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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 18, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE, AND CONGRESSIONAL
DEMOCRATS WIN ON THE BUDGET, BUT CONGRESS STILL NEEDS TO DO
MORE WORK TO ADDRESS AMERICA'S PRIORITIES
November 18, 1999 ✓

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OVERVIEW: PRESIDENT CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE, AND
CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS WIN ON THE BUDGET, BUT CONGRESS STILL
NEEDS TO DO MORE WORK TO ADDRESS AMERICA'S PRIORITIES
November 18, 1999

Protecting Fiscal Discipline and Paying Down the Debt. The budget

agreement represents a victory for President Clinton's stand for fiscal discipline. Between 1981 and 1992, the debt quadrupled. In 1992 the deficit was \$290 billion and projected to rise to over \$400 billion in 1999. As a result of the tough and sometimes unpopular choices made by President Clinton in 1993 and 1997, we have seen seven consecutive years of fiscal improvement for the first time in America's history, bringing last year's budget to a unified surplus of \$123 billion -- the largest ever. Throughout the year, the Republicans have been proposing fiscally irresponsible tax cuts that would have jeopardized this record of fiscal discipline. In September, the President vetoed a Republican tax cut that would likely have drained hundreds of billions of dollars of the Social Security surplus from debt reduction. As a result of the President's stand, America will stay on course to pay off the debt held by the public by 2015 -- for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President.

A Victory for America's Students. After vetoing a Congressional budget that denied funding to priority education and training investments, President Clinton and Vice President Gore delivered on their ambitious education agenda.

- **More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Class Sizes:** Following on a new initiative by the President last year, the budget agreement includes \$1.3 billion for a bipartisan plan to help reduce class size in the early grades by hiring 100,000 quality teachers over the next six years.
- **Double Funding for After School:** \$453 million for after school, providing support to 675,000 students -- 375,000 more than last year.
- **GEAR UP:** A 67 percent increase to \$200 million for the President's GEAR UP initiative, which helps 482,000 students aspire to and prepare for college -- the second year of this new initiative.
- **Accountability for the Lowest Performing Schools:** \$134 million in Title I funds to help turn around the worst-performing schools and hold them accountable for results.
- **Expanded Head Start:** A \$607 million increase for Head Start to serve an additional 44,000 children. Total funding is \$5.3 billion -- 90 percent higher than 1993.
- **Hispanic Education Agenda:** \$436 million in increases for a number of education programs that help to improve the educational achievement and high dropout rates of Latino students.
- **Largest Pell Grant Maximum Award Ever:** Increased to \$3,300 -- a 43 percent increase since 1993.

Fighting Crime, Drugs, and Guns. To keep crime coming down to record lows, President Clinton fought for important investments in the budget to build on the Administration's successful community policing initiative, including funds to put more police on the street and critical resources to strengthen law enforcement efforts to keep communities safe.

- **More Police for Our Streets:** The budget contains full funding for the first installment toward the President's goal to hire up to 50,000 more police officers for our Nation's streets by 2005. The initiative builds on the President's successful COPS program that has already funded 100,000 police officers to help keep America's streets safe.

Investing in a Cleaner Environment. President Clinton and Vice President Gore won significant gains for the environment in the fiscal year 2000 budget, including new resources to combat water pollution,

protect wildlife, address global warming, and preserve precious lands across the country. At the same time, the President and Vice President forced Congress to drop or substantially modify dozens of anti-environmental riders that would have rolled back hard-won environmental safeguards and benefited special interests at the expense of our public lands.

- Preserving Our Lands Legacy: The President and Vice President won \$651 million for Lands Legacy, a 42 percent increase for this historic initiative that strengthens federal efforts to preserve natural treasures and provides communities with new resources to protect local green spaces.

Maintaining America's Global Leadership. The Republican Congressional budget would have turned its back on America's leading role in the world by not providing funds for peace in the Middle East, leadership at the United Nations, economic development in the poorest countries, and efforts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. The President fought for and secured victories to strengthen America's leading role in the world - by meeting our commitment to the Middle East peace process, paying our dues and arrears to the United Nations, making a critical investment in debt relief for impoverished countries, funding efforts to safeguard nuclear weapons and expertise from the former Soviet Union, and help raise labor standards around the world.

Empowering Families and Communities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to tapping the potential of America's urban and rural communities. This budget moves forward on their vision to help revitalize America's communities and empower families.

- Funding 60,000 New **Housing** Vouchers for America's Hard-Pressed Working Families.
- Additional Funding for Empowerment Zones: The budget provides \$55 million in funding for Urban Empowerment Zones and \$15 million for Rural Enterprise Zones and Enterprise Communities.
- Continuing To Build a Network Of Community Development Banks Across the Nation: The final budget includes \$95 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund.

Progress on the New Markets Initiative: In his State of the Union, President Clinton proposed to bring more private investment to all areas of the United States. The President and Congressional Leaders have agreed to work together to enact bipartisan legislation to help spur economic development in urban and rural communities that have not shared fully in the benefits of the nation's strong economy. The New Markets initiative enjoys bipartisan support.

- Funding America's Private Investment Companies (APICs): Provides \$20 million of funding for APICs (subject to authorization), a key element of the President's New Markets Initiative, that would leverage \$800 million of new investment in underserved areas.
- New Markets Venture Capital Program: Provides, subject to authorization, \$16.5 million in funding for New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs) and BusinessLINC to bring equity capital and technical assistance to small businesses in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Addressing Health Care. The President won a \$34.5 billion investment in health programs, 11.7 percent above the FY 1999 enacted level, to strengthen the public health infrastructure, provide critical prevention and treatment services to individuals with mental illness, and advance biomedical research with a historic investment of \$2.3 billion.

- Passing the landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act for people with disabilities: Since 1998, the President has advocated for the passage of the bipartisan Jeffords-Kennedy-Roth-Moynihan Work Incentives Improvement Act. Currently, people with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work, forcing a choice between health care and employment. This legislation allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work. It also includes a \$250 million demonstration, which the President insisted on fully funding, that allows people with disabilities who are still working and are not yet sufficiently disabled to qualify for Medicaid to buy into the program. Finally, the bill reforms the training system for people with disabilities.

Responding to the Farm Crisis: The Agriculture Appropriations bill included \$8.6 billion in emergency funds to assist our Nation's farmers and ranchers who are suffering through the second year in a row of low commodity prices and, for many, crop and livestock losses from severe drought and flooding. The final budget includes over \$550 million more to fulfil the unmet needs identified by the President, including significant funds targeted to hurricane-affected areas, increased crop loss payments for all producers, and over \$2.5 billion in additional farm loans to help producers secure financing for next year's crop. The President and Vice President remain concerned that Congress did not address the underlying issues that exist in the wake of Freedom to Farm legislation and that more needs to be done.

A Strong Research and Development Agenda: The final budget included an unprecedented commitment to key civilian research. The final budget increases the President's "21st Century Research Fund" for civilian research programs by more than \$3 billion. It also includes a five year extension of the Research and Experimentation tax credit.

- National Science Foundation: A 6.6 percent increase in support for science and engineering research and education.
- National Institutes of Health: Provides \$2.3 billion, a 15 percent increase over FY 1999 funding levels to build on the President's commitment to biomedical research.
- Information Technology: The final budget includes more than \$80 million in funding for the Next Generation Internet and \$235 million for the Administration's "Information Technology for the 21st Century" initiative.

Much Work Still Left To Do In the waning days of the session, the President and Congressional Democrats prevailed in making critical investments to advance the President's comprehensive education agenda, put more police on the streets, protect the environment, and strengthen America's leading role in the world. But much work still remains to be done.

- Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation: Congress must pass a bipartisan juvenile crime bill that includes strong gun measures to: close the gun show loophole; require child safety locks for handguns; ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips; and bar violent juveniles from owning guns for life.
- Passing a Strong, Enforceable, Patients' Bill of Rights: During the past two years, the President has exercised his executive authority to extend critical patient protections to over 85 million Americans. But ultimately, the only way to ensure that all Americans in all plans have basic consumer protections is to enact a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights.

- Strengthening Social Security: The Republicans have proposed so-called "lockbox" legislation that would not add a single day to the life of Social Security; the President has asked them to join him in using the benefits of fiscal discipline to extend the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050.
- Modernizing and Strengthening Medicare: Although members of both parties joined the President and Vice President in the effort to adjust Medicare health care provider payments, Congress failed to address the growing challenges that Medicare faces. These challenges include modernizing it with a long overdue, optional prescription drug and giving Medicare the adequate resources and tools to be as efficient as possible.
- Reducing Youth Smoking: President Clinton and Vice President Gore have made passage of comprehensive tobacco legislation to reduce youth smoking a top priority in order to stop kids from smoking before they start, through a significant price increase, measures to prevent tobacco companies from marketing to children, and critical public health prevention and education programs.
- Expanding Federal Hate Crimes Laws: The President and Vice President have called for a bill that would make it easier to prosecute crimes based on race, color, religion and national origin; and that would also include crimes based on sexual orientation, gender and disability.
- Providing for Long-term Care Assistance for Those With Chronic Illnesses and Their Families: Despite proposals by the President and bipartisan support from many members of Congress, the Congress has failed to respond and lost an opportunity to provide critical assistance for this population.
- Providing Health Options for Older Americans: Although the number of uninsured Americans aged 55 to 65 is growing faster than any other age group, Congress refused to act on the President's proposals to expand health options for older Americans
- Encouraging Small Businesses to Offer Health Insurance: The President has urged Congress to provide new health insurance options for vulnerable Americans employed by small businesses.
- Continuing to Help People Move From Welfare to Work: Although the Congress enacted eligibility changes similar to those proposed by the President to allow states, tribes and communities to more effectively serve low-income fathers and hard-to-employ welfare recipients, Congress failed to provide any new funding.
- Raising the Minimum Wage: The Congress has failed to pass a clean, straightforward bill to increase the minimum wage by \$1 over two years - a step that would simply restore it to the 1982 inflation-adjusted level. Instead, the Senate attached the minimum wage increase to fiscally irresponsible tax giveaways for special interests.
- Expanding Trade and Providing Opportunity for Africa and the Caribbean Basin: Congress should complete work on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. This legislation would be an important milestone in America's effort to build a new economic relationship with Sub-Saharan Africa and deepen ties with our Caribbean and Central American neighbors.
- Supporting Southeast Europe's Economic Development and Integration: Congress should pass the Southeast Europe Trade Preference Act submitted by the President, which would authorize expansion of duty-free treatment to a broad range of imports from the region for five years as part of an effort to strengthen stability and prevent further conflict in the

Balkans by facilitating long-term economic growth.

- Promoting Peacekeeping: While the budget goes a long way in meeting the anticipated requirements for funding UN peacekeeping operations around the world, the Congress did not fund the full requests. To promote peace and encourage burden-sharing, Congress should fully fund UN peacekeeping efforts.

- School Construction: The President's school construction proposal would provide funding to help states and school districts build and modernize 6,000 schools nationwide. Congress should pass the President's plan and invest in our nation's schoolchildren.

- Enacting Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform: This year, the Congress failed once again to adopt real, meaningful reform of our campaign finance system. The President will continue to fight for comprehensive campaign finance reform and believes that the Senate should act to restore the public's faith in our political process.

- Child Care Initiative. The Republicans refused to support the President's historic child care initiative to make child care better, safer, and more affordable for America's working families.

- Farm Assistance. The President and Vice President were pleased to get \$8.6 billion in emergency assistance to farmers and ranchers, but they believe that Congress still needs to address the underlying issues that exist in the wake of Freedom to Farm legislation.

- Providing Fairness to Immigrant Families. Congress has failed to take action to provide fairness to immigrant families.

- Continuing to Empower Communities: The \$70 million funding for EZs and ECs represents less than half of the amounts authorized. The President and Vice President are committed to seeking full funding for the remaining eight years of this program.

A VICTORY FOR AMERICA'S STUDENTS
November 18, 1999

	HOUSE GOP BUDGET*	FINAL BUDGET AGREEMENT	DIFFERENCE
Class Size Reduction	\$0**	\$1.3 billion	+\$1.3 billion
After-School Programs	\$300 million	\$453 million	+\$153 million
GEAR UP	\$0	\$200 million	+\$200 million
Title I Grants to LEAs	\$7.732 billion	\$7.941 billion	+\$209 million

Accountability Set-aside/ Title I	\$0	\$134 million***	+\$134 million
Head Start	\$4.760 billion	\$5.267 billion	+\$507 million
Education Technology	\$500 million	\$769 million	+\$269 million
Teacher Quality Enhancement	\$75 million	\$98 million	+\$23 million
Safe and Drug Free Schools	\$566 million	\$606 million	+\$40 million
Charter Schools	\$130 million	\$145 million	+\$15 million
Reading Excellence	\$200 million	\$260 million	+\$60 million
Adult Education	\$378 million	\$470 million	+\$92 million
Work Study	\$880 million	\$934 million	+\$64 million
Learning Anytime Anywhere	\$0	\$24 million	+\$24 million
Hispanic Educ. Action Plan ****	\$43 million	\$436 million	+\$393 million

*Based on the Labor/Health and Human Services and Education bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee on September 23, 1999. This bill provided \$33.321 billion for all education programs, compared to \$35.701 billion in the final budget agreement.

**House bill eliminated the class size program by absorbing it in a block grant that dedicated no funding specifically for class size reduction.

***The Title I set-aside for accountability is also included in the Title I grants to LEAs.

****These figures represent increase over FY 1999. HEAP figures also include increase to Title I.

PROGRESS ON AMERICA'S PRIORITIES
November 18, 1999

Protecting Fiscal Discipline and Paying Down the Debt

The budget agreement represents a victory for President Clinton's stand for fiscal discipline. As a result of the President's commitments, America will stay on course to pay off the debt held by the public by 2015 -- for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President.

- o Debt Quadrupled Between 1981 and 1992: Between 1981 and 1992, the debt held by the public quadrupled. The budget deficit grew to \$290 billion in 1992 -- and was projected to grow to more than \$400 billion by 1999.
- o President's Tough Choices Led to Largest Surplus Ever: As a result of the tough and sometimes unpopular choices made by President Clinton in 1993 and 1997, we have seen seven consecutive years of fiscal improvement for the first time in America's history, bringing last year's budget to a unified surplus of \$123 billion -- the largest ever.
- o The President Stopped Republican Attempts to Reverse this Fiscal Discipline: Throughout the year, the Republican Congress took steps that would have threatened our fiscal discipline. These were stopped by the President, who vetoed the Republican's fiscally irresponsible and exploding tax cut.
- o In January, Republicans Proposed a Tax Cut that Would Have Spent the Social Security Surplus: H.R. 3 and S. 3 called for an across-the-board 10 percent reduction in income tax rates. According to Joint Committee on Taxation Estimates, this proposal would have cost \$58 billion in 2000 -- using tens of billions of dollars from the Social Security surplus this year. In the first five years, this tax cut would have cost \$360 billion -- much more than could be paid for out of the non-Social Security surplus, then projected at \$165 billion by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).
- o In August, Republicans Passed a Tax Cut that Would Likely Have Spent the Social Security Surplus: In August, the Republican Congress passed a \$792 billion tax cut that, if continued, would have used virtually all of CBO's projected surplus over the next 10 years. It would have used growing amounts of the Social Security surplus every year after 2004. This tax cut was based on a budget plan that would have required nearly 50 percent cuts in all domestic discretionary spending, assuming defense were funded at the level requested by the President. If cuts of this magnitude were not made, the likely consequence of the Republican tax cut would have been to divert hundreds of billions of dollars of the Social Security surplus from promised debt reduction.

A Victory for America's Students

After vetoing a Congressional budget that denied funding to priority education and training investments, President Clinton and Vice President Gore delivered on their ambitious education agenda.

- More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Class Sizes: President Clinton's budget included the second installment of his plan to help reduce class size in the early grades by hiring 100,000 quality teachers. The President vetoed a Congressional budget that reneged on last year's bipartisan agreement, did not guarantee funding for 29,000 teachers hired last year, and would have allowed Class Size dollars to be used for virtually any activity -- including vouchers -- rather than hiring qualified teachers. The final budget enhances last year's teacher quality and flexibility provisions and provides \$1.3 billion for Class Size Reduction, enough to stay on track to hire 100,000

teachers over the next 6 years.

- More than Twice as Much Federal Support for After School: In his State of the Union address, the President called for a large investment in after school and summer school programs to give children the extra help they need to meet high standards. The final budget more than doubles the federal investment in these programs to \$453 million, to provide educational support to nearly 675,000 students --375,000 more students than last year.
- Early Intervention To Help Disadvantaged Students Prepare for College: House Republicans proposed to terminate the President's GEAR UP college preparation initiative for low-income students, a new initiative begun in 1998. The final budget increases funding for GEAR UP from \$120 million in 1999 to \$200 million to support State projects and partnerships of colleges, high-poverty schools, and community organizations, to help 482,000 students aspire to and prepare for college starting in the 7th grade.
- Accountability for the Lowest Performing Schools: In his State of the Union address, President Clinton insisted that "all states and school districts must turn around their worst-performing schools -- or shut them down," and his Budget included funds to help states and school districts turn around their own failing schools. The final bill provides \$134 million in Title I funds to help turn around the worst-performing schools and hold them accountable for results. In addition, the bill provides \$7,807 million for the base program, Title I Grants to LEAs, which is an increase of \$75 million over last year, in order to continue efforts to help disadvantaged students catch up with their peers.
- More Education Technology for Students: The final budget triples funding for Community Technology Centers to reach at least 120 low-income communities, provides \$75 million to train new teachers in the use of technology, and provides \$425 million to states and school districts to purchase computer hardware and educational software. Investment in educational technology has increased to \$769 million, up from \$698 million in 1999.
- Making Schools Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free: The budget agreement provides \$606 million for school-based drug and violence prevention programs, including the President's \$50 million request for the Coordinator Initiative, that would provide coordinators to plan, implement, and evaluate successful prevention programs in middle schools across the Nation. Additional resources are also provided for an expansion of the interagency Safe Schools / Healthy Students initiative, with HHS and DoJ.
- Expanded Head Start: President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed a \$607 million increase for Head Start to serve an additional 44,000 young children -- and stay on track toward serving one million children by 2002. The House Republican budget did not provide the President's increase and would have denied over 40,000 children Head Start slots if enacted. The final budget includes the President's full increase for Head Start, which is funded at \$5.3 billion -- or 90 percent above the 1993 level.
- Increasing Public School Choice Through Charter Schools: The budget agreement provides \$145 million for Public Charter Schools, an increase of \$45 million over the FY 1999 enacted level. This will strengthen and expand public school choice by providing startup funding to as many as 2,400 charter schools next year, about 650 more schools than this year. The President has pledged to help start 3,000 charter schools across the country by early in the next century. When President Clinton and Vice President Gore were first elected in 1992, there was only one

charter school operating in the country. This year, more than 1,700 charter schools are operating, serving a diverse student body in more than 30 states. This remarkable growth is in large part due to the President's leadership and support for these innovative high quality schools.

