

Kathleen

**Clinton/Gore Administration Accomplishments:
Tangibly Improving the Quality of Life for America's Working Families**

A Quick Look At The Numbers

Jobs & The Economy:

Jobs

Nearly 18 million more jobs since 1993. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2/5/99]

Unemployment

4.3 percent unemployment -- the lowest peacetime rate since 1957. The unemployment rate has stayed below 5 percent for 19 months in a row. [Bureau of Labor Statistics 2/5/99]

Income

Typical family income is up \$3,517 (8.6%) since 1993. Median family income has increased from \$41,051 in 1993 to \$44,568 in 1997. [Money Income in the United States: 1997, Bureau of the Census, 9/24/98]

Wages

Real wages have increased at about a 2.5 percent pace in the past 12 months -- the fastest real wage growth in more than 20 years. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1/14/99)

Tax Cuts

15 million working families receive additional tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. In 1997, the EITC lifted 4.3 million out of poverty -- that is more than double the number who were removed from poverty in 1993. Over half of the people removed from poverty by the EITC (2.2 million) were children under the age of 18. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

\$500 per-child tax credit

27 million families with 45 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit. [Treasury Department]

Minimum Wage

10 million Americans received an increase in wages thanks to the President's leadership. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

Small Business

Over 2.2 million new small businesses have been created since 1992. [New Business Incorporations, Treasury Department]

National Debt

There is \$25,000 less debt for each family of four because the national debt will be \$1.7 trillion lower in fiscal year 1999 than was projected in 1993. [internal calculations based on: FY 2000 Budget (table S-14); OMB (internal projection); Bureau of the Census]

Home Ownership There are more than seven million new homeowners since 1993 -- the home ownership rate is at the highest level ever.
(Bureau of the Census, 1/27/99)

Expanding Educational Opportunity: Elementary and Secondary Schools

Teachers 100,000 new, well prepared teachers will be hired by 2005 to reduce class sizes in the early grades to a national average of 18. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 66]

After School Programs Approximately 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities have safe and educational after-school opportunities this year because of the expanded 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. In his FY 2000 budget, the President proposed to increase funding to serve approximately 1.1 million students. [Education Department]

Goals 2000 47 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have set higher academic standards for public schools by adopting comprehensive Goals 2000 plans for education reform. [Goals 2000: Reforming Education to Improve Student Achievement, Education Department, 4/20/98]

Education Technology 30 million children and up to 47,000 schools and libraries are being connected to the Internet through the education rate, or E-rate, created by the 1996 Telecommunications Act. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 67]

Title I 11 million low income students now benefit from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards. [Statement of the Secretary of Education before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 2/9/99]

Mentoring Approximately 175,000 middle school students will be prepared for college this year through expanded mentoring efforts as part of GEAR-UP. [Education Department]

Expanding Educational Opportunity: Postsecondary Education and Training

HOPE Scholarships 5.5 million students are expected to benefit from the \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 69]

Pell Grants 3.8 million low-income students will receive a Pell Grant award to help them attend college. In the FY99 budget, the President increased the maximum Pell Grant award from \$3,000 to \$3,125 -- that is the largest maximum award ever. [Department of Education FY 2000 Budget Summary, 2/99]

Direct Loan Program More than 3.9 million student and parent borrowers have received direct loans since the program began. [Federal Direct Loan Program, Federal Office of Student Financial Assistance, Education Department, 1/31/99]

AmeriCorps More than 100,000 volunteers have earned money for college by

serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program since the inception of the program. [National Service News (issue no. 66), 11/2/98]

Lifetime Learning Tax Credit 7.2 million will benefit from the lifetime learning tax credit, which offers a 20 % tax credit for the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees paid by a student. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 69]

School-To-Work 470,000 high school students, 36,000 schools (K-12), and 136,000 employers, participated in school-to-work programs in 1997. [Progress Measures Survey 1997, National School-to-Work Office, Education Department]

Work Study Nearly one million students will be able to work their way through college this year because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 69]

