to support the Delta Regional Authority activities by providing as much as \$5 million in dislocated worker grants for qualified applications from the seven states and 219 counties comprising the Mississippi Delta region.

Providing Technology Training for Teachers: The Education Department will provide \$10 million for a targeted demonstration project to provide technology training to middle-school teachers in the seven-state Mississippi Delta region. Research suggests that middle school is an especially critical time for students to learn the technology-related skills they will need to succeed in today's economy. The program will use a "train-the-trainers" approach by training a small number of teachers from each school who can then be technology leaders, serve as resident experts, and assist other teachers in their schools or districts.

Increasing Access to Quality Health Services: The Department of Health and Human Services will provide \$7 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Outreach program for grants to fund rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta region. This request will fund up to 30 new Rural Health Outreach grants, and will support a wide range of services in the Delta region including primary care, dental care, mental health services and emergency care. Each grant will require participation by a consortium of three or more providers, which will encourage the development of shared services arrangements among providers and new networks of care in the Delta region.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2000

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION: A 7-YEAR RECORD OF
PROMOTING GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE DELTA REGION ✓
May 10, 2000

Since taking office, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been committed to tapping the potential of the Mississippi Delta region. Even before 1993, as Governor of Arkansas, the President led the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission in its efforts to bring social and economic prosperity to a region which has historically been left behind. The President and Vice President have targeted resources and investments and worked with states, localities, and the private sector to bring capital, jobs, and opportunity to the Delta region. The following are highlights of the Clinton-Gore Administration's 7-year record of working to revitalize Delta communities:

Providing Infrastructure Improvements to Promote Growth. Investments in infrastructure are critical to economic growth and the quality of life in the Delta region. The Clinton-Gore Administration has made investing in infrastructure a priority in its efforts to bring economic development to the region.

-- Improving Highways. The Federal Highway Administration has worked closely with state governments to ensure a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure within the Delta region. Federal funding has contributed to numerous improvements in highways, roads, and other infrastructure. For example, over the last decade, Arkansas has received approximately \$140 million to complete 120 miles of highway reconstruction, surfacing, widening and other projects in Delta counties. Many more projects are underway, including strengthening and retrofitting the Interstate 40-Mississippi River Bridge, reducing congestion on the heavily traveled Interstate 55 in Memphis, and widening many arterial highways in the rural parishes of the Delta region.

-- Maintaining Airport Quality and Safety. The Federal Aviation Administration has provided over \$411 million in financial assistance to 81 airports in the Delta region from 1993 to 1999, helping to construct,

develop and maintain the region's airports. Funding is used for projects which enhance the safety and quality of the airports and their surroundings, including improving runways and taxiways, remodeling terminals, and acquiring land for noise compatibility.

-- Improving Water Quality Projects. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund supports low-interest loans to help communities build and upgrade sewage treatment plants and other wastewater systems. Since 1994, the Fund has provided over \$1.1 billion in low-cost financing to the seven Delta states for a range of water quality infrastructure projects.

-- Providing Telephone Service. USDA's Rural Utilities Service has provided first-time telephone service to over 8,200 rural residents of the Delta region. In addition, approximately \$154 million in RUS funding has brought improved telecommunications to more than 77,000 Delta residents.

-- Expanding Health Care Access and Education. In addition to funding traditional infrastructure projects, the Rural Utilities Service's Distance Learning and Telemedicine program provided \$9.8 million in grants and loans to 800,000 Delta residents for improvements in access to health care and educational opportunities in the health care field.

-- Preserving the Mississippi River's Culture and History. In 1998, President Clinton designated the Lower Mississippi River as an American Heritage River to help restore and protect the environmental, economic, cultural, and historic values of the river. A "river navigator" is appointed to help Mississippi river communities identify federal programs and resources that can assist them in implementing their restoration plans.

Investing in Economic Development for the Delta's Future. Through providing access to capital, job training, and small business assistance, the Clinton-Gore Administration has invested in the long-term economic development and prosperity of the Delta region.