- Hispanic Education Agenda: President Clinton's budget included an ambitious agenda to address the disproportionately low educational achievement and high dropout rates of Latino students. The final budget includes \$436 million in increases for a number of education programs that help to improve the educational outcomes of Latinos and limited English proficient students, including Title I Grants to LEAs, Adult Education, Bilingual Education, and TRIO.
- English Language/Civics Education Initiative: The increase to Adult Education targets \$25.5 million for the President's ESL/Civics Initiative, which would provide instruction in both English literacy and critical life skills necessary for effective citizenship and civic participation.
- Largest Maximum Pell Grant Award Ever: The final budget provides \$7.7 billion for Pell Grants, increasing the maximum Pell Grant award from \$3,125 to \$3,300. The maximum award has increased 43 percent since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office in 1993.
- Support for One Million Students To Work Their Way Through College: The President's budget requested \$934 million for Federal Work-Study to fulfill his commitment to expand work-study to one million students in FY 2000. House Republicans initially provided only \$880 million. The final budget provides the President's request and will give one million students the opportunity to earn money for college through part-time work.
- Training for Dislocated Workers: The final budget provides a \$190 million increase for a total of \$1.6 billion to provide much needed training for dislocated workers. This is more than triple the funding in 1993, allowing the program to serve more than 3 times as many dislocated workers. This increase is a step toward meeting the 5-year goal of the Universal Reemployment Initiative to provide training to every dislocated worker who wants and needs training.
- Providing for School Construction: The final budget extends Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) through 2001. QZABs provide no-interest loans to school districts in needy areas to fund certain expenditures on rehabilitation and repairs, educational equipment, curriculum development, and teacher training. QZABs have been used to purchase computers and develop technology-based curricula, renovate and repair a charter school, purchase computer software and hardware to develop literacy programs, and even to establish the first public secondary military academy in the nation.
- Tax Relief to Encourage Worker Training: The final budget extends the tax relief provided by Section 127 through 2001, which allows employers to provide educational assistance for courses at degree-granting institutions as a tax-free fringe benefit. By encouraging worker education, it helps employers expand the skills of their work force and expands the opportunities of workers to adapt to new technologies.

Fighting Crime, Drugs, and Guns

To keep crime coming down to record lows, President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for important investments in the budget to build on the Administration's successful community policing initiative, including funds to put more police on the street and critical resources to strengthen law enforcement efforts to keep communities safe.

- More Police on the Streets: In 1994, President Clinton and Vice President Gore won a commitment to put 100,000 police officers on the street. In his State of the Union Address, the President proposed a 21st Century crime plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers by 2005. The final budget contains full funding for the first installment toward meeting this goal.
- Law Enforcement Technology: The final budget provides \$230 million to provide law enforcement with the latest crime-fighting and crime-solving technology.
- Community Prosecutors: Provides \$10 for the Administration's initiative to extend the success of community policing to local prosecutors.
- Strengthened Gun Enforcement: An increase of \$12.6 million for more ATF agents to bolster federal law enforcement efforts against gun crime.
- Youth and Guns: Over \$50 million for the President's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, to expand the initiative from 27 to 38 cities, trace more guns used in crimes, and add more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to juveniles and criminals.
- Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign: \$185 million to continue the successful campaign to reach our youth with the message that drugs are wrong, dangerous and deadly.

Investing in a Cleaner Environment

President Clinton and Vice President Gore won significant gains for the environment in the fiscal year 2000 budget, including new resources to combat water pollution, protect wildlife, address global warming, and preserve precious lands across the country. At the same time, the President and Vice President forced Congress to drop or substantially modify dozens of anti-environmental riders that would have rolled back hard-won environmental safeguards and benefited special interests at the expense of our public lands.

- Preserving Our Lands Legacy: The President and Vice President won \$651 million for Lands Legacy, an historic initiative that strengthens federal efforts to preserve natural treasures and provides communities with new resources to protect local green spaces. Lands Legacy funding, a 42 percent increase over last year, includes:
 - o \$444 million for federal agencies to acquire and protect dozens of natural and historic sites around the country and off our coasts, including:
 - o The full \$101 million needed to purchase New Mexico's majestic Baca Ranch, home to one of North America's largest wild elk herds;
 - o \$78 million to acquire lands critical to the Administration's Everglades restoration strategy;
 - o \$36 million to manage and protect marine sanctuaries and coral reefs;
 - o \$15 million in matching funds to protect wilderness and other lands in the California Desert.
 - o \$206 million for states and local governments to help communities preserve their farms, urban parks, coastal areas, and working forests.
- Ensuring Clean Water and Healthy Communities: The final budget

secures \$1.8 billion for the President's Clean Water Action Plan, a 9 percent increase includes increased funds to reduce polluted runoff from large livestock operations. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency budget provides \$2.17 billion to help communities build or upgrade drinking water and sewage treatment plants, and \$1.4 billion to continue progress toward cleaning up 900 Superfund sites by 2002.

- Leading the Fight Against Global Warming: The budget provides \$1.1 billion for research and development of clean energy through the Climate Change Technology Initiative, including a 7 percent increase for energy efficiency investments to reduce pollution, create jobs, and save consumers money.
- Saving Pacific Salmon: The Administration secured \$83 million to initiate two major new efforts to restore salmon in the Pacific Northwest: \$58 million for states and tribes through the Administration's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund; and \$25 million to implement an historic salmon treaty with Canada.
- Fighting Congestion and Dirty Air: The budget provides \$8.2 billion, a 10 percent increase, for programs that reduce air pollution while increasing transportation choices. This includes increases of \$407 million for public transit, and \$278 million to help communities reduce congestion while improving air quality.
- Encouraging Energy Efficiency: Extend through 2001 the tax credits for wind and biomass energy production. These tax credits encourage no- (wind) and low- (biomass) emission energy production. The biomass tax credit encourages farmers to grow certain materials that can be burned to produce energy. Producing energy from wind and biomass preserves scarce energy resources and reduces our reliance on imported oil.
- Cleaning Up Brownfields: The budget extends the tax provision that allows businesses to fully deduct the cost of cleaning up polluted "brownfields" in targeted areas through 2001. This provision encourages the redevelopment of blighted properties, which improves the environment and makes communities more livable.
- Defending Our Environment Against Stealth Attacks: In addition to securing these major new environmental investments, President Clinton and Vice President Gore stood as the last line of defense against congressional efforts to attach anti-environmental riders to budget bills. These riders would have given special deals to special interests by: allowing overcutting of our national forests and jeopardizing the President's plan to protect more than 40 million acres of roadless areas; allowing mining companies to dump more toxic waste on public lands and delaying critical mining reforms; letting major oil companies continue paying below-market royalties on oil developed on federal lands; crippling critical protections for wetlands and wildlife; and attempting to block common-sense actions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Maintaining America's Global Leadership

The Republican Congressional budget would have turned its back on America's leading role in the world by not providing for peace in the Middle East, leadership at the United Nations, economic development in the poorest countries, and efforts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. The President fought for and secured victories to strengthen America's leading role in the world -- by meeting our commitment to the Middle East peace process, paying our dues and arrears to the United Nations, making a critical investment in debt relief for impoverished countries, funding efforts to safeguard nuclear weapons and expertise from the former Soviet Union, and help raise labor standards around the

world.

- Promoting Peace in the Middle East: The Congress fully funded the President's \$1.8 billion request arising from the Wye River Agreement, which is essential to promoting peace in the Middle East. As Israelis and Palestinians move ahead on an ambitious agenda to rapidly conclude a peace accord, this funding sends an important message of U.S. commitment to building a lasting peace.
- Maintaining Leadership at the United Nations: In an agreement reached between the President and Congress, the United States will now be able to avoid losing its vote, encourage needed reforms at the UN, and repay \$926 million owed to the UN. This will help meet our obligations to the UN in order to protect our national security interests and preserve American influence within the organization and around the world. The bill passed by the Congress and vetoed by the President would have caused the United States to lose its vote in the General Assembly.
- Debt Relief for Poor Countries: The bill provides \$110 million to fund reduction of debts owed to the U.S. government by the poorest developing countries. This amount represents an increase of \$90 million above the Foreign Operations conference agreement funding level for this purpose (\$20 million). We now have sufficient resources to finance U.S. participation over the next year in the bilateral debt aspect of the Cologne Debt Initiative. The agreement also includes authorization for U.S. support to use a portion of International Monetary Fund (IMF) gold reserves for debt relief, and additional authorization would permit the use of the full amount of gold earnings. Together, the funding and authorizations will help to begin to provide debt relief for the world's poorest nations, and allow them to focus on providing basic needs for their own citizens instead of paying interest to international creditors. Unfortunately, the agreement omits appropriations for the U.S. contribution to the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Trust Fund, which will be necessary to fully finance the participation of some multilateral development institutions in this historic initiative. We will work with Congress next year to secure this crucial funding as well as authorization to use the remaining portion of IMF gold earnings.
- Promoting International Development: The bill provides \$1.1 billion for the U.S. contribution to multilateral development banks including the World Bank and regional development banks. This amount represents an increase from the \$895 million included in the Foreign Operations conference agreement; however, it remains lower than the Administration's original request of \$1.4 billion.
- Reducing the Nuclear Weapons Threat and Building Democracy in Russia and the Newly Independent States: The final bill provides \$839 million to fund critical efforts in the Newly Independent States (NIS) to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons, to promote democracy, private enterprise, and free speech, and to generally assist in the transition these countries are undertaking. The bulk of these funds will go to the President's Expanded Threat Reduction Initiative (ETRI) for programs to increase nuclear security in the former Soviet Union, dismantle strategic weapons, and strengthen efforts to block transfers of sensitive technology and expertise. The budget will also allow us to help remove Russian troops from Georgia and Moldova, and to expand civilian research projects with former Soviet weapons scientists.
- Raising International Labor Standards and Protecting Workers: The FY 2000 Budget includes \$70 million for working with developing economies through the International Labor Organization (ILO), an increase of \$30 million over FY 1999. These funds include \$20 million to finance the creation of a new arm of the ILO to provide technical assistance to help countries implement core labor standards. The agreement also

provides \$10 million to fund bilateral technical assistance by the US Department of Labor to developing economies seeking to establish social safety net programs and design, implement and enforce labor market policies. In addition, Congress provided the State Department with sufficient funds to allow it to go forward with the President's initiative to support innovative efforts to eliminate sweatshops.

- More Funding for President Clinton's Child Labor Initiative: Last year, the President proposed a 10-fold increase in funding for the ILO's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC)-- from \$3 million to \$30 million -- and Congress agreed. This year, the Congress once again fully funded the President's \$30 million request. In addition, Congress provided additional funds sought by the President to support enhanced customs enforcement of the ban on importation of goods made with forced or indentured child labor. Congress also provided sufficient funds to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to allow it to go forward with the President's new "School!" program, which will help developing countries provide educational alternatives to abusive child labor. Finally, to help us lead by example, the budget includes enhanced resources for domestic labor standards enforcement that should help improve compliance with U.S. child labor laws.
- Improving Military Pay and Readiness: The final bill fully funded the President's "trilogy" pay initiative which includes a significant pay raise, pay table reform, and a change in military retirement. The bill additionally funds fully all of our critical readiness programs (unit training, depot maintenance, recruiting, and spare purchases).
- Modernizing the Air Force: The final bill restores most of the funding for the F-22, allowing the program to continue.
- Continuing Chemical Demilitarization: The final bill approves the higher funding level passed by the Senate (the House proposed cuts of \$392 million), helping to meet our treaty deadlines under the Chemical Weapons Convention for destruction of chemical weapons.

Empowering Families and Communities President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to tapping the potential of America's urban and rural communities. This budget moves forward on their vision to help revitalize America's communities and empower families.

- Funding 60,000 New **Housing** Vouchers for America's Hard-Pressed Working Families: The budget includes \$347 million for 60,000 new **housing** vouchers for low-income families, building on last year's level of 50,000. The House and Senate-passed bills had included zero funding for this initiative. These vouchers will subsidize the rents of America's hard-pressed working families, enabling them to move closer to economic opportunities.
- Additional Funding for Empowerment Zones: The budget provides \$70 million in funding for Rural and Urban Empowerment Zones. The President's budget requested \$165 million - \$150 million for urban EZs and \$15 million for rural EZs/ECs. The House and Senate bills included no funding. 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.
- Protecting Rent Subsidies for Low-Income Families: The final budget includes \$10.8 billion for the renewal of all Section 8 contracts, an increase of \$1.2 billion from FY 1999. This will ensure continuation of HUD rental subsidies for low-income tenants in privately-owned **housing**.

- **Housing Assistance for Elderly and Disabled:** The final budget includes expansion of funding for affordable **housing** for the elderly and disabled by \$911 million, \$57 million above FY 1999, enabling about 30,000 people to have affordable **housing**. Also included were core elements of a **Housing Security Plan** for older Americans that recognizes the dramatic increase in our elderly population and the changing **housing** needs that accompany this demographic shift.
- **Increased Funding for Homeless Assistance:** The President and Vice President proposed a major expansion of HUD's continuum of care program, designed to help homeless persons obtain temporary and permanent **housing**. The final budget includes \$1.02 billion in funds for the homeless assistance grants - a \$45 million, or 5 percent, increase over last year.
- **Extending the Work Opportunity Tax Credit:** This tax credit encourages employers to hire individuals who have traditionally had a hard time securing employment. Targeted groups include disadvantaged youth, including those living in empowerment zones and enterprise communities, welfare recipients, and qualified veterans. The maximum credit paid to the employer is as much as 40 percent of an individual's first \$6,000 in wages. The President proposed to extend this credit in his FY 2000 budget and the final budget includes an extension through 2001.
- **Extending the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit:** This tax credit encourages employers to hire and retain certain long-term assistance recipients. The maximum credit to an employer is as much as 50 percent of wages, with a maximum credit of \$8,500 per qualified employee over 2 years. The President proposed to extend this credit in his FY 2000 budget and the final budget includes an extension through 2001.
- **Access to Jobs Transportation Funds:** The final budget includes \$75 million to assist states and localities in developing flexible transportation alternatives, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low income workers get to work.
- **Individual Development Accounts:** Since 1992, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have supported the creation of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to empower individuals to save for a first home, post-secondary education, or to start a new business. Last year, Congress passed legislation authorizing IDAs, and the final budget includes \$10 million for a second round of demonstration grants.
- **Continuing To Build a Network Of Community Development Banks Across the Nation:** The final budget includes \$95 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) 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. The President's budget requested \$125 million for the CDFI Fund -- the House appropriated \$70 million and the Senate appropriated \$80 million. The added resources bring funding up to FY 1999 enacted levels.
- **More Home Delivered Meals:** President Clinton's budget included an additional \$35 million for home-delivered meals, a 31 percent increase over last year's funding level. Hundreds of thousands of seniors with disabilities depend on nutritious home-delivered meals to help them remain in their homes. The final bill includes this increase to support the delivery of 146 million meals in FY 2000.
- **HUD Fair Housing.** The final budget includes \$44 million for efforts to fight **housing** discrimination, a \$4 million increase from last year's enacted level, as part of President Clinton and Vice President Gore's "One America" initiative. This amount includes \$6 million to continue

the audit-based fair **housing** enforcement initiative started last year.

- Maintaining Community Service. The VA/HUD bill includes \$438.5 million for AmeriCorps, funding that will support nearly 50,000 AmeriCorps members in community service projects across the country.

Progress on the New Markets Initiative

In his State of the Union, President Clinton proposed to bring more private investment to all areas of the United States. The President and Congressional Leaders have agreed to work together to enact bipartisan legislation to help spur economic development in urban and rural communities that have not shared fully in the benefits of the nation's strong economy. The New Markets initiative enjoys bipartisan support.

- Funding America's Private Investment Companies (APICs): Provides \$20 million of funding for APICs (subject to authorization), key elements of the President's New Markets Initiative to leverage \$800 million of new investment in underserved areas.
- New Markets Venture Capital Program: \$16.5 million in funding, subject to authorization, has been provided for the New Markets program at the Small Business Administration (SBA). This includes \$6 million in funding for the New Markets Venture Capital program, which provides capital to untapped rural and urban new market areas; \$1.5 million for BusinessLINC, which encourages large businesses to mentor small business owners; and \$9 million for technical assistance to enhance the borrower's probability of success. This program exploits investment opportunities that are not presently being met by private lenders.
- Authorization of the PRIME Program: Congress passed new legislation that included authorization of the PRIME Act, which will provide micro-enterprise technical assistance through competitive grants to micro-enterprise development organizations that focus on low-income entrepreneurs.