Dislocated Workers An estimated 689,000 American workers will benefit this year from the dislocated worker program. In his FY2000 budget, President Clinton proposed to increase funding to serve 859,000 workers. [Department of Labor Budget Overview FY 2000, 2/99]

Crime and Public Safety

Declining Crime Rates There has been a 21 percent drop in violent crime victimizations since 1993 -- to the lowest level since 1973 (the year of the survey's inception). The murder rate is down more than 25% since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years. [1997 National Crime Victimization Survey, Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), 12/98; Justice Department Release, 1/99]

Juvenile Arrest Rates Down The nation has seen a six percent drop in the juvenile violent crime arrest rates between 1993 and 1997. [FBI's Uniform Crime Reports for the United States 1997, Justice Department]

Community Policing Our goal of funding 100,000 more community police officers for our streets will be reached this year-- meeting the President's pledge ahead of schedule and under budget. [COPS program, 1/8/99]

Brady Bill Over 250,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been stopped from buying hand guns. ["Presale Handgun Checks, 1997" Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 6/98]

"Zero-Tolerance" for Guns In Schools 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school in one year under zero tolerance policies. [Final Report on State Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act, School Year 1996-97, Department of Education, 5/98]

Domestic Violence Hotline More than 290,000 calls -- averaging a little more than 8,000 a month -- have been received by the nationwide, 24-hour domestic violence hotline President Clinton established. [Violence Against Women Office, DOJ]

Illegal Immigrants

More than 170,000 illegal immigrants were forced to leave the country in 1998, the largest number in U.S. history. [INS news release, 1/8/99]

Children & Families

Patient's Bill of Rights 85 million people covered by Federal health plans received patient protections -- protections included in the President's Patients Bill of Rights legislation that Congress has yet to pass -- by executive action taken by President Clinton. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 85]

Kennedy Kassebaum As many as 25 million people will benefit from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 83]

Welfare to Work 6.2 million fewer people are receiving welfare benefits today than in 1993, a 44 percent decrease and the largest decline in the welfare rolls in history. The welfare rolls are the smallest in 30 years. [HHS Administration for Children and Families, 1/99]

Family & Medical Leave Just over 89 million workers covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act -- about 70 percent of the American labor force. Millions of Americans have taken job-protected leave. [Five Years of Success: Report on FMLA, Department of Labor, 8/98 (updated number provided 2/99)]

Children's Health Care As many as 5 million more children will receive health insurance under the President's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Already 2.5 million uninsured children have enrolled in CHIP. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 85; FY 1999 Budget, p. 69]

Head Start More than 200,000 additional children are enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992. Head Start now reaches a total of 822,316, and will serve one million children and their families by the year 2002. [Head Start 1998 Fact Sheet; Administration of Children and Families, HHS]

WIC 1.7 million more woman, infants, and children are now served by WIC than in 1993 -- currently reaching 7.4 million participants. [Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 12/98]

Child Care An average of 1.25 million children per month were served by states under the child care block grant in FY 1997 -- a 25% increase from the estimated 1 million children served in FY 1996. The 1996 welfare law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years. [Administration for Children and Families Fact Sheet, HHS, 11/12/98]

Immunization 90% or more of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996 and again in 1997 -- surpassing the President's childhood vaccination goal. [Budget of the United States Government FY 2000, p. 91-92]

Child Poverty 1997 saw the biggest four-year drop in the child poverty rate -- from 22.7% to 19.9% -- in nearly 30 years under President Clinton. [Poverty

in the United States: 1997, Bureau of the Census, 9/98]

Teen Pregnancy There has been a 12.9 percent decrease in the teenage birth rate -- from 60.7 in 1992 to 52.9 in 1997. [Decline in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-97: National and State Patterns, CDC, 12/98]

Infant Mortality There has been a 14.1 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate -- to the lowest level in history -- from 8.5 in 1992 to 7.3 in 1996. [Deaths: Final Data for 1996, 11/10/98, CDC]

Child Support Collections There has been a 80 percent increase in child support collections from FY 1992 to FY 1998. [Administration for Children and Families, HHS]

Reform

Motor Voter 14 million new voters registered to vote; and voting was made easier for millions more Americans in 1995 and 1996 as a result of the National Voter Registration Act. (FEC, 6/97)

