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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 8, 1996

Jo Cheek
National Diffusion Network
Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Cheek:

Thank you for your letter about the National Diffusion Network (NDN).

Both the House and the Senate have terminated funding for the NDN. I also understand that the Department of Education did not include funding for NDN in its 1997 budget. Department staff have assured us, however, that they remain committed to identifying and disseminating promising and exemplary practices and programs. They will continue to make information about "Reading Recovery" and other successful programs that NDN has been instrumental in supporting available to schools throughout the country.

Thank you also for all of your ongoing good work in Arkansas.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton
FROM: Jennifer Klein J.K.
DATE: 3/29/96
RE: National Diffusion Network

You had asked what is happening with funding for the National Diffusion Network (NDN). Both the House and the Senate have terminated funding for NDN in 1996. In addition, the Department of Education did not include funding for NDN in its 1997 budget. However, the Department's Office of Educational Research and Improvement continues to have a statutory obligation to identify and disseminate promising and exemplary practices and programs. The Department will continue to make information about "Reading Recovery" and other successful programs available to schools.

Jen- Can you please
draft it?
HRC

PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

FEB 27 1996



Caprice

*To Jen -
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HRC

FAX TRANSMISSION

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DATE: 2-27-96

FROM: JO CHEEK, NDN FACILITATOR

TO: Ann McCoy

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-2370

TOTAL PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2

COMMENTS:

Please pass this information
to Mr. Clinton - Thanks
for your help.
Jo Cheek
NDN Facilitator

FOR DELIVERY TO THE FIRST LADY:

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Despite the enormous success of the National Diffusion Network, transferring educational programs of excellence to America's schools, this inexpensive but effective national program is in trouble.

Last year the GOP-controlled House Appropriations Committee "zeroed-out" funding for the NDN, like dozens of other programs. The Senate Committee had a much more sensible plan: preserve NDN but cut it to \$10-million (from a high level of \$15-million), but, as you know, that bill never passed the full Senate. Given the ongoing budget impasse and continuing resolutions, it has appeared that the program would limp through 1996 with 75% of its post-rescission FY95 funding.

Now, however, a new crisis has presented itself, one that the administration could resolve. It appears that a Congressional deal is in the works that would give the Department of Education a single, "bottom-line" appropriations for all expenditures in FY96, allowing the Department to determine which programs to fund. If that is the case, the NDN community has learned that Secretary Riley, Under Secretary Smith, and others do not intend to use the appropriations for their Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI, where NDN is administered) to fund the National Diffusion Network because "it is not among our priorities."

We know that you know NDN, have worked with it in Arkansas, bringing NDN's enormously successful "Reading Recovery" and other programs to schools in need. NDN has been dramatically improving America's schools by disseminating what works since 1974. The cost to the taxpayer has been minimal. All NDN costs are shared with local schools, state agencies, and other sources. The program has never received more than \$15-million per year in federal support, and it would receive but \$8.5 to 10-million under the current Congressional formulas.

Please see that, if a total Department of Education/OERI FY96 appropriation is provided for expenditure by the administration, that the invaluable National Diffusion Network is preserved. Thank you, sincerely.

The members of the NDN family, in Arkansas and throughout the nation