Addressing Health care

The President won a \$34.5 billion investment in health programs, 11.7 percent above the FY 1999 enacted level, to strengthen the public health infrastructure, provide critical prevention and treatment services to individuals with mental illness, and advance biomedical research with a historic investment of \$2.3 billion.

- Passing the Landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act for People with Disabilities: Since 1998, the President has advocated for the passage of the bipartisan Jeffords-Kennedy-Roth-Moynihan Work Incentives Improvement Act. Currently, people with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work, forcing a choice between health care and employment. This legislation allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work. It also includes a \$250 million demonstration, which the President insisted on fully funding, that allows people with disabilities who are still working and are not sufficiently disabled to qualify for Medicaid to buy into the program. Finally, the bill reforms the training system for people with disabilities.
- Increasing Access to Health Care for the Uninsured: Fully funds the President's request of \$25 million, making a down payment on the President's \$1 billion investment in developing integrated systems of care for the uninsured. It also provides an additional \$15 million to identify the best way to deliver health care services to this population.
- Supporting Graduate Medical Education at Children's Hospitals: Fully funds the President's request of \$40 million to support graduate medical education at freestanding children's hospitals, which play an

essential role in the education of the nation's pediatricians.

- Caring for the Nation's Elderly. Includes a \$43.5 million increase for the new Nursing Home Initiative, only \$1 million below the President's request, for more rigorous inspections of nursing facilities and improved federal oversight and enforcement of nursing home quality.
- Improving States' Capacity to Deliver Health Care Services to the Mentally Ill: Provides an additional \$67 million above the FY 1999 funding level, for the Mental Health Block Grant, a 23 percent increase over FY 1999 and the largest increase ever.
- Preparing For and Preventing Bioterrorist Attacks: Fully funds the President's request of \$52 million to stockpile vaccines, antibiotics, and other medical supplies to deploy in the event of a chemical or biological terrorist attack.
- Reducing Racial Disparities in Health Status: Provides an additional \$20 million, a 200 percent increase over the FY 1999 funding level for health education, prevention, and treatment services to address health disparities among minority populations.
- Expanding AIDS Care, Prevention, and Research: The Administration and Congress continue their strong partnership to address the AIDS epidemic with substantial increases in funding. Included in the bill are a \$73 million increase in funding for HIV prevention activities to help stop the spread of this disease; an increase of \$183 million in the Ryan White CARE Act, which helps provide primary care and support for those living with HIV/AIDS; and an estimated \$300 million in additional funds for AIDS-related research at the NIH. Congress and the Administration also worked closely together to add \$80 million in funding to the Minority AIDS Initiative, which utilizes existing programs to reach African-Americans, Latinos, and other racial and ethnic minorities that are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. Consistent with the President's request, an additional \$100 million to fight AIDS internationally was funded. Finally, the Administration helped protect local authority over HIV prevention activities, successfully removing language from the District of Columbia appropriations bill that would have tied the hands of community health agencies in their ability to use needle exchange programs as part of their overall HIV prevention strategy.
- Preventing Childhood Diseases: Provides an additional \$62 million, a 4 percent increase over FY 1999 funding levels to provide childhood immunizations nationwide and fully funds the President's request to eradicate polio worldwide.
- Providing Critical Organ Transplants to Those Most In Need: Permits the development of a more equitable allocation system for the over 63,000 Americans awaiting organ transplants, saving hundreds of lives a year.
- First Time Funding For the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act: Provides \$75 million for one-time payments of \$100,000 to hemophiliacs who were infected with HIV by blood solids during the 1980s.
- Controlling the Spread of Infectious Disease: Provides \$29 million to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), a 21 percent increase over the FY 1999 funding level, for programs dedicated to emerging infectious diseases and improving disease surveillance systems.

Responding to the Farm Crisis

The Agriculture Appropriations bill included \$8.6 billion in emergency funds to assist our Nation's farmers and ranchers who are suffering through the second year in a row of low commodity prices and, for many,

crop and livestock losses from severe drought and flooding. The bill doubled annual payments to farmers of major grain crops to about \$11 billion. The emergency funds include \$400 million to help subsidize the cost of crop insurance premiums and \$325 million for livestock and dairy assistance. In addition, the Administration secured an additional \$2.5 billion in farm loans in final negotiations, as well as \$186 million more for nationwide crop losses -- bringing total crop loss funds to nearly \$1.4 billion, as well as \$130 million to clear farm fields and streams of debris left by flooding. The President and Vice President remain concerned that Congress did not address the underlying issues that exist in the wake of Freedom to Farm legislation and that more needs to be done.

A Strong Research and Development Agenda

For six years in a row, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have proposed substantial increases in the Federal government's research and development portfolio to build a healthier, more prosperous, and productive future. The final budget increases the President's "21st Century Research Fund" for civilian research programs by more than \$3 billion.

- National Science Foundation: A 6.6 percent increase in support for science and engineering research and education, including \$126 million for the Administration's "Information Technology for the 21st Century" initiative. The NSF supports nearly half of the non-medical basic research conducted at universities.
- National Institutes of Health: Provides \$2.3 billion, a 15 percent increase over FY 1999 funding levels, to build on the President's commitment to biomedical research as a foundation for combating disease and advancing medical technologies.
- Information Technology: The final budget includes more than \$80 million in funding for the Next Generation Internet, which is connecting more than 100 universities at speeds that are up to 1,000 times faster than today's Internet. It also includes \$235 million for the Administration's "Information Technology for the 21st Century" initiative, which will strengthen America's leadership in the high-tech industries of the future, and accelerate the pace of discovery in all science and engineering disciplines. Currently, IT industries account for 1/3 of U.S. economic growth.
- Defense Research: Department of Defense (DOD) support for basic and applied research is up almost 8 percent. DOD is a leading supporter of basic research in computer sciences, mathematics, oceanography, and most engineering disciplines.
- Increases in Science at Department of Energy: Science Programs increased \$117 million. DOE, the principal supporter of the Federal investment in the physical sciences, has supported research that has resulted in over 60 Nobel prizes. DOE's scientific user facilities are used by more than 15,000 scientists to conduct frontier scientific research, and provide the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- Advanced Technology Program: President Clinton's FY 2000 budget continues to fund ATP's research and development into cutting-edge high-technologies. While the House proposed eliminating the program, the final budget will allow ATP funding for an additional \$51 million in new awards. ATP supports the development of high-risk technologies that promise significant commercial payoffs and widespread economic benefits.
- NASA - Investing in Our Future: The budget includes \$13.65 billion for NASA, an additional \$100 million. The funding levels passed by the House would have cut the NASA budget by almost \$1 billion. These

investments offer the potential of new scientific breakthroughs through an aggressive robotic series of exploration missions into the solar system, as well as enhancing our ability to monitor important changes in the earth's climate system, and strengthening aviation safety for the travelling public.

- Extending the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit: President Clinton proposed to extend the research tax credit because it provides incentives for private sector investment in research and innovation that can help increase America's economic competitiveness and enhance U.S. productivity. The final budget extends this research tax credit through 2004. This long-term extension will encourage companies to undertake new multi-year research activities, secure in the knowledge that the 20 percent tax credit will continue to be available.

Other Highlights

- Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): The final budget provides over \$4 billion for nutrition assistance to 7.4 million women, infants, and children through the WIC program, an increase of \$108 million over FY 1999. The additional funds will allow the program to provide a monthly package of nourishing supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to 7.4 million low-income women, infants, and children who are at nutritional risk -- a 25 percent increase in participation since 1993.
- Boosting Funding for Natural Disasters Such as Hurricane Floyd: The budget provides \$2.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster relief fund to assist victims with repairs and recovery from natural disasters. This includes \$215 million to address unmet **housing** needs resulting from Hurricane Floyd that could not otherwise be met by Federal disaster assistance programs.
- Expanding Civil Rights Enforcement: Funding for the Civil Rights Division of Justice was expanded from \$69 million in FY 1999 to \$82 million in FY 2000 -- a 19 percent increase. Funding for HUD fair **housing** programs was increased by \$4 million - a 10 percent increase.
- Largest Increase In Family Planning Services Since 1993: The President won a nearly \$25 million increase for Title X family planning, the largest increase since 1993, bringing the program to almost \$240 million for FY 99. These grants fund family planning clinics providing reproductive health services and clinical care to over 5 million low-income women.
- President's Food Safety Initiative: The bill provides an increase of \$59 million for the President's Food Safety Initiative, which will fund enhanced domestic and imported food safety inspections; increased outbreak response and traceback work; and expanded research, risk assessment and education activities. In addition, this increase will fund enhanced Federal-State inspection partnerships, bioscience research, and Risk Assessment modeling and data collection to include the pre-harvest phase for all foods.
- The Final Bill Strengthens Enforcement of Labor Protections. The final bill provides key funding increases for worker protection programs including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) oversight of employee pension and health plans, enforcement of wage and hour laws, and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The final total of \$1.3 billion is \$105 million (9 percent) above the FY 1999 enacted level. As a result of these increases, OSHA will conduct approximately 3,000 more compliance inspections thereby increasing the safety and health of our Nation's workers, particularly those in high-hazard industries. In addition, the Department of Labor also will be able to implement new health care laws effectively and encourage

equal pay practices that will benefit our workers.

- Ensuring That American Families Continue to Benefit From Tax Credits: The budget ensures that Americans take full advantage of their personal credits - including the child credit, the child and dependent care tax credit, and the Hope scholarship and Lifetime Learning credits - without restriction by the alternative minimum tax. The final budget extends these rules for the alternative minimum tax through 2001.
- Encouraging First-Time Homeowners in the District of Columbia: Extend through 2001 the \$5,000 tax credit for low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers who purchase homes in the District of Columbia. This tax credit encourages homeownership and strengthens neighborhoods in the Capital City.

DESPITE ALL THE PROGRESS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET, THERE IS STILL MORE WORK
THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE
November 18, 1999

In the waning days of the session, the President and Congressional Democrats prevailed in making critical investments to advance the President's comprehensive education agenda, put more police on the streets, protect the environment, and strengthen America's leading role in the world. Much work remains for the future.

- x Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation: While the Administration's successful strategy of keeping guns out of the hands of fugitives, felons, and children has contributed to record declines in crime, recent tragic shootings reinforce the need to protect American families from gun violence. For months, Congress has failed to enact common-sense gun legislation. Congress must pass a bipartisan juvenile crime bill that includes strong gun measures to: close the gun show loophole; require child safety locks for handguns; ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips; and bar violent juveniles from owning guns for life.
- x Passing a Strong, Enforceable, Patients' Bill of Rights: For over two years, the American people have been waiting for Congress to pass a strong, enforceable Patients Bill of Rights. During that time, the President has exercised his executive authority to extend critical patient protections to over 85 million Americans. The House passed such legislation earlier this year, but the Republican leadership is preventing an open debate on it in conference. The President continues to urge the Congress to recommit to passing this legislation and prevent another year from passing without action on this important issue.
- x Strengthening Social Security: The President has put forth a specific proposal to use the benefits of fiscal discipline and debt reduction to strengthen Social Security, extending its solvency from 2034 to 2050. This would be a down payment on truly saving Social Security. The Republican so-called "lockbox" legislation would not add a single day to the life of Social Security.
- x Modernizing and Strengthening Medicare: Although members of both parties joined the President in the effort to adjust Medicare health care provider payments, Congress failed to address the growing challenges that Medicare faces. With the number of beneficiaries expected to double over the next 30 years, Medicare needs adequate resources and the tools to be as efficient as possible. A long-overdue prescription drug benefit option is also essential for seniors and people with disabilities.
- x Reducing Youth Smoking: President Clinton and Vice President Gore

have made passage of comprehensive tobacco legislation to reduce youth smoking a top priority in order to stop kids from smoking before they start through a significant price increase, measures to prevent tobacco companies from marketing to children, and critical public health prevention and education programs. Congressional Republicans have acted as politicians instead of parents, and killed this year's effort to increase the excise tax on cigarettes by 55 cents a pack. Public health experts agree that the single most effective way to cut youth smoking is to raise the price of cigarettes.

- x Expanding Federal Hate Crimes Laws: At a time when our leaders should be doing all they can to bring Americans together, the Congress has refused to enact legislation to punish hate crimes. The President has called for a bill that would make it easier to prosecute crimes based on race, color, religion and national origin; and that would also include crimes based on sexual orientation, gender and disability. Congress should take a strong stand against intolerance and hatred by enacting such legislation without further delay.
- x Providing for Long-term Care Assistance for the Those Chronic Illnesses and Their Families: At the beginning of this year, the President proposed a new, \$6 billion initiative to address complex long-term care needs, including an unprecedented \$1,000 tax credit that compensates Americans with long-term care needs of all ages or the family caregivers who support them for their formal or informal costs. The initiative also supports a new National Family Caregivers Support Program that provides a range of critical services such as respite, home care services, and information and referral. Many members of Congress, on a bipartisan basis, introduced similar proposals, but despite this, the Congress failed to respond and lost an opportunity to provide critical assistance for this population.
- x Providing Health Options for Older Americans: In the FY 1999 and FY 2000 budgets, the President proposed an initiative to expand health options available for older Americans by: enabling Americans aged 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare by paying a full premium; providing vulnerable displaced workers ages 55 and older access to Medicare by offering those who have involuntarily lost their jobs and their health care coverage a similar Medicare buy-in option; and providing Americans ages 55 and older whose companies reneged on their commitment to provide retiree health benefits a new health option, by extending "COBRA" continuation coverage until age 65. Despite the fact that the number of uninsured Americans aged 55 to 65 is growing faster than any other age group, Congress refused to act on this proposal.
- x Encouraging Small Businesses to Offer Health Insurance: In the FY 2000 budget, the President proposed an initiative to encourage small businesses to offer health insurance to their employees through: a new tax credit for small businesses who offer coverage by joining coalitions; encouraging private foundations to support coalitions by allowing their contributions towards these organizations to be tax exempt; offering technical assistance to small business coalitions from the Office of Personnel Management. The President urges Congress to provide new health insurance options for these vulnerable Americans.
- x Continuing to Help People Move From Welfare to Work: In January, the President proposed to invest an additional \$1 billion in the Welfare-to-Work program and to reauthorize the program with several changes including helping more low-income fathers work and support their children. The Congress enacted eligibility changes similar to those proposed by the Administration to allow States, tribes and communities to more effectively serve low-income fathers and hard-to-employ welfare recipients, but failed to provide any new funding.

- x Raising the Minimum Wage: The Congress has failed to pass a clean, straightforward bill to increase the minimum wage by \$1 over two years - a step that would simply restore it to the 1982 inflation-adjusted level. Instead, the Senate attached the minimum wage increase to fiscally irresponsible tax giveaways for special interests. More than 11 million workers would benefit from a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. A full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage would get a \$2,000 raise - enough for a typical family of four to buy groceries for 7 months or pay rent for 5 months.
- x Expanding Trade and Providing Opportunity for Africa and the Caribbean Basin: Congress should complete work on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and the Caribbean Basin legislation -- crucial to strengthening our economic ties with Sub-Saharan Africa and our Caribbean and Central American neighbors. This legislation would help increase trade, enhance opportunity, and boost growth in America and nations in Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America. The President called for the rapid passage of the Africa legislation in the State of the Union address and has pressed the case for these bills several times since. The House passed this legislation overwhelming earlier this summer, but the legislation is now awaiting Conference action.
- x Supporting Southeast Europe's Economic Development and Integration: Congress should pass the Southeast Europe Trade Preference Act submitted by the President, which would authorize expansion of duty-free treatment to a broad range of imports from the region for five years. This initiative is an important part of the Stability Pact launched by the President and other leaders last July, and is designed to strengthen stability and prevent further conflict in the Balkans by facilitating long-term economic growth.
- x Promoting Peacekeeping: While the budget goes a long way in meeting the anticipated requirements for funding UN peacekeeping operations around the world, the Congress did not fund the full requests. The shortage threatens to undermine fragile peace processes around the world or to incur additional UN arrears. To promote peace and encourage burden-sharing, Congress should fully fund UN peacekeeping efforts.
- x School Construction: Despite record student enrollment and a massive maintenance backlog in our nation's schools, Congressional Republicans again failed to enact school construction legislation. The President's school construction proposal would provide funding to help states and school districts build and modernize 6,000 schools nationwide. We can not hold students to high academic standards if we do not provide them with adequate facilities within which to learn. Congress should pass the President's plan and invest in our nation's schoolchildren.
- x Enacting Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform: This year, the Congress failed once again to adopt real, meaningful reform of our campaign finance system. Although the House passed a bipartisan reform plan, a minority of the Senate blocked further action and left unchecked the influence of moneyed special interests. The President will continue to fight for comprehensive campaign finance reform and believes that the Senate should act to restore the public's faith in our political process.
- x Child Care Initiative. In his State of the Union, the President proposed an historic child care initiative to make child care better, safer, and more affordable for America's working families. The President's proposal included \$7.5 billion over 5 years for child care subsidies for low-income working families, and tax credits to help millions of working families pay for child care. The Republican Majority has refused to support these critical investments.