Smaller Government 365,000 fewer employees in the Federal government workforce since 1993 -- giving us the smallest Federal workforce since the Kennedy Administration. [Budget of the U.S. Government FY 2000, "Historical Tables" (table 17.1); Budget of the U.S. Government FY 2000, "Analytical Perspectives," (table 10-1) p. 248]

Lower Government Spending At 19.7 percent, Federal Government spending as a share of the Gross Domestic Product is at its lowest level in 25 years. [FY 2000 Budget Historical Tables (table 1.3) p. 23-24]

Environment

Clean Air 15,000 premature deaths a year will be prevented by new clean air standards for smog and soot approved by President Clinton in 1997. The standards will also improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses. [EPA's Updated Clean Air Standards: a Common Sense Primer, 9/97]

Toxic Waste Sites 430 toxic waste dumps were cleaned up during the first six years of the Clinton Administration -- nearly three times more than the 155 dumps cleaned up in the previous twelve years. ["Superfund NPL Construction Completions Since 1/20/93 to 9/30/98," EPA]

National Parks Over 3.2 million acres have been protected as national parks or monuments by President Clinton. The President has also created 13 new national park areas. [Department of Interior]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Here are a number of our accomplishments documents. I'm happy to e-mail them to you when your system is up. I also have some other old Julie Documents that may be helpful to you.

I'm part of Communications Research - we write these with the guidance of the policy & outreach officers.

Welcome!

Robin x66237 →

These may also be found on our webpage.

[www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Accomplishments/
issues.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Accomplishments/issues.html)

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of African Americans

ECONOMY

Closing the Book on A Generation of Deficits. In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs. More than 90 percent of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

Record-Low African American Unemployment. The unemployment rate for African Americans has fallen from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 8.9 percent in 1998 -- the lowest annual level on record (data first collected in 1972).

The Lowest Inflation in More than 30 Years. Since 1993, the inflation rate has averaged just 2.5 percent -- the lowest average inflation rate since the Kennedy Administration.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

Median Income of African American Households Is Up \$3,354. The median income of African American households rose 4.3 percent (or \$1,029) in 1997. And since 1993, the median income of African American households has increased from \$21,696 to \$25,050 -- \$3,354 or a 15-percent increase, adjusted for inflation, between 1993 and 1997.

Real Wages Are Rising for African Americans. The real wages of African Americans have risen rapidly in the past two years, up about 5.8 percent for African American men and 6.2 percent for African American women since 1996.

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

Largest Four-Year Drop in African American Poverty in More than Twenty-Five Years. Since 1993, the African American poverty rate has dropped from 33.1 percent to 26.5 percent -- the largest four-year drop in African American poverty in more than a quarter century (1967-1971) and 26.5 percent is the lowest level on record (data collected since 1959). While this decrease marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and

reduce poverty.

Child Poverty Among African Americans Down To Lowest Level on Record. In 1997, the African American child poverty rate fell from 39.9 percent in 1996 to 37.2 percent -- its lowest level on record (data collected since 1959). Since 1993, the child poverty rate among African-Americans has dropped from 46.1 percent to 37.2 percent -- the biggest four-year drop on record.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting 1.3 million African American workers.

Fighting for Paycheck Equity. The President has called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. In 1997, the median earnings of African American women represented 65 percent of the median earnings for all men.

Two and a Half Times More Small Business Loans to African American Entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 9,000 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted 1,900 loans, worth \$286 million, to African American small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Building on the efforts of the SBA, Vice President Gore unveiled aggressive plans to increase lending and business services to the African American and Hispanic business communities nationwide. The SBA has set a goal of providing an estimated total of \$1.86 billion in loans to African American small businesses over a three-year period. In addition, the Vice President announced an unprecedented agreement between SBA and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers to increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years -- a 50 percent increase over current levels.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98. The Administration is committed to righting any past wrongs by federal employees and worked with the Congress in 1998 to craft language contained in the Agriculture Appropriations bill that waives the

two-year statute of limitations on discrimination complaints against USDA's farm and housing loan programs. This waiver allows compensation to be provided to many minority farmers who were victims of discrimination by USDA from the early 1980's through the 1990's. On Jan. 5, 1999, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced an historic agreement to settle the discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture brought by African American farmers. As President Clinton said regarding the settlement, "Today's action is an important step in Secretary Glickman's ongoing efforts to rid the Agriculture Department of discriminatory behavior and redress any harm that has been caused by past discrimination against African-American family farmers."