-- Establishing Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. In 1994, under Vice President Gore's leadership, the Administration announced the creation of five urban and eight rural EZs and ECs in the Delta region, accounting for nearly one-fourth of all rural EZ/ECs announced that year. The success of the program led to another EZ being added in 1999. EZ/ECs help spur economic growth through sustainable development, local leadership, long-range planning, and community-based partnerships. From 1994 to the beginning of 1999, the Delta's rural communities drew over \$10.2 million from their EZ/EC funding, and used it to leverage \$107.4 million -- 0 times as much -- from state, local, business, and nonprofit sources.

-- Stimulating Economic Development. The Economic Development Administration works with local governments and community groups in the Delta region to generate new jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth. Since the beginning of the Administration, the Delta region has received over \$47 million in EDA Title IX funds for projects like the Technology Economic Development Center in Madisonville, KY, a community facility offering distance learning, job training and employment services to dislocated workers and others.

-- Encouraging Community Development. Community Development Block Grants are competitively awarded to cities, counties, and states to revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable **housing** and economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services, primarily to benefit low- and moderate-income persons. From 1993 to 1999, the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development has provided \$944 million in Community Development Block Grants to support rural **housing** and economic

development in the Delta region.

-- Supporting Rural Business. Under USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities, Rural Business, and Water & Wastewater programs, the 219-county Delta region has received approximately \$961 million in funding since 1993. These funds are used for rural development projects like establishing community resource centers, constructing or upgrading water distribution systems; and providing loan guarantees to local businesses.

Strengthening Delta Families and Delta Communities. Some of the most vital investments are those made in the people and communities of the Delta -- improving access to technology, affordable **housing**, and clean water are just a few of the Administration's efforts to improve the quality of life for Delta residents.

-- Targeting Education Funds. Federal education funds targeted to the Delta's high-poverty school districts have helped give students access to computers and the Internet. The Department of Education allocated over \$350 million in fiscal year 1998 alone to high-poverty school districts in the Delta. Under the Vice President's leadership, the Clinton-Gore Administration created the E-rate program, which secures low-cost Internet connections for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, benefiting more than 80 percent of America's public schools. Between January 1998 and June 1999, the seven Delta states received over \$256 million in E-rate funding. And under President Clinton's Class Size Reduction Initiative, the Department of Education provided more than \$50 million to the Delta region last year to hire approximately 1,500 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades.

-- Helping Families Buy or Rent Homes. USDA has provided \$2.2 billion in loans under its Single-Family **Housing** Loan Program to 43,000 Delta households to buy or improve their homes. For rental **housing**, USDA provided more than \$254 million in low-interest loans on more than 10,000 rental units in rural areas of the Delta. ✓

-- Supporting Affordable **Housing**. Since President Clinton took office, the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development has provided \$260 million to the Delta region through the HOME Program, which helps state and local governments produce standard affordable **housing** for low- and very low-income families. ✓

-- Providing Opportunity and Training Workers. The Clinton-Gore Administration has provided significant resources to increase training for dislocated workers, families on welfare, and disadvantaged youth. Since 1993, the Administration has provided the seven Delta states with \$6.1 billion for Job Training Partnerships, \$267.8 million for Welfare-to-Work grants, \$27.4 million for the Youth Opportunity program, and \$239 million in Job Corps to provide training for disadvantaged youth.

-- Accelerating Brownfields Clean-Up. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to accelerate the cleanup of brownfields -- abandoned, contaminated urban properties that face barriers to redevelopment. Since 1994, the EPA has steered more than \$1.5 million to the Delta region to assess, clean up, and redevelop abandoned brownfields sites, creating new jobs and a new tax base for dozens of Delta communities.

-- Helping Communities Provide Clean Drinking Water. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, proposed by President Clinton and enacted in 1996, supports low-interest loans to help communities build and upgrade their water treatment systems. Since 1993, the EPA has provided the Delta region with \$39.1 million through the Fund.

-- Reducing Water Pollution. Clean Water Act Section 106 grants are a primary source of funding for the prevention, reduction, and elimination of surface and groundwater pollution from point and nonpoint sources, and for improving the health of the nation's waters. The seven Delta states have received \$72.7 million in Section 106 grants since 1994.

-- Controlling Polluted Runoff. Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source grants are provided to states for a variety of projects to control polluted runoff, including streambank restoration, wetlands protection, and education. Over \$138 million in Nonpoint Source grants have been awarded since 1994 to the seven Delta states.

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