- x Farm Assistance. The President and Vice President were pleased to get \$8.6 billion in emergency assistance to farmers and ranchers, but they believe that Congress did not address the underlying issues that exist in the wake of Freedom to Farm legislation. For example, most of the assistance is not targeted to farmers who need it most, but is available to farmers, both large and small, whether they have suffered particular difficulty this year or not.
- x Providing Fairness to Immigrant Families. Congress has failed to take action to provide fairness to immigrant families by: restoring important disability, health, and nutrition benefits to additional categories of legal immigrants; restructuring the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS); approving the Administration's proposal to support the process of democratization and stabilization now underway in Central America and Haiti and ensure equitable treatment for migrants from these countries; or changing the registry date to permit long-term migrants to adjust their status.
- x Continuing to Empower Communities: Urban and Rural Empowerment Zones were funded at \$70 million in 2000, \$55 million for Urban Zones and \$15 million for Rural Zones and Enterprise Communities. Empowerment Zones continue to be a priority for the President and Vice President and they are committed to supporting and obtaining funding for the Empowerment Zones' remaining eight years. Without the full 10 years of funding, the Round II Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, designated in January 1999 by the Vice President, will have difficulty implementing their community and economic development strategies to revitalize their communities.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

October 1, 1999 ✓

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development yesterday released \$280 million in rental assistance vouchers to help 50,000 families in 35 states move from welfare to work. These **housing** vouchers are an integral part of our efforts to reform welfare, reward work, and provide affordable **housing** for low-income families. They will 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. ✓

Today, our economy is strong, incomes are up, and poverty is at the lowest rate in 20 years. But there are still more than 5 million low-income families who need affordable **housing**. That is why I have asked Congress for an additional 100,000 rental assistance vouchers to meet the critical **housing** needs of families moving from welfare to work, the homeless and the elderly. As Members of the House and Senate meet in conference to debate this year's budget for the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development, I want to underscore my strong commitment to this initiative. Congress should not turn its back on families that are playing by the rules and moving from welfare to work. A budget without new vouchers would shortchange the American Dream. ✓

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 17, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ✓

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2465, the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2000," which provides funding for military construction and family **housing** programs of the Department of Defense (DOD).

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:

- For the second consecutive year, the Congress has not provided the requested level of construction funding for the Chemical Weapons Demilitarization program. This year's reduction of \$93 million to my request substantially increases the risk that the United States will not meet the 2007 Chemical Weapons Convention deadline for the destruction of these 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, \$301 million is provided for 40 projects that are not in DOD's Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).
- The Congress has again included a provision (section 113) that requires the Secretary of Defense to give 30 days advance notice to certain congressional committees of any proposed military exercise involving construction costs anticipated to exceed \$100,000. In approving H.R. 2465, I wish to reiterate an understanding, expressed by Presidents Reagan and Bush when they signed Military Construction Appropriations Acts containing a similar provision, that this section encompasses only exercises for which providing 30 days advance notice is feasible and consistent with my constitutional authority and

duty to protect the national security.

I urge the Congress to pass all of the FY 2000 appropriations bills as quickly as possible and send them to me in an acceptable form. As of today, the Congress has finished its work on only two of the thirteen appropriations bills. Moreover, many of the remaining bills would require deep cuts in essential government programs, including education, law enforcement, science and technology, the environment, and programs to advance global security through the peaceful use of diplomacy, helping minimize our chances of needing to use military force to the same ends.

When it returns in September, the Congress still has a great deal of work to do. I urge the Congress to approach this work responsibly in order to pass funding bills which are sufficient to meet our Nation's needs in the year 2000.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 17, 1999.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 3, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE ANNOUNCES \$102.9 MILLION IN SECOND YEAR FUNDING FOR SIX STATES' WELFARE TO WORK PROGRAMS ✓

Washington, DC -- Vice President Al Gore announced today that six states will receive \$102.9 million for the second year of their Welfare-to-Work programs. The funds are provided to states out of \$3 billion appropriated by Congress for Welfare-to-Work in 1997.

The six states are: Alaska, \$2.7 million; Kansas, \$6.2 million; Illinois, \$45.3 million; Indiana, \$13.5 million; Minnesota, \$13.5 million; and New Jersey, \$21.7 million.

"While millions of people have made the move from welfare to work, there are still many who need our help," Vice President Al Gore said. "This administration is committed to helping long-term welfare recipients and non-custodial parents get the work experience and skills they need to find and keep good jobs and support their families."

"It's not just about getting a job, but keeping a job," Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman said. "The kind of support his funding will give our newest workers can mean the difference between success and failure. And we have to do all that we can to help move people from dependency to self-sufficiency. These grants will help do that."

The Clinton/Gore Administration's Welfare-to-Work reauthorization proposal, reflected in legislation recently introduced by Congressman Cardin and Senator Akaka, will invest an additional \$1 billion to help even more long-term welfare recipients move into lasting unsubsidized employment and help more low-income fathers meet their responsibilities to their children.

These funds will be used to fund a variety of services and activities, including community service and work experience, on-the-job training, and post-employment and support services to address issues of child care, transportation and **housing**. ✓

Each of the states funded today has been proactive in developing and implementing strategies to help long-term welfare recipients achieve

self-sufficiency.

Under the 1997 Budget Reconciliation Act, \$2.2 billion was allocated to states by formula based on their population of poor people. An additional \$711.5 million is being awarded competitively by the secretary of labor to local communities for innovative projects.

Additional information about the welfare-to-work program can be found at <http://wtw.doleta.gov/>.

ALASKA

Grant Recipient: Department of Community and Regional Affairs
Division of Community and Rural Development
333 West 4th Avenue, Suite 220
Anchorage, AK 99501-2341

Contact: Yvonne Chase, Director
(907) 269-4607

Amount of Grant: \$2,708,771
Match Provided: \$1,354,385
Total Investment in the state of Alaska: \$4,063,156

ILLINOIS

Grant Recipient: Illinois Department of Commerce and
Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Contact: Mr. Herbert D. Dennis,
Job Training Division Manager
(217) 785-6006 (hdennis@commerce.state.il.us)

Amount of Grant: \$45,324,088
Match Provided: \$22,662,044
Total Investment in the State of Illinois: \$67,986,132

INDIANA

Grant Recipient: Indiana Workforce Development
Indiana Government Center South
10 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana

Contact: Craig E. Hartzer
(317) 232-7670

Amount of Grant: \$13,578,432
Match Provided: \$6,789,216
Total Investment in the State of Indiana: \$20,367,648

KANSAS

Grant Recipient: Kansas Department of Human Resources
401 SW Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603

Contact: Heather M. Whitley, Director
(785) 296-7874

Amount of Grant: \$6,202,330
Match Provided: \$3,101,165
Total Investment in the State of Kansas: \$9,303,495

MINNESOTA

Grant Recipient: Minnesota Department of Economic Security
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Contact: Jim Korkki
(651) 296-6061 (jkorkki@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us)

Amount of Grant: \$13,537,096
Match Provided: \$6,768,548
Total Investment in the State of Minnesota: \$20,305,644

NEW JERSEY

Grant Recipient: Division of Employment and Training
New Jersey Department of Labor
John Fitch Plaza
Trenton, New Jersey

Contact: Connie O. Hughes, Director
(609) 663-0491

Amount of Grant: \$21,708,979
Match Provided: \$10,854,489
Total Investment in the State of New Jersey: \$32,563,468

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Anaheim, California)

For Immediate Release

July 8, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO NATIONAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Anaheim Hilton and Towers
Anaheim, California

not included

3:00 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: You know, Hazel, you might consider just skipping that hotel business and going right into politics. (Laughter.) I want to thank all of you for your welcome. And I thank Hazel and her fellow winners behind us for reminding us of why we're here. Mayor Daley, thank you of making me feel welcome -- and, Secretary Daley, Secretary Slater. Representative Sanchez, we're delighted to be in your district and to be here with other members of Congress who are here.

I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to my wonderful friend, our former Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, who is here with us today and supporting this endeavor. (Applause.)

Since this is the last event for me in this week-long odyssey across America to our -- what we called America's new markets, I'd like to say a special word of thanks to the folks on the White House staff who made it possible, including my National Economic Advisor, Gene Sperling, without whom this never would have occurred. (Applause.)

And I want to say a special word of thanks to Reverend Jesse Jackson, who worked with Sandy Weil on the Wall Street Project, went to Appalachia before it was fashionable, who always believed that poor people were smart, wanted to work, and had a right -- a moral right -- to be part of America's future. Thank you, Jesse Jackson. (Applause.)

And, thank you, Sandy Weil, for the Wall Street Project, which attempts to marry the investment capacity of Wall Street with the human capacity of all those places we've been visiting. Thank you for the

National Academy Foundation. Thank you for being a good friend to me and to all these young people and so many others. And thank you for inviting me to this annual conference.

This is really quite an appropriate place for me and those who have traveled with me this last week on our new markets trip to end our journey, reaffirming your commitment and ours to prepare all our children for the new century. Over the past four days, as I have traveled across America, we have sought to shine the spotlight on places still unlit by the sunshine of our present prosperity. A number of you have been along for what has truly been a remarkable ride.

We've seen the power of people in public and private life to work together in the Appalachians and in the Mississippi Delta. We've seen the spark that retail investment can bring in the first shopping center built in decades in East St. Louis, Illinois. We've seen the impact in the most basic infrastructure and **housing** opportunities, even in the remote regions of Indian country in South Dakota, still the most left-behind part of America.

In South Phoenix yesterday in temperatures exceeding 100 degrees, we saw the enormous benefits of community reinvestment initiatives. And here, earlier today, we saw what education and job training can bring to young people in Watts -- people who are normally identified with distressed neighborhoods, showing me how to design automobiles on a computer, or to conduct sophisticated business transactions between two different countries with young Americans 17 years old, picking up a commission for being the middleman.

I took this trip for three reasons. First, I wanted every American businessperson, every American investor, to see that there are enormous opportunities out there today in the areas that have been left behind by our economic recovery. Second, because I wanted to highlight the tools that have already been put in place, to encourage more people to invest in those communities -- the empowerment zones and the enterprise communities which Vice President Gore has so ably led for six years now; the community development financial institutions that we have supported; the Community Reinvestment Act, which has led to billions of dollars of reinvestment in our developing neighborhoods; the education and training initiatives designed to give all of our people a chance not only to have good, basic skills, but to keep on learning for a lifetime.

And, third, I wanted to highlight our New Markets Initiative, a piece of legislation simply designed to give American investors who are willing to take a chance on new and expanded businesses in distressed urban and rural communities access to the same kind of tax credits and loan guarantees, to lower the relative risk of their investment in America that they can get to invest in poor communities from Africa to Asia to Latin America to the Caribbean. I'm for those investments, but I think America's communities should have access to the same capital with the same incentives. (Applause.)

The idea behind this, obviously, is that the government cannot do this alone, but business cannot be expected to go it alone. When government provides the conditions and tools, acts as a catalyst to bring the power of the private sector to benefit all of our citizens, and provides the investment and the education and training of our young people, this is not only good economics, it is the right thing to do. We can build one America where nobody is left behind when we cross that bridge into a new century. And if we do, we'll all be better off.

The CEOs and national leaders I have traveled with, we've heard it every stop: look, we just need a chance; our kids need education, our adults need training, and we need somebody who believes in us enough to give us a chance.

I'll never forget the woman we met in the Mississippi Delta, who was working for a very small business in a depressed community that had five employees. She made a very modest wage, and the owner of the business just decided to close up. He said to her she was the only person capable of running the business. But nobody would give her a loan because she'd never had any money in her life, she had only worked for modest hourly wages.

Because there was a community investor willing to take a chance on her, she got investment capital, she bought the business -- two years later, she went from five to 11 employees and she has just about paid her loan off. There are thousands of stories like that waiting to be written in America in every community that is still depressed.

So we want to encourage that. And that's why so much of this trip is focused on how to get financing. A remarkable businesswoman from New York, Mary Ann Spraggins, went on this trip. She's trying to set up a vision fund with \$250 million in private sector capital to give venture capital to these kinds of places. If we get our way, the people who invest in that fund will be eligible for a 25-percent tax credit for putting that money into high unemployment areas, and they'll be eligible to borrow \$2 for every \$1 they put up in that fund and have it guaranteed by the government so we lower the interest rate. That's the government's contribution; but somebody still has to make the investment to put these people to work. (Applause.)

So most of the capital we've been talking about these last several days has been money. We see in the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota a remarkable grandmother, providing school clothes for her grandchildren, having to literally buy the tennis shoes her grandchildren wear to school on the installment plan all summer long while the shoes are kept in layaway, so the kids will have them. When there were 11 people living in a house with about 800 square feet, another 17 in an adjoining house trailer with about 900 square feet. We need money; those people need **housing**.

We also saw American Indians that have been waiting for nine years moving into their first homes. A little five-year-old boy, six-year-old boy took me by the hand and led me all through his new home and showed me his sister's room and explained why it was okay that she had a bigger room than he did. (Laughter.) She was a teenager, and teenagers needed things like that. (Laughter.) The pride that they felt, these people, this mother who had worked all her life and finally getting a decent home for her children to live in.

So a lot of this is a money problem. I used to joke with a lot of my friends -- I still say this -- that I had about nine or 10 rules of politics that I kept in my mind all during my career running for office, and rule number two was, when anybody stands up and tells you it's not a money problem, they're talking about somebody else's problem, not theirs. (Laughter.)

So money is a big issue here. But there's another kind of capital that in some ways is even more fundamental -- human capital, people. When Hazel stood up here and you clapped for her, you were clapping for the astonishing development of human capital; of what she has done with her life and the chance that her mother took in going to Hawaii, the risks and the heartache and the difficulties her family went through -- it made you feel good.

And what I want to say to you today is that there are people just like these young people we're honoring back here on every Indian reservation, in every hill and hollow of Appalachia, up and down the

Mississippi Delta, in every inner city. And they deserve -- they deserve -- the chance to be whatever they're willing to work hard to be. And unless we're prepared to do that, even our best efforts to bring new investment to these distressed communities will be less than fully successful.

Now, we have a better opportunity and a better reason to do that now than ever before. As I tell people, I spend a lot of time in Washington -- Sandy's always saying that I've done a good job as a Democrat with the economy so more people can live like Republicans. (Laughter and applause.) And I've done my best to do that.

But you should know that one of the things that we seriously debate back in Washington, D.C., a long way from Anaheim, is, how can we keep this going. We already have the longest economic expansion in peacetime in our history. We have the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded. We have almost 19 million new jobs, and we have very low inflation, and we've had unemployment rate below five percent for two years. So a big question is, how much longer can this go on, and how can we keep it going without having inflation build up, then having interest rates go up and having the recovery stop.

This is not an academic issue if you're about to get your first job, or if you're sitting there trying to make up your mind whether to take out a huge bank loan to expand your business. You want to know if we can keep this going.

My answer is, we can keep it going if we can find non-inflationary ways to promote growth. Now, what are those? Well, we can sell more American goods and services around the world -- why I hope the Congress will agree to help us expand our trade with other countries. We can also bring populations that are outside the work force into the work force. With the welfare rolls are now the lowest they've been in 30 years and there are a lot of people still on welfare that are able-bodied, but they have limited skills, we could bring more people from welfare into the work force.

You can bring hundreds of thousands of disabled people who are capable of doing more and more kinds of jobs, thanks to technology now, into the work force. And the Congress, I believe, will soon send me a bill that will enable those that have high health care costs that are now being paid by the government to keep that health care coverage so private employers can afford to hire them.

But by far, the biggest opportunity -- by far -- in keeping this economy going without inflation is to get more investments, more jobs, more new business owners, more new workers and, therefore, more new consumers, into the rural and urban areas that have not yet been blessed by this recovery.

That's why every single American actually has a vested interest in our success here. And more and more businesses are looking for young people like those we celebrate, because there's a shortage of skilled workers, even though there are people who are still looking for jobs. In some job categories, a shortage of hundreds of thousands. Therefore, if Americans are willing to look a few exits off the beaten path, we can continue to grow this economy and we can continue to have more of the kind of stories we just heard.

Let me also say to you, if we can't do this now, with the strongest economy we have ever had, when it is manifestly in the self-interest of every enlightened decision-maker in the country, when will ever get around to doing it? (Applause.)

Let me tell you some of the things that we saw on the human capital front. We walked down the dusty streets on an Indian reservation. We saw the boarded-up storefronts in a town in the Mississippi Delta, famous for its role in the civil rights struggle. We saw desperate living conditions in a little hollow in Appalachia where everybody had a job and they still couldn't afford a decent house to live in.

But every place we went, nobody wanted charity, nobody wanted a handout. What they wanted was a hand up. That's why this will work. What people want is a good private sector job, the simple dignity of a paycheck, the ability to house and educate their children and provide health care for them. And what you know here, what these young people behind me demonstrate, is that intelligence and ability and drive and dreams are equally distributed in this country among the poor and the non-poor. (Applause.)

I've often said, things happen to people that derail their lives, and then they have to work hard to get them back on track. Things happen to places like that, too. I know the Mississippi Delta, which includes a big part of my own home state, the economy that once sustained that area has been gone a long time. Nobody was ever able to figure out how to put a new economy in its place. But there's a new economy out there that could fit in that place.

There are new economies that could fit in the most remote villages of the Appalachian Mountains. There are new economies that could go into the Native American reservations. How many data processing jobs do American companies ship overseas on airplanes every night to go to poor countries and other places? They could be done on Indian reservations, for example. We have got to think about that.

We all can identify with a human story. If Hazel stands up here and tells us the story of her family, it grips us and we pull for her. But what you need to know is, all these places have stories like that. We got the land and the mineral rights away from the Indians, and we said, oh, we'll make a deal, we'll have a nation-to-nation relationship with you, and we will provide for the education and health care and **housing** of your people; but we'll do a poor job of it and we'll spend just as little as we can get away with. And then, we'll say you must not really want to do any better.

We have to write new stories for these places. And it takes a commitment to money capital and the human capital. And what Sandy and all of you who have been involved in this magnificent project show, this is Exhibit A that we can do it.