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The FY99 budget included a \$15 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$95 million), a 19 percent increase.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the next round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Providing Incentives to Save. The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.

Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers. Congress approved the President's full request for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work.

Homeownership Is Up. There are more than seven million new homeowners since the President took office. African American homeownership has increased 20 percent with 974,000 new African American homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.

Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative. The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative.

Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his

promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. Dr. John Hope Franklin, Advisory Board Chair, and Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue.

Creating an Administration that Looks Like One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. The Clinton Cabinet includes three African Americans: Rodney Slater, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Togo West, Jr., Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor. Additionally, African Americans serve in the Administration as Surgeon General, Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice, Director of the National Park Service, Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Department of Education General Counsel and as the Department of Education's Chief of Staff. Thirteen percent of Clinton Administration appointees are African American, which is twice as many African Americans as any previous administration. White House appointees include: Bob Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel; Thurgood Marshall, Jr., Assistant to the President and Director of Cabinet Affairs; Minyon Moore, Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs; Cheryl Mills, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel and Ben Johnson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison; Alphonso (Al) Maldon, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; and Tracey Thornton, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

Increasing the Number of Judicial Appointments. President Clinton has named 14 African Americans as U.S. Attorneys and 12 African Americans as U.S. Marshals. The President has nominated 57 African Americans to the Federal bench, 16 percent of his total Federal bench nominations.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit African Americans, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and

are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

Creating a National Memorial to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In July of 1998, President Clinton signed a new measure authorizing the creation of a national monument to Dr. King on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for African Americans and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed *amicus* briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and opposed an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties.

Increasing Voter Registration. During 1995 and 1996, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law registered nearly 14 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. Notably, 1996 saw the highest percentage of voter registration since 1960. [FEC, 6/97]

Working for Fair Housing. To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, HUD will double the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. HUD has also committed \$15 million to 67 fair housing centers around the country to assist in fighting housing discrimination. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The FY99 budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank

to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory “Redlining” Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory “redlining” practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Apologized to the Victims of Tuskegee. President Clinton apologized to the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and their families, and directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to issue a report about how best to involve communities, especially minority communities, in research and health care. HHS awarded a planning grant to Tuskegee University to help it establish a center for bioethics in research and health care.

Working to Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 4.4 percent of African Americans were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. For example, African Americans suffer from diabetes at 70 percent higher rates than white Americans. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President’s multi-year proposal.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Minority Community with an Historic \$130 Million Effort. Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload (44 percent of all new HIV cases). In FY99, there will be an unprecedented \$130 million investment that will improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems for the care of children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting the 3.4 Million African Americans Enrolled in Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. The President has also put forth a proposal that, if enacted, will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget of 1997 included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. African American children make up 25 percent and Hispanic children make up 30 percent of all uninsured children -- more than twice their percentage of the overall population. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 25 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were African American.

Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Of the estimated 830,000 children that were enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 36 percent of the children were African American. The President proposed and won an increase of \$313 million to Head Start in FY99, meaning Head Start funding will be 68-percent higher in 1999 than in 1993. The President is committed to meet his goal of enrolling one million children in Head Start.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year. In the FY99 budget, the President and Vice President proposed and won \$200 million for after-school programs, expanding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.

EDUCATION

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

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

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

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with African Americans comprising 20 percent of all participants (1996 data). In 1998 alone, nearly 50,000 young people had the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Summer Jobs program provides an estimated 25 percent of the summer jobs held by African American 14-15 years olds and at least 16 percent held by Hispanic 14-15 year olds. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

Record Enrollment. A record percentage of African Americans were enrolled in post-secondary education in 1996 -- 35.7 percent of African American high school graduates.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college

universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship credits and a 20 percent tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 57 percent of all African American students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Fostering Diversity. In 1998, the White House awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

Reducing Class Size. In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that minorities, and low-income students in particular, benefit academically from smaller classes.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals.