Now, let me say on a very positive note, I'm quite optimistic that I am quite sure that one answer to this in the United States and all across the world is better dispersal of technology. When I went to Africa, I went to these little villages where people had maps -- these children were in these little village schools that had maps that still showed the Soviet Union and other nations that haven't existed in a long time. But if those kids just had one computer for the school and a printer, they would never have to worry about that. We could change the map of the world every day, and all those little kids would have an updated map. Right?

Technology will enable some of these areas to skip a whole generation of development if it is broadly dispersed. Secretary Daley referred to the Department of Commerce report today on technology. Let me tell you what it says. It confirms what you already know. More and more Americans than ever are connected to the Internet. It is the fastest-growing method of human communication in all of history by far.

But it also shows, this report, that there is a growing digital divide between those who have access to the digital economy and the Internet and those who don't, and that the divide exists along the lines of education, income, region and race. It might have pointed out, of course, that all of us parents are not as good as our kids. That divide's not so serious, but the real one is.

And yet, we know -- I will say again -- that the very information technology driving this new economy gives us the tools to ensure that no one gets left behind, that gives us the tools to provide a story for these communities, to literally provide a self-sustaining economic infrastructure for the 21st century. Millions of Americans now on the economic margins can join the mainstream in the enterprise of building our nation.

A child in South Central L.A., in the most remote part of Indian country, can have access to the same world of knowledge in an instant as a child in the wealthiest suburban school in this country. Now, just imagine if not simply a fraction, but all of our young people entered the work force, had access to the Internet always, and had mastered the skills of the new information economy.

So if we want to unlock the potential of our workers, we have to close that gap. We've done what we could. We have provide the Hope scholarship and other tax credits so that we've literally opened the doors of college to all Americans. We have emphasized higher standards, smaller classes, more teachers. We're connecting every American classroom to the Internet, and I think we'll make our goal that the Vice President and I established here in California in 1994 of having all the classrooms connected by the year 2000.

The \$8 million in corporate commitments made today by this group are so very important, as are the information technology academies to which Sandy referred earlier. Sandy has said often that today's students are tomorrow's employees, today's students are tomorrow's economy. They're not just somebody else's employees, they are tomorrow's economy.

So, bringing these skills to distressed families in distressed communities can have more to do with our ability to restructure the economy in these areas than perhaps anything else. I also want to thank AT&T, and I think, Ann Hesse, the CEO of AT&T Wireless, is here for committing more than \$1.4 million to increase access to the tools of the high-tech economy.

I want to thank America Online, George Franberg (phonetic) of AOL is here, for providing more than \$1 million in grants to help narrow the digital divide. I want to thank Oxygen Media on the cable network it will launch next year. They will offer high-tech training on TV, so more embarrassed adults can learn what their kids already know. (Laughter.)

This is the kind of thing we have to do. If we have money capital and human capital, we can bring hope to the places that have been left behind.

The last thing I want to say to you is this. This tour, this last four days that we have all spent together, has been a significant step toward opening America's new markets. But it can't be the end of the journey; it has to be, instead, the opening salvo of a battle to build a real economy in every community in this country. The real measure of our success is not whether CEOs join the President on a trip like this which moved the nation, but whether the same CEOs and others will return to those markets and move the lives of the people there. (Applause.)

So I say to you, you have to do that. The real test of the success is not whether I've got a great legislative idea, but whether Congress will set aside its partisan differences and put that idea into law, so we can have more investments in these communities. (Applause.)

Next week I will send our New Markets legislation to Congress. Over the next several weeks we'll announce a new national effort to promote the business link partnerships, pairing big businesses with smaller, often disadvantaged companies, an idea the Vice President has so strongly championed. And this fall we're going to take another tour. I am going to start in Newark to challenge the owners of professional sports teams and professional athletes to follow the example set by the owners of the New Jersey Nets, Ray Chambers and Lou Katz, who set up the ownership of the Nets in a way that 35 percent of the profits of the franchise are reinvested in downtown Newark to give to the people -- (applause.)

I must say, you might know that the Nets, those gentlemen have joined in a joint partnership with the New York Yankees -- they now have a big partnership -- and they have dedicated a significant percentage of the profits of the joint venture to reinvest in inner-city New York, in the Bronx, and in Newark. (Applause.)

So I'm going to go up there, I'm going to highlight what they're doing, I'm going to see what we can do to help, and we're going to make another round here to show people that there are things that we can do together that are both morally right and good business.

Often on this trip Reverend Jackson has referred to the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King, just before he was killed, thought that he had done about all he could do to get the legal changes necessary to get rid of the stain of racial segregation, and that the great disadvantages and discrimination still alive in America could only be eliminated if there were a new alliance of people across racial lines to create genuine economic opportunity for all Americans.

It's hard to believe -- to somebody like me, anyway, at my age, that it's now been more than 30 years since Dr. King was killed and his dream was put on hold. One of the lesser known passages in his famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial in August of 1963 involved language in which he challenged America -- and I quote -- "to refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity in this nation." Well, my fellow Americans, today those vaults of opportunity are more full than they have ever been in the entire history of this country. And we have more evidence than we have ever had that when children like those that we talked about today -- and when young people like those we celebrate today, Hazel and her peers behind me, do well, we are all strengthened; that there is a fundamental sense in which our futures are bound up together, from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta to the Native American reservations to the inner cities, to the wealthiest corners of our land.

All our kids need a chance to live their dreams, and the American Dream needs for all Americans to be blessed by the opportunity that has given so much to us. Thank you for what you do to achieve that goal, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:32 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 21, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVE TO EDUCATE NEW GENERATION OF COMMUNITY BUILDERS ✓

Also Promises to Highlight the Ties of Faith-Based
Organizations and Non-Profit Groups to Communities and Families

Nashville, TN - Vice President Gore today announced a nationwide initiative to educate a new generation of community-builders with the inter-disciplinary skills that they will need to build communities for the 21st century and to promote service learning and partnerships between communities and institutions of higher education.

Some of the major colleges and universities that endorsed and will participate in the new partnership include: UCLA and the University of California System; University of North Carolina; University of Minnesota; Bank Street College; Cambridge College; Teachers College, Columbia State University; Cornell University; Florida A&M; Morgan State University; Tennessee State University; the University of Miami; University of Wisconsin; and Vanderbilt University.

The education leaders will meet to begin the process immediately after the conference. UCLA will coordinate this phase of the initiative and host a meeting of university and foundation leadership in the fall convened by the Vice President.

The Vice President also officially unveiled a new partnership with Campus Compact, a coalition of more than 620 college and university presidents that work to build sound communities through service learning, partnership with local community activities and inter-disciplinary education. This July there will be a three-day national gathering of college presidents at the Aspen Institute convened by Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

The Vice President also announced a new partnership between the Coalition of Community Foundations for Children and Youth and the American Association of Community Colleges. In addition the Vice President announced a new curriculum produced by the Boston Foundation and announced by Cambridge College.

Speaking at the Family Reunion Conference in Nashville, Vice President Gore also promised to highlight the ties of faith-based organizations and non-profit groups to communities and families. These groups will offer distressed communities a number of services including job training and career assistance, mentoring, partnership building, and business assistance.

"Every family in America deserves the opportunity to live in a community where jobs are plentiful, children receive a good education, and there is hope for the future," said Gore. "Organizations like churches and non-profit groups know their communities best and will be a positive force in working with residents for neighborhood change."

Also under the new Community Building Initiative, the U.S. Department of **Housing** and Urban Development, which operates the innovative Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships, will provide technical assistance to grassroots organizations, community leaders and residents. The Center will partner with other HUD departments to sponsor five conferences for faith-based and non-profit organizations, twenty technical assistance workshops, convene a meeting on community building curricula for colleges and universities, and expand the number of grassroots technical assistance providers.

Specifics of the new Community Building Initiative include:

Launching a New Effort to Empower Grassroots Organizations. Beginning this fall, HUD will host workshops in 20 communities across the country, with a particular emphasis on those places that have been left behind in the nation's recent economic good times. Grassroots organizations and community leaders will learn how to take control of their communities' future by planning their own **housing** developments, forming community development corporations, accessing HUD and other federal funds, and building partnerships with local governments, HUD, and other players in their communities.

Requesting a 100% Increase in the Budget for Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC's). The Clinton-Gore Administration is proposing to double the amount of funding for the COPC program from \$7.5 million in FY 1999 to \$15 million in FY 2000. Under the COPC program, colleges and universities form partnerships with residents to solve neighborhood problems. For example, Virginia Commonwealth University used COPC funds to partner with a Richmond neighborhood elementary school to enhance curriculum, provide expanded health services, develop tutoring programs and engage parents in computer literacy programs. Colleges also have launched mentoring, job training, business assistance, and other needed programs in underserved areas. This proposed budget increase must be approved by Congress before it can take effect.

The U.S. Department of **Housing** and Urban Development will also undertake the following steps:

Expand the Number of Grassroots Technical Assistance Providers. In the coming year, HUD will distribute 40% of its technical assistance grants to providers who have never before participated in the program. This step will help ensure that more faith-based and non-profit organizations from the grassroots will play a major role in the dissemination of community development skills.

Sponsor Five Conferences on Community Building for Faith-Based and Non-Profit Organizations. HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships will convene the regional sessions, which will focus on creating opportunity and bringing about social, economic, and racial justice in our communities. The conferences' general purpose is to

strengthen the partnerships among faith-based organizations, non-profits, and local and federal government. Participants will craft local action plans and develop the skills necessary to implement them. One of these gatherings will take place in Nashville this fall.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 28, 1999

HOUSE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS
DRAMATICALLY CUT KEY PRIORITIES
May 28, 1999

not
included

The House Appropriations Committee has issued its 302(b) allocations - the annual allocations to the 13 subcommittees. After factoring in commitments made in the House budget for defense, NIH, Census, mass transit, and highway construction, and freezing key priorities of special education and VA medical care at 1999 levels - the remaining programs would have to be slashed. If we assume across-the-board cuts in remaining programs, the allocations under the House budget could mean cuts from FY 1999 levels, such as the following:

Education and Training

- The Reading Excellence program which helps children learn to read by the 3rd grade could be cut \$47 million, from the \$260 million FY 1999 enacted level, and could serve 93,000 fewer students.
- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers could be cut by \$36 million from the \$200 million FY 1999 enacted level, denying after school and summer school programs to more than 85,000 students.
- Over 100,000 summer jobs and training opportunities could be eliminated for low-income young people.
- Between 50,000-85,000 low income children could lose access to Head Start compared to FY 1999 level, a reduction of almost 100,000 low income children from the level proposed for FY 2000, making it impossible to reach the goal of serving one million children by 2002.

Environment and Health

- Cuts to Health Resources and Services Administration's health services for women and children, uninsured people and people with AIDS could mean as many as 5.3 million fewer people receiving needed health care services from FY 1999 enacted level and a cut of 6.2 million people served from the FY 2000 request.
- Funding could be eliminated for the clean-up of 15 Superfund toxic waste sites below the FY 1999 level -- needlessly jeopardizing public health for citizens living near affected sites and making it more difficult to meet the 900-site cleanup goal in 2002.

Crime, **Housing**, and Other Priorities

- Rental assistance under the Home Block Grant Program could be cut by \$144 million and deny tenant-based assistance to over 2,100 families compared to FY 1999. Further, funds could be lost for new construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of about 15,000 affordable **housing** units.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) could be cut over \$300 million from the FY 1999 enacted level (outside the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund) level of \$2.8 billion, a reduction of over 2,700 FBI agents below the FY 1999 enacted level. The FY 2000 request level could be cut by over \$600 million and over 5,000 agents.
- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) would be cut \$144 million from the FY 1999 enacted level (outside the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund) of \$1.2 billion for border enforcement. This cut could result in a reduction of approximately 1,300 Border Patrol agents. From the FY 2000 request, this would be a cut of \$378 million and 3,500 agents.
- The National Park Service operating budget could be cut by \$240 million below FY 1999. Most seasonal workers could not be hired, resulting in widespread cutbacks in visitor services, seasonal programs, and hours of operations at 378 park units serving almost 300 million visitors annually.

If we assume they are not going to be able to keep their priorities, the effect of across-the-board cuts could reduce the NIH budget by \$1.9 billion. And the 7 percent across-the-board cut to the Veterans Affairs/HUD appropriations bill could seriously hinder the delivery of vital medical care to hundreds of thousands of our Nation's veterans.

House 302(b) Allocations
Shortchange Education and Training
May 28, 1999

Overall the House 302(b) allocation to the Labor/HHS Subcommittee would require a 18 percent cut from FY 1999 and 21 percent reduction from the President's request in 2000 for many discretionary programs. Assuming across the board cuts to Labor/HSS subcommittee, this would have a devastating impact on critical education, training, and other programs for children:

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers, funded at \$200 million in FY 1999, could be cut by \$36 million, denying after school and summer

school programs to more than 85,000 students.

- The Reading Excellence program which helps children learn to read by the 3rd grade could be cut \$47 million, from the \$260 million FY 1999 enacted level, and could serve 93,000 fewer students.

- Head Start funding could be \$840 million less than FY 1999 levels. A reduction of this magnitude could cut services by between 50,000 and 85,000 low income children below the FY 1999 level, a reduction of almost 100,000 low income children from the level proposed for FY 2000, making it practically impossible to reach the goal of serving one million children in Head Start by 2002.

- Work Study could be cut by \$157 million from the FY 1999 level of \$870 million, to the lowest level since FY 1996. The number of students served would decrease by approximately 172,000 below the FY 1999 level and the funding would not support the President's goal of serving 1 million work study students by 2000.

- GEAR-UP could be reduced by \$22 million, from \$120 million in FY 1999 denying 21,000 young people services to help them prepare for and succeed in college.

- Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funding could be reduced by nearly \$102 million from the \$566 million FY 1999 enacted level, reducing funds for drug and violence prevention that benefits children in 97 percent of the nation's schools. It could also eliminate funding for emergency resources and assistance, including crisis counseling and increased security, in schools experiencing violent events, such as the recent tragic shootings in Littleton, Colorado and Conyers, Georgia.

- Title I, Education for the Disadvantaged could be slashed by nearly \$1.4 billion, from \$7.7 billion in FY 1999, cutting up to 2.2 million disadvantaged youth from services to help them reach high standards.

- Dislocated Worker Assistance could be cut by \$253 million below the FY 1999 enacted level, denying training, job search assistance, and support services to about 133,200 dislocated workers.

- Over 100,000 training and summer job opportunities for low-income youth could be eliminated.

- This reduction could terminate Jobs Corps' planned 4-center expansion and/or force Job Corps to close 11-12 other centers compared to FY 1999. This could eliminate about 8,000 residential training slots for extremely disadvantaged youth in FY 2000. In addition, this would reduce program effectiveness by postponing necessary repairs, terminating the relocation of dilapidated centers, and modernizing the vocational training programs.

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) would be reduced by \$140 million from FY 1999 enacted level and could provide child care assistance to almost 50,000 fewer children.

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| House 302(b) Allocations
| Sacrificing Our Environment and Public Health
| May 28, 1999
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The House 302(b) allocation slashes funding by 12 percent for priority domestic programs from their 1999 level. Assuming across-the-board cuts in affected subcommittees, VA/HUD, Labor/HHS, Agriculture, Interior, and Energy and Water, this could have devastating impacts on public health and the environment in such programs as toxic waste clean-up, water and public health programs, global warming prevention, and national parks:

- Stopping 15 Toxic Waste Cleanups - EPA's Superfund program could be cut by \$135 million from FY 1999 enacted levels. This could eliminate funding for 15 new federally-led cleanups due to begin during FY 2000, needlessly jeopardizing public health for citizens living near affected sites and making it more difficult to meet the 900-site cleanup goal in 2002.

- Shutting Down National Parks - Cuts to the National Park Service could reduce services and hours of operation at 378 parks and other facilities serving almost 300 million visitors a year. The \$240 million below FY 1999 enacted level could shut smaller parks and back-country areas in larger parks, and jeopardize visitor safety by preventing vital maintenance and repairs.

- Squandering Our Lands Legacy - By failing to support the President's Lands Legacy initiative, the House allocation could cripple Federal efforts to preserve natural treasures, and deny states and communities \$588 million to protect farmland, coastland, urban parks and other green spaces.

- Slashing Water and Public Health Protections - The reduction to EPA operations from the FY 1999 enacted level could severely hamper implementation of the Clean Water Action Plan, which helps communities clean up the 40 percent of surveyed waters still too polluted for fishing or swimming; and could let polluters off the hook by severely limiting EPA's ability to enforce public health protections.

- Gambling with Global Warming - Cuts to the Department of Energy and EPA could gut efforts toward cleaner, more efficient energy for homes, transportation, and industry; and keep the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles from meeting its goal of new cars three times more fuel-efficient than today's models by 2004.

- Crippling Wildlife Protections - Cuts to the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Army Corps of Engineers could hamper salmon restoration in the Pacific Northwest, shut down some wildlife refuges, and reduce efforts to restore endangered species.

- Raising the Risk of Deadly Wildfires - Cuts to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (19 percent below FY 1999) could close some lands to the public and reduce firefighting capabilities. A total decrease of about \$160 million below FY 1999 in the wildland firefighting requests for Agriculture and Interior in FY 2000 could severely hamper their capabilities to suppress wild fires, jeopardizing lives and property throughout the West.

House 302(b) Allocations
Shortchange Law Enforcement
May 28, 1999

The House 302(b) allocation for Commerce, Justice, State Subcommittee could require a 12 percent cut from the FY 1999 enacted level to many discretionary programs, assuming minimum essential funding for the 2000 Decennial Census. This could have a devastating impact on critical law enforcement programs such as the Drug Enforcement Agency, INS, FBI, prisons, and drug control programs:

- The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) could be cut \$100 million from the FY 1999 enacted (outside the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund) level of \$835 million. This cut could result in a reduction of approximately 780 agents.
- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) could be cut \$144 million from the FY 1999 enacted level for border enforcement of \$1.2 billion (outside the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund). This cut could result in a reduction of approximately 6,400 detention beds necessary to incarcerate criminal aliens and illegal border crossers, or over 1,300 Border Patrol agents.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) could be over \$300 million from the FY 1999 enacted level of \$2.8 billion (outside the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund). This cut could result in a reduction of approximately 2,700 agents below the FY 1999 enacted level.
- The Federal Prisoner Detention program run by the U.S. Marshals Service could be cut by \$51 million from the FY 1999 enacted level of \$425 million. This cut could result in a reduction of approximately 2,450 criminal detention beds.
- Drug Control Programs. The State Department's drug control programs could be cut by \$29 million compared with FY 1999 enacted levels. This could underfund the State Department programs recently authorized in the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act and could necessitate grounding operating aircraft and stop the deployment of assets newly acquired with 1999 drug supplemental funds. As a result, efforts to diminish illicit crop cultivation in Peru, Columbia, and Bolivia could suffer.

House 302(b) Allocations
Shortchange Urban America
May 28, 1999

The House 302(b) allocations reflect a 9 percent cut in funding from the FY 1999 enacted level to discretionary programs and would have a devastating impact on programs critical to our urban areas. Assuming across the board cuts to VA/HUD appropriations subcommittee, key programs such as rental assistance, **housing** vouchers, and community development efforts would be cut.

- From the FY 1999 enacted level of \$1.6 billion, \$144 million could be cut denying tenant-based rental assistance to over 2,100 families. Further, funds could be lost for new construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of about 15,000 affordable **housing** units.
- It could eliminate 50,000 welfare to work **housing** vouchers enacted in the FY 1999 budget. The cuts could wipe out the Administration's proposal of adding 100,000 new **housing** vouchers, including 25,000 to help move families from welfare to work, 18,000 for the homeless, and 15,000 for extremely low-income elderly.
- The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) could be reduced by nearly \$9 million from the FY 1999 enacted level of \$95 million. This could result in 12 fewer community development institutions (CDFIs) receiving capital funding and 9 fewer financial institutions receiving Bank Enterprise Act grants compared with the FY 1999 enacted level.
- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) could be cut by 9 percent or \$428 million from the FY 1999 enacted level and could

translate into a loss of assistance to over 35,000 homes and loss of support for over 54,000 jobs in low-income areas. The CDBG Program is one of the most popular and flexible sources of funds that mayors and governors use to improve economic opportunity and **housing** in low-income communities. Thousands of local neighborhood improvement efforts could be jeopardized.

- A cut of 9 percent in HUD's discretionary **housing** subsidy puts low-income tenants at risk of losing their **housing** subsidies and virtually eliminates the Administration's efforts to assist more needy families and the elderly. In addition, the Administration's successful effort to reform public **housing** by tearing down boarded-up units and replacing them with proper **housing** could be jeopardized.

- A cut of 9 percent to HUD's Brownfields funding could severely slow the efforts in cities to revitalize vacant, abandoned, or underutilized commercial and industrial sites. In turn, this could hamper efforts to create more jobs and revitalize urban areas.

302(b) ALLOCATION ASSUMPTIONS

- Total Defense spending for all subcommittees will be what the House and Senate Appropriations Committees indicated in their 302(b) allocations.

- Highways, transit, and crime (Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund) will all be funded at the level of the caps. The appropriators have no discretion to change these amounts, which appear in separate sub-caps. (The highway and transit funding is above 1999, crime is below.)

- Census will be funded at the minimum amount needed to conduct the census.

- VA medical care will be frozen at the FY 99 level. (See, e.g., statements of Rep. Chambliss in the Congressional Record of April 14, 1999, at page H1990, Rep. Stump at page H1995, and Rep. Hill at page H1988.)

- NIH will be increased by \$2 billion. (See, Subcommittee Chairmen Porter and Specter's cosponsorship of the "Biomedical Revitalization Resolution of 1999," H. Res. 89 and S.Res. 19 respectively, which call for a \$2 billion increase.)

- Special education will be frozen at 1999 levels.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

May 13, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES 13 PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE THE WELL BEING OF CHILDREN ✓

Charlotte, NC -- Vice President Gore announced today a new initiative that will cut red tape and streamline services in communities across the nation to help them better serve our nation's children.

Under the initiative, known as Boost4Kids, Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government will work hand in hand with 13 partnerships among local communities and state and federal agencies to achieve community specific goals, such as increasing child health insurance and immunization coverage and reducing youth crime and injury rates.

"The 13 'Boost4Kids Partners' will work hand-in-hand with the federal government to cut red tape, and improve services for our nation's children," Vice President Gore said. "This measure will allow communities nationwide to use existing resources more effectively and put our children, not paperwork first."

The Boost4Kids Partners will work to achieve better opportunities and outcomes starting today. Specifically, they will:

Help communities measure results for kids like insurance coverage, immunization, **housing**, food security, traumatic injury rate, youth crime rate, and school readiness; ✓

Find ways to pool administrative savings from discretionary grant programs to turn dollars saved in administration to improving outcomes for children;

Streamline administration and provide greater flexibility to communities in administering grant funds;

Address barriers at the federal, state and local levels - in ways allowable under current law - to better provide needed services and supports for children;

Maximize the use of resources for services for children and;

Share lessons with other communities

After a nationwide search for community/state partners the

following Boost4Kids partnerships have been chosen:

1. California: Contra Costa County
2. California: Placer County
3. California: San Diego County
4. Florida: Palm Beach and Pinellas Counties
5. Georgia: Athens Family Connection
6. Georgia: Houston County
7. Hawaii: Good Beginnings Alliance
8. Iowa: Cass, Mills, & Montgomery Counties, State Empowerment Board
9. Maine: Communities for Children
10. Maryland: Family League of Baltimore City, Inc.
11. Michigan: St. Joseph County
12. North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Resolves II
13. Vermont: Vermont Regional Partnership

The initiative was first proposed by Dr. Robert Ross of San Diego County at the Family Re-Union Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in June 1998. It is based on what San Diego County has been able to do - - by cutting overhead, they have realized significant savings and used them to increase probation officers working with troubled kids and families and to fund 38 after school programs.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 10, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE RECORD CASELOAD DECLINE
AND LANDMARK WELFARE REFORM RULES TO PROMOTE WORK ✓

April 10, 1999

Today, President Clinton will announce that welfare caseloads have fallen by a record 6.5 million people since he took office, falling by half or more in 29 states and nearly half nationwide. The President will unveil landmark new welfare regulations which will promote work and help those who have left the rolls succeed in the workforce and stay off welfare. He will call on Congress to do more to help working families obtain child care, **housing**, and transportation and to assist welfare recipients with the greatest challenges to employment by reauthorizing the Department of Labor's Welfare-to-Work program.

Welfare Rolls Decline As More Recipients Go to Work

President Clinton will announce that welfare caseloads are at their lowest level since 1969 and that welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since he took office. The number of recipients fell from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 7.6 million in December 1998 -- 342,000 fewer recipients than 3 months earlier and more than 6.5 million since he took office, a drop of 46 percent. The rolls have declined by 4.6 million people, or 38 percent, since he signed the welfare law in August 1996. Since 1993, welfare rolls have declined in all states, with 29 states recording declines of half or more. The President will also announce today that the federal government has hired nearly 12,000 welfare recipients, exceeding the 10,000 goal set two years ago this month. Today's announcements add to earlier statistics showing that companies in the Welfare to Work Partnership have hired over 410,000 welfare recipients, the percentage of welfare recipients working has tripled since 1992, an estimated 1.5 million people who were on welfare in 1997 were working in 1998, and all states met the first overall work participation rates required under the welfare reform law.

Final Welfare Regulations Promote Work and State Innovation

Six years after he began his efforts to end welfare as we know it, and two and a half years after signing into law historic welfare reform legislation, today the President will announce landmark regulations enforcing the law's strict work requirements. First, these rules will hold states accountable for measurable results in moving families into work while providing flexibility for states to create innovative programs that build on the successes of welfare reform. Second, to ensure the millions of people who have left the welfare rolls succeed in the workforce -- and to keep others from going on welfare in the first place -- these final welfare regulations will make it easier for states to use TANF funds to provide supports for working families such as child care, transportation, and job retention services. These regulations mark an important milestone in the transformation of our welfare system into one that honors our values of work, responsibility, and family.

Call on Congress to Do More to Help Working Families and Help Those Still on Rolls

The President will call upon Congress to do more to ensure those still on the welfare rolls go to work by urging Congress to reauthorize the Department of Labor's Welfare-to-Work program to increase the employment of long-term recipients in high poverty areas and help low-income fathers better support their children, and to fully fund his welfare to work transportation and **housing** vouchers proposals. The President will also call on Congress to take bipartisan action this year to address the critical child care needs of America's working families. According to the most recent figures, ten million families are eligible for federal subsidies, yet only 1.25 million received support in 1997. In March, the Senate voted by a bipartisan majority of 57 - 40 to set aside \$12 billion over 10 years for child care in its budget resolution.

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Welfare-to-Work
Commitments and Hires through March 22, 1999
as Reported by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Report prepared: 2/2/1999, 10:30

Agency	Total Commitment Thru 2000	Hires Reported Thru March 2000	% of Total Year 2000 Commitment Hired Since 3/8/97
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	--	3	--
Department of Agriculture	375	398	106%
Department of Commerce	4180	4188	100%
Department of Defense	1600	2107	132%

Department of Education	21	26	124%
Department of Energy	55	70	127%
Department of Health & Human Services	300	319	106%
Department of Housing &	200	134	67%
Department of the Interior	325	216	66%
Department of Justice	450	254	56%
Department of Labor	120	153	128%
Department of State	220	56	25%
Department of Transportation	400	253	63%
Department of the Treasury	405	1514	374%
Department of Veterans Affairs	800	1358	170%
Environmental Protection Agency	120	82	68%
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	--	9	--
Executive Office of the President	6	8	133%
Federal Emergency Management Agency	125	60	48%
General Services Administration	121	95	79%
National Aeronautics & Space Administration	40	24	60%
National Archives & Records Administration	--	30	--
National Credit Union Administration	--	5	--
National Endowment for the Humanities	--	1	--
National Labor Relations Board	--	1	--
Office of Government Ethics	--	1	--
Office of Personnel Management	25	57	228%
Railroad Retirement Board	--	1	--
Securities & Exchange Commission	10	12	120%
Small Business	120	61	51%

Administration			
Social Security Administration	600	434	72%
U.S. Information Agency	20	27	135%
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	--	1	--
TOTAL	10638	11958	112%

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES
GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE \$115 MILLION ✓
FOR RURAL RENTAL HOUSING

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that the federal government will provide \$115 million to help rural families throughout the nation secure affordable multi-family rental housing.

"For more than 200 years, homeownership has been the cornerstone of the American Dream," Vice President Gore said. "With what some are calling the best economy in American history, we have it within our power to make sure that dream reaches even more corners of America.

"And by directing a portion of these funds toward Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, colonias and Native American populations, we will make more housing available to rural residents who have traditionally had a difficult time obtaining decent, affordable accommodations."

The Department of Agriculture will provide the announced funds. Of the \$115 million total, \$81 million will be used to develop new facilities, while \$34 million will go for rental assistance to individual families. Elderly residents are targeted for 47% of the projects funded. Multi-family housing money comes in addition to funding provided to individual rural homeowners by the Agriculture Department.

"USDA will provide housing to over 2000 rural families this year through its multi-family rental housing program," Glickman said. "With these funds, we hope to continue our efforts to maintain the stability in rural America by providing community services, business opportunities and access to safe housing."

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 4, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD ONE MILLION NEW HOMES OVER NEXT 10 YEARS ✓

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD) have 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.

Joining the Vice President for the announcement were **Housing** Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, NAHB President Charles Ruma, and Michelle Speaks, a single mother who recently purchased a home in one of Baltimore's new **housing** developments.

"The agreement we are announcing today represents another example of how the public and private sector can team together to help strengthen America's families and communities," Vice President Gore said.

"By committing to build one million new homes over the next ten years, the homebuilders, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development will create new opportunities for affordable home ownership and help American families fulfill the dream of owning their own home -- all of which will also help to revitalize and strengthen America's cities," he added.

"This is the first widely implemented public-private partnership to create new **housing** in our cities," Cuomo said. "It recognizes that home builders can do good things for cities and do well financially at the same time. HUD and cities will work to coordinate available public resources to make it easier to build homes in cities. Home builders will work to expand their businesses in cities."

Under the signed agreement:

HUD will provide specially trained staff persons, known as Community Builders, in the the first participating cities to help mayors and homebuilders identify new federal resources, such as the

HOME Program, Homeownership Zones, Empowerment Zones, and technical assistance grants as well as ensure coordination of existing federal resources and programs. In addition, the Department has requested \$50 million in the President's FY 2000 budget for Brownyards to Backyards, a new initiative designed to assist cities in reclaiming brownfields and replacing abandoned buildings where appropriate with new **housing**.

NAHB will work through its more than 800 state and local home builder associations to encourage home builders to pursue urban residential development opportunities while working with local jurisdictions to identify and remove barriers to urban home construction.

The Conference of Mayors will urge its members to join in the partnership, and work with HUD and NAHB to help cities develop and implement strategies for removing barriers to new home production.

The goal of the partnership is to produce 100,000 new **housing** units a year over the next decade, including both single family homes and apartments, though the focus of the partnership effort will be increasing homeownership. Last month Secretary Cuomo announced that the urban homeownership rate was 50 percent while the nation's suburban homeownership rate was just over 73 percent.

The initiative will begin with the establishment of pilot programs in five to ten cities, from which models will be developed to use as part of the national effort. An advisory council, the Council on Building Homes in America's Cities, consisting of representatives from HUD, NAHB, USCM and other community based organizations will meet within the next month to determine the selection criteria for the pilot cities.

Once the pilot cities are selected, the council will facilitate communication and interaction between HUD, participating cities, home builders, partners of the National Homeownership Strategy, and other community-based organizations. The Council also will monitor the initiative's progress, develop models of successful approaches and compile and communicate best practices agreements.

Building more homes in the nation's cities is a central component of the Clinton-Gore Administration's broader goal of aggressively investing in already established urban neighborhoods, and providing further opportunities for homeownership to traditionally under served populations, including African Americans and Hispanics.

The partnership will also complement the Administrations' efforts to stimulate private investment in urban areas and contribute towards helping localities plan and build more "livable communities".

A recent study by the Joint Center for **Housing** Studies concluded that new home construction has largely by-passed central cities. In 1994, less than 10 percent of all single family home construction occurred in cities. That same year, in many large cities, including Boston, Buffalo, Detroit, Harford, Miami, Milwaukee, Providence, Rochester, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C., less than 100 new homes were constructed.

As chair of the President's Community Empowerment Board, the Vice President oversees the Administration's Community Empowerment Agenda, which includes a series of initiatives to provide greater opportunity in, and expand the competitiveness of, our distressed urban and rural areas. An important part of the agenda has been to spur the private sector to play a greater role in these areas.

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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 corporations, 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.

America's Private Investment Companies (APICs): Just as America's support for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation helps promote growth in emerging markets abroad, APIC will encourage private investment in this country's untapped markets. For each \$100 million of private equity, HUD and SBA will guarantee loans up to \$200 million, creating a \$300 million investment fund to target larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner city and rural areas.

SBIC's Targeted to New Market: Last summer, the Vice President challenged the SBA to find ways to better meet the needs of minority firms and underserved markets. The SBA is responding by offering more flexibility and new financing terms for Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) that invest in low and moderate income 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.

Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities: The Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities encourage investment in distressed communities through tax benefits for businesses, and flexible block grants for job training, day care and other purposes. The original EZs from 1994 have already used funding to leverage private dollars to create or save 1,500 jobs, train 900 persons, and serve 3,200 youth in developmental programs. In 1999, Congress provided first-year funding of \$55 million for the new EZs, and \$5 million in first-year funding for 20 new rural Enterprise Communities announced in January. The 2000 Budget proposes mandatory funding for ten years: \$150 million a year for urban EZs and Strategic Planning Communities; \$10 million a year for rural EZs; and \$5 million a year for rural ECs.

National Service: This program encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to help solve community problems and provides opportunities to engage in community-based service. The budget proposes \$848 million for the Corporation, a 19 percent increase over 1999.

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**. Even though 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. Estimates suggest that the LIHTC currently helps build 75,000-90,000 affordable **housing** units each year. The President and Vice President's proposal to increase the cap by 40 percent will create an additional 150,000-180,000 new rental **housing** units for low-income American families over the next five years. Last year, over two-thirds of the House and Senate were co-sponsors on bills to raise the cap on the LIHTC -- more support than any other tax

legislation. This proposal will cost \$1.7 billion over five years.

Play-by-the-Rules: In 1999, the Administration proposed and Congress enacted a \$25 million Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation "Play-by-the-Rules" pilot program. This program will allow renters with solid payment track records to own their own homes. The 2000 Budget proposes a second round of \$15 million for this initiative.

Elderly Housing: The budget provides \$747 million for the Department of Housing Urban Development's (HUD's) elderly **housing** program to address the changing needs of the elderly population and reconfigure an aging **housing** stock to better serve the frail elderly. In addition to providing grants to non-profits for construction of 5,970 units, funds would be provided to convert some projects to assisted living using a combination of capital grants and service coordinators to bring services from the community to residents. The budget permanently authorizes 15,000 new **housing** vouchers linked to Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit properties to make these units affordable to extremely low-income elderly.