Striving for Excellence. Thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the **Title I program** is helping millions of disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills. The FY99 budget provides \$7.676 billion for Title I, a \$301 million increase over FY98. This funding will support educational services for nearly 11 million students, over 400,000 more than last year. In the 1994-95 school year, 26 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were African American.

Establishing the GEAR-UP: College Mentoring Initiative To Help Up to 100,000 Students Prepare for College. The President won \$120 million to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a program that incorporates the President's "High-Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty

middle schools for college.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

FIGHTING CRIME

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes.

Took Action Against Church Burnings. Focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, prosecuted those responsible, and sped the rebuilding process.

Falling Crime Rates. Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation. The Administration approved new clean air standards for smog and soot that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment. This Administration has cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Brownfields grants have leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming. The Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way; and secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Committed to Preserving Our Land. The Clinton Administration has protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. And the Administration has reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Made an Historic Presidential Trip to Africa. In 1998, President Clinton made the first trip by a sitting U.S. President to Ghana, Uganda, Botswana and Senegal. While in Africa, President Clinton focused on key issues of development, trade, investment, empowerment of women and the environment. The trip increased and enhanced ties with Africa and built upon the work and achievements of late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Transportation Secretary Slater and Presidential Special Envoy Jesse Jackson.

Assisted South Africa's Transition to Democracy. Provided over \$600 million in the first three years to the newly-elected democratic government of South Africa to support democracy and development. Established the Gore-Mbeki Bi-National Commission to promote cooperation in trade, development, the environment and security.

Hosted the First-Ever White House Conference on Africa in July 1994. This Conference brought together key American policy-makers and leaders to discuss the future of US-Africa relations.

Restored Democracy for Haiti. Restored democracy to Haiti and ended the military dictatorship.

Launched the President's Partnership for Economic Opportunity in Africa Initiative. This initiative deepens trade and investment between Africa and the United States and is the cornerstone of the Administration's Africa policy. The President supports passage of the bipartisan African Growth and Opportunity Act which complements his "Partnership Initiative" by further strengthening U.S.-Africa trade relations.

1/99

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE
Working on Behalf of Asian Pacific Americans

ECONOMY

Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits -- in 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs. Since President Clinton took office, the economy has added 17.7 million new jobs -- 1.7 million more new jobs in 71 months than were created during the entire 96 months of the Reagan Administration (17.7 million under Clinton vs. 16.0 million under Reagan).

Unemployment Down To 4.3 Percent in December -- A 29-Year Low. In 1992, the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. In December, the unemployment rate was 4.3 percent -- its lowest level in 29 years. For 1998 as a whole, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent -- its lowest level since 1969. The unemployment rate has been below 5 percent for 18 months in a row.

Inflation -- Lowest Since 1961. In the third quarter, the GDP price index rose 1.0 percent at an annual rate. Over the past year, inflation rose just 1.0 percent -- the smallest increase in 37 years.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

The Median Household Income for Asian Pacific Americans Increased 2.2 Percent in 1997. Income for the median, or typical, Asian Pacific American household rose \$980 in 1997, from \$44,269 in 1996 to \$45,249 (adjusted for inflation). This is an increase of 2.2 percent over 1996.

Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026.

Minimum Wage Increased. Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million workers.