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.

Transportation and Housing for Families Moving From Welfare to Work: The President's budget will provide \$430 million for 75,000 welfare-to-work **housing** vouchers, including \$144 million in new funds for 25,000 additional vouchers. This is a 50 percent increase over the 50,000 vouchers the President secured last year. The vouchers will help families move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable **housing** so they can perform better on the job.

Helping America's Communities Redevelop Abandoned Buildings: This new Federal initiative 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, as long as there is a plan -- with significant private-sector participation -- to redevelop the property for commercial use or multi-family and single family **housing**. To ensure no incentive is created to abandon buildings, the program would be sunsetted after three years and no building abandoned after October 1, 1999 would be eligible for redevelopment. Preferences will be given to communities that link existing youth training programs with the property's redevelopment.

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| RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT |
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Despite tight constraints on discretionary spending, fiscal year 2000 is the seventh year in a row that the President has proposed increased investments in civilian research and development -- to a total of \$39.8 billion. Civilian R&D now constitutes 51% of the overall R&D budget of \$78.2 billion.

The FY 2000 budget continues the important R&D trends established by this Administration. It boosts funding for basic research to \$18.2

teach. The President will announce other initiatives to improve teacher quality at an event later in the week.

Housing ✓

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**. Even though 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. Estimates suggest that the LIHTC currently helps build 75,000-90,000 affordable **housing** units each year. The President and Vice President's proposal to increase the cap by 40 percent will create an additional 150,000-180,000 new rental **housing** units for low-income American families over the next five years. Last year, over two-thirds of the House and Senate were co-sponsors on bills to raise the cap on the LIHTC -- more support than any other tax legislation. This proposal will cost \$1.7 billion over five years.

Senior **Housing** Plan To complement the long-term health care initiatives announced by the President in his State of the Union Address, the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development's plan to meet the changing **housing** needs of our nation's elders will provide security and peace of mind to coming generations of senior citizens, especially the rapidly growing number of frail elderly over age 85. Priority budget items are \$747 million for Section 202 **Housing** for the Elderly, including reforms to allow for conversion of existing buildings where seniors need assisted living, and \$87 million to give elderly people **housing** vouchers.

Homelessness The President's budget will include an increase of \$150 million to a record level of \$1.1 billion for expanding the continuum of care for the nation's homeless. The increase in homeless assistance, plus 10,000 new vouchers to create permanent **housing** solutions, will address the **housing** needs of the most vulnerable Americans -- those making a transition from the streets back into homes and community life.

Livability

Livability Agenda: Easing Traffic Congestion and Community Planning and Collaboration To help communities across America grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing a comprehensive Livability Agenda providing new tools and resources for state and local governments. The initiative includes: a record \$6.1 billion for public transit, plus \$2.4 billion for other innovative programs to promote improved transportation planning and ease traffic congestion so commuters can spend less time in traffic and more with their families; \$50 million in matching grants to help neighboring communities develop collaborative "smart growth" strategies; and \$10 million to encourage citizen participation in the design of schools as centers of their communities, provide communities with new information tools so they can grow according to their values, and improve public safety by sharing crime data among communities. By delivering tools and resources to the local level, where issues of growth are most appropriately addressed, this initiative helps empower citizens to build more "livable communities" for the 21st century.

Livability Agenda: Better America Bonds To help communities reconnect with their land and water, preserve green space for future generations,



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Office of the Press Secretary

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January 25, 1999

PRESS BRIEFING BY
SECRETARY OF HHS DONNA SHALALA,
SECRETARY OF LABOR ALEXIS HERMAN,
AND DOMESTIC POLICY ADVISOR BRUCE REED

The Briefing Room

11:51 A.M. EST

Q Is the President going to be impeached?

SECRETARY SHALALA: Not until after we finish welfare reform. (Laughter.) As the President said, our budget will include additional resources to support our ongoing efforts to help young parents move from welfare to work, and specifically, today we're talking about \$430 million in **housing** vouchers to help families secure more stable **housing**, ✓ and \$150 million in transportation assistance to help workers get to their jobs.

And one of the things the President pointed out in his speech was the workers are located in different places from the jobs and, therefore, transportation and child care become very critical pieces to our overall efforts to get people to work.

The budget also extends the welfare-to-work opportunity tax credit to encourage more businesses to hire welfare recipients, and it reauthorizes the welfare-to-work bill that the Labor Department administers. And Secretary Herman will talk about those.

These programs build on our success to date. As you know, the President announced today that welfare caseloads are at the lowest levels in 30 years, and the percentage of welfare recipients who are working has tripled since this administration began early in 1993. Approximately 1.5 million people who were on welfare in 1997 were working in 1998, and all states for which we have data are meeting their work participation rates, which means that it's not just scattered across the country as to which states are moving welfare recipients to work. it's happening in every state and each state is meeting the



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Office of the Vice President

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January 27, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES OVER \$21 MILLION IN NEW HOME OWNERSHIP GRANTS

Also Highlights Highest Home Ownership Rate in American History,
Praises HUD Secretary Cuomo's Leadership ✓

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore highlighted that a record number of Americans owned their own homes in 1998 and that now is the time to take additional steps -- today the federal government will provide over \$21 million in grants to 74 locally owned public/private partnerships to enable families in distressed communities across the nation become first-time homeowners.

Today, **Housing** and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced that the nation's homeownership rate hit a record high in 1998, climbing to 66.3 percent -- its highest level in the history of our country. Since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office, more than 7 million Americans have bought a first home.

"For millions of Americans the surest sign of the American dream is homeownership. For too long, though, sky-high interest rates caused by sky-high deficits made homeownership a dream deferred," Vice President Gore said. "Today, for more Americans than ever before, the American dream of homeownership is a dream fulfilled."

"As a result of President's Clinton's policies, home ownership has been transformed from an impossible dream into a beautiful reality for millions of people," HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo said.

To help more Americans buy homes, the Vice President announced that the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, supported by President Clinton and Vice President Gore and funded by Congress, will provide more than \$21 million in grants to their NeighborWorks network to help 14,000 low- and moderate-income families who have a good rent paying history become homeowners. These families are located in over 500 distressed communities across the country.

"President Clinton and I have always believed that opportunity and responsibility go hand-in-hand. That is why I am pleased that we are making the opportunity of homeownership a reality for 14,000 families who have been responsible citizens," the Vice President said. "For these families, the NeighborWorks network will be their bridge to homeownership -- helping them navigate the home buying process with homeownership counseling and financing."

Last year, President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed a \$25 million increase for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to expand their NeighborWorks Campaign for Home Ownership 2002. These increased funds -- which were approved by Congress -- are significantly leveraged by the NeighborWorks network and their private- and public-sector partners to extend the benefits of homeownership to an additional 14,000 low- and moderate-income working households who have paid their rent on time. Over the next five years, the NeighborWorks Campaign for Home Ownership 2002 will help 35,000 low- and moderate-income families achieve homeownership, will counsel 270,000 prospective home buyers, and generate \$2.5 billion of investments in underserved communities.

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January 25, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES WELFARE TO WORK PROGRAMS ✓
New Steps To Help Fathers Support Their Children And Families
Presidential Hall, Old Executive Office Building

January 25, 1999

With welfare caseloads down by nearly half since 1993 and over 10,000 companies committed to welfare-to-work, President Clinton will announce today a new package of initiatives designed to ensure that those remaining on the welfare rolls make a successful transition from welfare to work. These initiatives have a new focus -- to increase the employment of low-income fathers so they can support their children. The President's \$1 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative would help 200,000 more people work. At least \$150 million is dedicated to helping fathers fulfill their responsibilities to their children by working and paying child support. Remaining funds focus on long-term welfare recipients with the greatest obstacles to employment. The President also will announce that his budget will contain new welfare-to-work **housing** ✓ vouchers, transportation funds, and tax credits to help those on welfare get to work and stay employed. These initiatives would provide parents the tools they need to support their children and succeed in the workforce.

Welfare-to-Work Funds with a Focus on Fathers The President's \$1 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative would help 200,000 long-term welfare recipients in high-poverty areas move into lasting unsubsidized employment. It is an extension of the two-year, \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work program the President secured in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. The initiative, as reauthorized, provides at least \$150 million to ensure that every state helps fathers fulfill their responsibilities by working, paying child support, and playing a responsible part in their children's lives. Under this proposal, states and communities would use a minimum of 20 percent of their formula funds to provide job placement and job retention assistance to low-income fathers who sign personal responsibility contracts committing them to work and pay child support. This effort would further increase child support collections, which have risen 80 percent since the President took office, from \$8 billion in 1992 to \$14.4 billion in 1998.

Remaining funds go toward assisting long-term welfare recipients with the greatest barriers to employment to move into lasting jobs. The reauthorized program also doubles the welfare-to-work funding available for tribes.

Also, the Department of Labor will announce today the availability of \$240 million in competitive grants from the current \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work program. These funds will support innovative local welfare-to-work strategies for individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, substance abuse problems, or a history of domestic violence.

Transportation and **Housing** for Families Moving From Welfare to Work The President also will announce today that his budget will contain \$580 million for welfare to work **housing** vouchers and transportation assistance to help those on welfare obtain work and stay employed. The President's budget will provide \$430 million for 75,000 welfare-to-work **housing** vouchers, including \$144 million in new funds for 25,000 additional vouchers. This is a 50-percent increase over the 50,000 vouchers the President secured last year. The vouchers would help families move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable **housing** so they can perform better on the job. The President's budget also increases Access to Jobs transportation funding from \$75 million to \$150 million, doubling the number of individuals and communities that can receive transportation assistance. This competitive grant program supports innovative state and local transportation solutions such as shuttles, van pools, new bus routes, and connector services to mass transit to help welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work. ✓

Private Sector Hiring from the Welfare Rolls The President will announce that his budget will include \$530 million to extend for one year Welfare to Work and Work Opportunity Tax Credits to encourage more employers to hire welfare recipients and other disadvantaged individuals. Already, in response to the President's challenge two years ago in his State of the Union Address, 10,000 companies have joined the Welfare to Work Partnership and hired, retained, and promoted hundreds of thousands of former welfare recipients. Forty-two percent of these companies are very small businesses (25 or fewer employees), while four percent are very large businesses (3,000 or more employees).

Welfare Rolls Decline as More Recipients Go to Work The President will release state-by-state data showing that welfare caseloads are at their lowest level in 30 years and that the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since he took office. Since January 1993, 36 states have had caseload declines of more than 40 percent and nationwide the rolls have fallen by 44 percent, from 14.1 million to just below 8 million. Information released recently by the Department of Health and Human Services also shows that the percentage of welfare recipients working has tripled since 1992, that an estimated 1.5 million people who were on welfare in 1997 were working in 1998, and that all states met the first overall work participation rates required under the welfare reform law.

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January 18, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATION
WILL SEEK \$663 MILLION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ✓

Proposal Would Increase Funding for
Civil Rights Enforcement by 15 Percent

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that the Clinton-Gore Administration will seek \$663 million for civil rights enforcement, a 15 percent increase over last year's funding levels.

"I am proud to announce today that as part of the balanced budget we will be submitting to Congress next month, we are proposing to invest \$663 million for civil rights enforcement," Vice President Gore said. "These funds will help ensure that no American is denied a job, a home, or an education because of their race, color, creed, gender, or religion; instead we will help ensure equal opportunity for all Americans."

Specifically, the Vice President announced today:

Increased Funding for the Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

The Administration's 2000 budget provides \$312 million for the EEOC, 12 percent more than the enacted 1999 budget. Funds will go to support, among other things, the agency's effort to reduce the backlog of private sector cases to 28,000 by the end of 2000, through a combination of investments in information technology, increased use of mediation, and increased staffing.

Increased Funding for the Department of Justice's
Civil Rights Division

The President's 2000 budget provides \$82 million, a 19 percent increase over the 1999 enacted level of \$69 million. This represents the largest increase for the Civil Rights Division in nine years. The proposed funding will permit the Department of Justice to significantly expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases

(including hate crimes and police misconduct), fair **housing** and lending cases, and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This increase will also allow the Division to prepare for the review, required by the Voting Rights Act, of numerous redistrictings that will follow the 2000 Census, and to obtain necessary technology improvements.

Funding for Civil Rights Enforcement Partnerships
at the Department of Justice

State attorneys general have a vital role to play as partners in eliminating discrimination through civil rights enforcement. The President's Budget proposes \$5 million for the Civil Rights Enforcement Partnership, which will provide competitive grants to help build the capacity of states to address specific enforcement issues within their jurisdictions by hiring additional staff.

Increased Funding for the Department of Labor's
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)

The Administration's budget requests \$76 million for OFCCP -- an \$11 million or 17% increase over the FY 1999 enacted level. The request includes funds to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance, including providing contractors with the necessary tools to evaluate their equal employment practices.

Increased Funding for the Department of **Housing**
and Urban Development's (HUD) Fair **Housing** Initiatives

The Administration's budget proposes \$47 million, or an over 17 percent increase from last year, for HUD's efforts to reduce **housing** discrimination. The budget requests \$27 million, a 15 percent increase, for the Fair **Housing** Initiatives Program (FHIP), which provides funding to private fair **housing** groups to assist in enforcement of the Fair **Housing** Act. This includes \$7.5 million to fund the second year of a three-year audit-based enforcement initiative. The Administration proposal also seeks \$20 million, a 21 percent increase, for the Fair **Housing** Assistance Program, to support the creation of additional State and local **housing** organizations to meet the needs of currently underserved populations and to aid joint investigations and enforcement activities.

Increased Funding for the United States Department
of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights

The President's budget proposal increases funding for USDA's civil rights programs from \$16 million to \$19 million. USDA's civil rights programs will emphasize outreach to disadvantaged farmers, involve small and disadvantaged businesses in USDA programs, increase conflict resolution activities, and more effectively process complaints brought by employees and customers.

Increased Funding for the Department of
Education's Office for Civil Rights

The President's budget proposal of \$73 million provides an increase of \$7 million over the 1999 enacted budget to fund staff training and technological improvements to ensure the resolution of civil rights issues. The additional funds will enable OCR to work with State

Educational Agencies to address statewide compliance with civil rights laws, fund a comprehensive demographic survey of the universe of elementary and secondary public school districts, and keep pace with increased customer and stakeholder expectations for information and involvement in civil rights problem solving.

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January 18, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCE
LARGEST LENDING DISCRIMINATION SETTLEMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY
AT 1999 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY SERVICE PROJECT ✓

January 18, 1999

Today, President Clinton and Vice President Gore will announce the largest lending discrimination settlement in American history -- \$6.5 billion in mortgages and special programs designed to help 78,000 minority and low- to moderate-income families become homeowners.

The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development negotiated the record settlement with Columbia National Inc., based in Columbia, MD. The mortgage lender, which operates in 28 states, was accused of violating the Fair **Housing** Act by discriminating against minorities seeking home mortgages. Under the settlement, Columbia agreed to make \$6 billion in home mortgage loans to minorities and low- to moderate-income families over the next five years.

The lender also agreed to spend \$529 million over the five years on the following programs:

- \$489 million in closing cost assistance programs and bond programs that subsidize interest rates for minority families and low- to moderate-income families;
- \$36.5 million in home rehabilitation loans that will be available through HUD's Federal **Housing** Administration (FHA) 203k program;
- \$2.6 million to advertise the availability of its home mortgages in minority oriented media; and
- \$1 million to train its staff to deal with fair lending and diversity issues.

The settlement closes HUD's investigation of the lending discrimination charges, which grew out of a November 1997 complaint against Columbia by the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission. It is the eighth and final settlement involving testing done by the commission with a \$100,000 grant awarded by HUD to determine whether there was racial discrimination in lending in the Fort Worth, Texas area.

The eight settlements, including Columbia, total \$10.1 billion. Previous record-high lending discrimination settlements were negotiated by HUD in 1998 growing out of the same \$100,000 grant. Those record settlements were for \$2.1 billion from AccuBanc Mortgage of Dallas, Texas and \$1.3 billion from Temple-Inlan Mortgage of Austin, Texas, with most of the funds going for mortgages targeted to minorities and low- to moderate-income home buyers.

Congress passed the Fair **Housing** Act in 1968, six days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who spent years working for passage of the measure to outlaw **housing** discrimination. Many of those voting for the measure at the time said it was a tribute to Dr. King.

The President and Vice President will make the announcement at Regency House senior health center, where they will work with 15 AmeriCorps volunteers to tear down a wall. This project marks the beginning of full scale rehabilitation of the senior health center by AmeriCorps members. Regency House is a 160-unit high-rise apartment building for low-income seniors, administered by the D.C. **Housing** Authority. This year, more than 700 AmeriCorps members will serve with more than 8 projects across the District of Columbia.

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December 23, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES INCREASE
IN HOMELESS ASSISTANCE
SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FY2000 BUDGET AND \$850 MILLION IN GRANTS
TO HELP MORE THAN 330,000 HOMELESS AMERICANS

Baltimore, Maryland
December 23, 1998

Today President Clinton will announce that his Fiscal Year 2000 budget will include \$1.125 billion in homeless assistance -- more than a 15 percent increase from the \$975 million enacted this year. President Clinton also will announce that the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding \$850 million in grants to help more than 330,000 homeless people obtain **housing** and receive vital social services to reach self-sufficiency. The grants are part of President Clinton's Continuum of Care strategy to create safe, affordable **housing** and break the cycle of homelessness. ✓

Fiscal Year 2000 Budget

The President will announce that his FY2000 budget for HUD includes \$1.125 billion for homeless assistance. The budget includes \$1.025 billion for homelessness grant programs and \$100 million for 18,000 additional Section 8 vouchers targeted to help homeless people move from homeless facilities into permanent residences. If enacted, the \$1.125 billion will be the largest ever appropriation to HUD for homeless assistance. The budget request represents more than a 15 percent increase from the \$975 million enacted for HUD homeless programs for FY 1999. It builds on a long-term record of achieving budget increases for homeless assistance, totaling more than 70 percent since the President took office.

Continuum of Care Grants for the Homeless

The President will announce \$700 million in Continuum of Care competitive grants to help homeless persons in 307 communities located in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The grants from FY 1999 funds, approved earlier this year, provide homeless people with transitional and permanent **housing** and fund social services such as job training, child care, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. The grants are provided under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and fund 1420 individual projects including more than 1000 non-profit organizations. The non-profit organizations receiving funds include local chapters of the Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, and Catholic Charities.

Emergency Shelter Grants

The President also will announce \$150 million in funding for the Emergency Shelter Grants program in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and American territories. Under this program, states and cities select local projects to receive funding for emergency shelter and other homeless needs. The funds are distributed through a formula based on a community's **housing** and poverty needs.

President Clinton's Continuum of Care Strategy to End the Cycle of Homelessness

President Clinton's Continuum of Care strategy, initiated in 1993, requires local public and private agencies to work together to create a comprehensive plan to address the needs of poor and homeless people, and to coordinate services to use resources most efficiently. The goal of the Continuum of Care strategy is to ensure that communities respond to homelessness not simply by providing emergency assistance, but by putting into place comprehensive and long-term approaches that will help homeless people become self-sufficient. The key elements are outreach and assessment; emergency shelter; transitional **housing** and services; permanent **housing**; and permanent supportive **housing**. In 1998, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation recognized the Continuum of Care policy as one of the 25 finalists in Innovations in American Government.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON UNVEILS \$479 MILLION IN NEW AIDS GRANTS
AND MEETS WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HIV/AIDS ✓

December 18, 1998

Today, President Clinton will announce the release of \$479 million in new Ryan White funding to improve primary health care and supportive services for people with HIV/AIDS. The President will unveil these grants in a meeting with his Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS where he will hear a report on their work and seek their advice on ways to improve the Nation's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Today the President will:

Announce new Title I grants for Ryan White. The President will announce that \$479 million in grants is being released today under Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act to fund primary health care and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS. These grants serve low-income individuals and families in 50 eligible metropolitan areas hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. These grants include special funds targeting African-Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities.

Work with the community to improve the Nation's response to HIV/AIDS. The President, accompanied by Sandra Thurman, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, will meet with his Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS to hear a report on their work and their advice on ways to improve the Nation's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The President will urge the Council to work with Congress to take new steps in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including passing a strong enforceable patients' bill of rights, passing the Jeffords-Kennedy legislation that helps people with disabilities access affordable health care coverage so they can return to work, and enhancing efforts to find an AIDS vaccine.

The President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS was created by the President in 1995 to provide guidance on the Nation's efforts to care for those living with HIV/AIDS, to stop the spread of the disease, and to improve vaccine and treatment research. It is chaired by Dr. Scott

Hitt, a physician from Los Angeles specializing in AIDS care. The Council has 35 members, 13 of whom are HIV-positive and 13 of whom are persons of color. They come from around the country, sharing a broad range of perspectives that reflect the diversity of the epidemic.

Build on recent efforts to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Today's activities build on a deep ongoing commitment by the Clinton/Gore Administration to respond to the AIDS crisis both in the United States and across the world. The Administration has fought for other critical investments in HIV/AIDS. In the last few months alone, the President:

Unveiled new initiative on World AIDS Day 1998 to address the crisis of AIDS orphans and international HIV/AIDS. The President joined Secretary Albright and USAID Administrator Atwood to unveil a new initiative including: a 12 percent increase in NIH AIDS research funding, \$200 million (a 33 percent increase) in HIV vaccine research, a \$10 million effort to address the growing crisis of AIDS orphans in developing nations, and a fact-finding delegation to Africa by Sandra Thurman, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.

Declared HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic minority communities to be a severe and ongoing health care crisis and unveiled a new \$156 million initiative to address this problem, including crisis response teams, enhanced prevention efforts, and assistance in accessing state-of-the-art therapies, all targeted toward ethnic and racial minorities in communities across the country;

Worked with Congress to secure historic increases in a wide range of effective HIV/AIDS programs. Increases this year alone include: a \$262 million increase in Ryan White CARE Act funds; a 12-percent increase in AIDS research funding at the NIH; a \$32 million increase in HIV prevention programs at the CDC; and a \$21 million increase in the **Housing Opportunities** for People With AIDS program at HUD. ✓

A solid record of progress in HIV/AIDS. The Clinton/Gore Administration has a proud record of accomplishment in its response to HIV/AIDS, including:

Increasing funding for major HIV/AIDS programs by over 100 percent:

- a 266-percent increase in the Ryan White CARE Act
- a 67-percent increase in AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health
- a 125-percent increase in the **Housing Opportunities** for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program at HUD
- a 64-percent increase in international AIDS funding at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and
- a 34-percent increase in HIV prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Protecting Medicaid and Social Security. The President fought to preserve the guarantee of coverage under Medicaid, which serves more than 50 percent of people living with AIDS -- and 92 percent of children with AIDS -- who rely on Medicaid for health coverage. He also revised eligibility rules for Social Security Disability Insurance to increase the number of HIV-positive persons who qualify for benefits.

Focusing National Efforts on an AIDS Vaccine. In May of 1997, the President challenged the nation to develop an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. He announced a number of initiatives to help fulfill this goal, including: dedicating an AIDS vaccine research center at the National Institutes of Health and encouraging domestic and

international collaboration among governments, medical communities and service organizations. On World AIDS Day 1998, the President announced \$200 million in funding for vaccine research at the NIH, a \$47 million (33 percent) increase over the previous fiscal year.

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REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RADIO ACTUALITY ON HUD GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT ✓

The Oval Office

For too many Americans living with AIDS, poverty is nearly as much of a threat as the disease itself. People with AIDS face enormous medical bills and are often too sick to hold a job. Without our help, many would be forced to live in unfit **housing**, or even to become homeless. We must not turn our backs on these Americans when they need us the most. Today I am announcing \$221 million in grants that will help meet the **housing** needs of the 85,000 Americans who have AIDS and those who live with a family member with the disease. These grants, administered by the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development, will mean that people fighting AIDS don't have to also fight to keep a roof over their heads.

30-30-30

Sound from The President is available today on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line at 202/456-5671.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1998

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$220 MILLION TO PROVIDE **HOUSING**, OTHER CRITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OVER 65,000 PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore commemorated World AIDS Day today by announcing that the federal government will provide \$220 million in grants for **housing** and support services for over 65,000 low-income people with HIV/AIDS and members of their households.

The Vice President announced the new funds, which the **Housing** and Urban Development Department (HUD) will distribute under its **Housing** Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, at a meeting with people who receive and provide these critical **housing** and support services in Washington DC.

"For too many Americans living with AIDS, poverty is nearly as much of a threat as the disease itself," Vice President Gore said. "Without our help, many would be forced to live in unfit **housing** or become homeless. These grants will mean that people fighting AIDS won't have to also fight to keep a roof over their heads."

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo added, "We all know about the terrible toll of illness and death caused by the AIDS virus. On top of this, AIDS often destroys the financial health of those with the disease as well, hitting them with huge medical bills and leaving them too sick to work."

Today, the Vice President:

Unveiled new HOPWA grants that provide critical support to communities in need. Studies show that people with HIV/AIDS are at increased risk for homelessness and have more problems obtaining access to affordable **housing**. This \$220 million in HOPWA funding, a 10 percent increase over last year, provides critical **housing** and other support services that:

Help people with HIV/AIDS remain in their homes by providing

rental assistance and supportive services such as meals, transportation, and counseling; and

Provide **housing** to people with HIV/AIDS and their families facing homelessness. By providing **housing** and other critical support services, this program helps keep families intact, and assures that individuals with HIV/AIDS have the support they need. Most people that HOPWA serves have incomes of under \$1,000 a month.

Of the \$220 million, \$200 million will go to states, cities, and communities to develop effective programs. The remaining \$20 million will go to programs nationwide that have developed particularly effective and innovative approaches to providing **housing** and other necessary support services for people with HIV/AIDS. For example, an innovative program in Savannah, GA enables people with HIV/AIDS to receive home-based care, and one in Illinois provides innovative services, including effective mental health services and daily living services.

Highlighted Clinton/Gore Administration's ongoing progress in fighting HIV/AIDS. The Vice President underscored other Administration efforts to improve prevention, treatment, and research for people with HIV/AIDS. He noted that the President is unveiling historic new steps today to help the up to 40 million children who will be orphaned by HIV/AIDS by 2010, including new emergency funding from USAID to support international, community-based AIDS orphan programs and historic new increases in AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) dedicated to help address the global problem of HIV/AIDS.

These steps build on the historic progress to combat HIV/AIDS for which the Administration fought in this year's balanced budget, including: a new \$156 million initiative to address the severe, ongoing health care crisis of HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic minorities, including crisis response teams and enhanced prevention efforts across the nation; a \$262 million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act; a 12 percent increase in AIDS research funding at the NIH, a \$32 million increase HIV prevention programs at the CDC; and a \$21 million increase in HOPWA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 28, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW **HOUSING** GRANTS WILL HELP NEARLY 30,000 SENIOR CITIZENS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

November 28, 1998 ✓

Today, President Clinton will outline steps he is taking to help our neediest citizens share in the blessings of the holiday season. He will announce nearly \$130 million in new **housing** vouchers to help people with disabilities in over 200 communities obtain affordable **housing**. These funds, combined with nearly \$700 million in grants ✓ released earlier this month to non-profit groups to create new subsidized apartments in 48 states, will help nearly 30,000 low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities have a home to call their own. The grants from the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development are part of President Clinton's ongoing strategy to create safe, affordable **housing** for those who need it most.

New **Housing** Funds for People with Disabilities

Today, the President will announce nearly \$130 million in new **housing** vouchers to help over 17,000 people with disabilities obtain affordable rental **housing**. These funds will help subsidize rents in the private marketplace, providing new affordable **housing** choices for people with disabilities. These vouchers and certificates will be provided to people with disabilities in over 200 communities across America through local **housing** authorities and will ensure that low income people with disabilities won't have to pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent.

New Grants to Create Affordable **Housing** for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities

Earlier this month, **Housing** and Urban Development Secretary Cuomo

unveiled \$696 million in grants to non-profit groups in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to create more than 8,100 subsidized apartments for over 12,000 very low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities. These funds will be used to create new affordable rental **housing** (through new construction or rehabilitation of existing **housing**) and to subsidize the rents of the **housing** tenants. The funds will provide over 6,500 apartments for about 9,900 senior citizens and 1,650 apartments for about 2,500 people with disabilities. Funds will be provided to over 200 non-profit organizations, including local chapters of the YMCA, Salvation Army, B'nai B'rith, Goodwill, and Catholic Charities.

Promoting Affordable **Housing** and Homeownership

These steps are just a few of President Clinton's efforts to promote affordable **housing** and homeownership. This year's balanced budget included the first new **housing** vouchers in five years, with 50,000 specifically targeted to help people moving from welfare to work find **housing** closer to jobs. The President has increased funding to help homeless people move from the streets to self-sufficiency and will continue to fight to expand the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit to help America's most hard-pressed families afford decent **housing**. Under President Clinton's leadership, over 7 million more Americans have become homeowners, raising the homeownership rate to 66.8 percent, the highest rate in our history.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 28, 1998

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION ✓

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This Thanksgiving weekend we gather in our homes with families and friends to share holiday meals and memories, and to give thanks to God for our many blessings. But Thanksgiving is not only a day to give thanks -- it is also a time when we renew our commitment to our deepest values and to the duty we owe to one another. Today, I want to talk about an important step we're taking to help our neediest citizens.

This year Americans have much to be grateful for: grateful that our economy is the strongest in a generation, offering greater opportunity than ever before for every American; grateful that our communities are safer than they've been in 25 years, giving our families the security they need to thrive; grateful that our air and water are cleaner than they have been for decades, preserving the environment for our children; and grateful that America continues to shine as a beacon of peace, freedom and democracy all around the world.

We're also grateful this Thanksgiving more Americans will spend this holiday in homes of their own than at any time of our history. But for millions of struggling senior citizens and people with disabilities, the peace and security of a decent home is a distant dream and the threat of homelessness an ever-present nightmare.

Too many of these hard-pressed Americans are warehoused in sterile nursing homes -- not because they need to be, but because they can't afford to live anywhere else. Too many are trapped in substandard **housing**, where broken plumbing, inadequate heat and hazardous hallways are a dangerous fact of life. And too many spend more than half of their very modest incomes on **housing**, often sacrificing basic needs like food and medical care just to pay the rent.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt entreated Americans to help the needy, recalling "the steadfastness of those in every generation who fought to

hold clear the goal of mutual help, in a time of prosperity as in a time of adversity." Today, at this moment of unparalleled prosperity, we must do no less.

Americans should never have to choose between putting a meal on the table or putting a roof over their heads. That's why I'm pleased that this month we're awarding nearly \$700 million in **Housing** and Urban Development grants to make sure no one has to make that impossible choice. These grants will enable hundreds of nonprofit organizations -- like the YMCA, Goodwill and the Salvation Army -- to build more than 8,000 new apartments for struggling senior citizens and people with disabilities, and to subsidize their rents.

Today I'm also pleased to announce nearly \$130 million for new **housing** vouchers to help people with disabilities in over 200 communities afford **housing** in the neighborhood of their choice. Together with our new **housing** grants these steps will help nearly 30,000 Americans -- and I thank HUD Secretary Cuomo for his tireless efforts to ensure that our neediest citizens have access to safe, affordable **housing**.

Let me give you just one example of the difference a home can make in the lives of Americans in need. Six years ago, Helen Williams lost her husband to cancer and was losing her home. For three years she struggled to maintain her dignity and her health as she shuttled between friends' and families' houses -- afraid to overstay her welcome, but more frightened by the threat of homelessness. Fortunately, Mrs. Williams learned about one of the subsidized apartment buildings funded by HUD's **housing** program for the elderly.

Today, along with her dog, Mr. B, she's thriving there and giving back to her community. Just this week, at the age of 80, she's been busy working with her church to deliver Thanksgiving turkeys to families in need. That's the kind of Thanksgiving story we need to hear more of -- all of us bound together across the generations in a cycle of mutual help, caring for one another, giving back to one another, thanking God for our blessings. With the steps we take today we'll ensure the same spirit of Thanksgiving is alive every day of the year.

Hillary and I wish you and your loved ones a happy, health time of Thanksgiving. Thanks for listening.

END

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 21, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ✓

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4194, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999."

This Act will fund vital environmental, veterans, housing, community development, 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, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Science Foundation, and several other agencies.

The Act funds a number of my Administration's high priorities, including the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) fund. National Service gives young people the opportunity to obtain funding for a college education while serving the country in areas of great need, such as the environment, public safety, and human services. The CDFI fund is helping 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 and providing financing for neighborhood redevelopment and revitalization efforts. That is why I am pleased that the Congress agreed to a 19 percent increase in funding for CDFI.

The Act provides \$7.56 billion for the EPA, which will enable the agency to enforce our environmental laws adequately. I am pleased that the Congress modified language in the Act concerning the Kyoto Protocol on global climate change and clarified what this language means in the Statement of Managers. In particular, the Congress made it clear that it does not intend to limit my Administration's ability to carry out common-sense actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; its intent, rather, is only to limit funding that would implement actions called for solely under the Kyoto Protocol. As we have said on many occasions, my Administration will not seek to implement that Protocol prior to its ratification by the Senate. I am also pleased that H.R. 4194 fully funds my request for EPA's portion of the Clean Water Action Plan and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and adequately funds the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The Act provides \$24.4 billion in funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including full funding for my request to renew expiring Section 8 contracts, thus assuring continuation of HUD rental subsidies for low-income tenants in privately owned housing and 50,000 additional welfare-to-work housing vouchers to assist those welfare recipients for whom housing assistance is critical to getting or keeping a job. This Act provides increased funding to help revitalize communities through such programs as the HOME Investment Partnership; Community Development Block Grants; and HOPE VI, an initiative for severely distressed public housing and Brownfields redevelopment, which returns abandoned sites to productive uses. I am pleased that the bill continues to support States and cities through these vital economic development programs. ✓

As I requested, the Act provides increased funding for Homeless Assistance Grants and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and for anti-discrimination efforts, including the Fair Housing Initiatives program. The Act also increases funds for the Office of Lead Hazard Control to reduce the risk of childhood lead poisoning and other health hazards.

I am encouraged by our efforts to work with the Congress to provide additional resources for a number of our priority programs in the FY 1999 Omnibus appropriations bill.

The Act includes my Administration's proposal to reform HUD's single-family property disposition program, which would produce substantial savings by improving the efficiency of the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA's) property disposition processes. In addition, H.R. 4194 furthers the Administration's goal to provide greater homeownership opportunities by increasing the FHA loan limit. ✓

The Act also makes landmark housing reform a reality. This bipartisan bill will allow more economic integration and deconcentration in our Nation's public housing; encourage and reward work; provide protections for those most in need; and put the Nation back into the housing business with the first new housing vouchers in 5 years. ✓

I am also pleased that the Act includes \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start my "Play-by the-Rules" homeownership initiative, which would make homeownership more accessible to 10,000 families who have good rental histories, but are not adequately served in the housing market. ✓

Finally, the Act provides \$17.3 billion for the medical care of our Nation's veterans.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 21, 1998.

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