Asian Pacific American Poverty Down More than 8 Percent since 1993. The poverty rate of Asian Pacific Americans has declined from 15.3 percent in 1993 to 14.0 percent in 1997. While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Over the past five years, (FY93-97) the Small Business Administration (SBA) has backed more than 16,760 loans worth \$5.2 billion in loans to Asian Pacific American businesses. From FY98 through FY 2000, the Administration expects to deliver another \$4.7 billion in loans to Asian Pacific American-owned businesses. That means that during the eight years of the Clinton Administration, the SBA will have delivered almost \$10 billion in loan capital to Asian Pacific American entrepreneurs. In FY 2000, SBA expects to back more than \$1.6 billion in loans to Asian Pacific American businesses, almost triple the amount loaned in FY92. In the SBA's 8(a) Minority Enterprise Development Program, Asian Pacific Americans own 1,341 of the 6,100 participating businesses. Those firms received about \$1.7 billion in federal contracts in FY97. Almost 19,000 Asian Pacific Americans received business counseling and training under SBA's Small Business Development Center program, and SBA's SCORE program counseled more than 9,000 Asian Pacific Americans last year.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women-owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the next round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The FY99 budget included a \$15 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$95 million), a 19 percent increase.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers. Congress approved the President's full request for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work.

Providing Incentives to Save. The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.

Highest Homeownership Rate in History. There are more than 7 million new homeowners since the President took office.

Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the “Play-by-the-Rules” Homeownership Initiative. The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative.

Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Facing the Challenges of the Global Economy. The President’s strategy of fiscal discipline, investment in our people, and open trade is working for America. For the U.S. economy to continue to prosper, the economies of the world need to rebound from their recent difficulties. The United States, along with other leading nations, are working together to intensify efforts to speed economic recovery in Asia.

Opening Markets Abroad: Trade Agreements Have Helped Expand American Exports and Create American Jobs. Since President Clinton took office, the Administration has concluded 270 new trade agreements.

Created Three Major Global Trade Agreements In the World Trade Organization. In 1998, this Administration completed a “trifecta” of three major global trade agreements in the World Trade Organization: the Information Technology Agreement covering \$500 billion in global trade and more than \$100 billion in U.S. exports, the global telecommunications services agreement (which will create more than a million jobs in the next ten years) and the financial services accord (which covers 95 percent of the global financial services market). Together, these initiatives cover trade

totaling more than \$1 trillion annually.

Eliminated Barriers To Open Trade In Asia Pacific Nations From Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. Secured commitments from Asia Pacific nations to eliminate barriers to open trade in the region by 2020 for developing countries and 2010 for industrialized countries. Over the next two years, a number of sectors will be identified for tariff reductions, including energy products and services, environmental technologies and services, natural resources, medical equipment, telecommunications, gems and jewelry.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. Angela Oh served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue.

Creating an Administration That Looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Administration in history. The Clinton Administration has more than tripled the number of Asian Pacific American appointees as the previous Administration including Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice; Nancy Ann-Min Deparle, Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Robert Gee, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, Department of Energy; Paul Igasaki, Vice Chair, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Rose Ochi, Director, Office of Community Relations, Department of Justice; Donna Tanoue, Chair, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Jeanette Takamura, Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health & Human Services; T.S. Chung, Director Advocacy Center, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; Barbara Chow, Associate Director for Human Resources, Office of Management and Budget; Dr. Isi Siddiqui, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture; Maria Haley, Member of the Board, Export-Import Bank of the U.S.; and Shirley Sagawa, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady.

Increasing the Number of Judicial Appointments. Nominated more Asian Pacific Americans to the federal bench than any other Administration. Appointments include the Honorable A. Wallace Tashima, Judge, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court and District Court judges Denny Chin, Anthony Ishii, George King, and Susan Oki Mollway.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit women and minorities, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for Asian Pacific Americans and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed *amicus* briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and is currently opposing an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on languages other than English have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Increasing Voter Registration. During 1995 and 1996, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law registered nearly 14 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. Notably, 1996 saw the highest percentage of voter registration since 1960. [FEC, 6/97]

Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

Working for Fair Housing. To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, HUD will double the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. HUD has also committed \$15 million to 67 fair housing centers around the country to assist in fighting

housing discrimination. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The final budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory "Redlining" Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Working to Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 2.3 percent of Asians Pacific Americans were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. Currently, for example, Vietnamese women suffer from cervical cancer at nearly five times the rate of white women. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. The President has also put forth a new proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children, with Asian Pacific American children making up 15.8 percent of all uninsured children. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 3 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were Asian Pacific American children.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Of the estimated 830,000 children enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 3 percent are Asian Pacific American children. The President

proposed and won an increase of \$313 million to Head Start in FY99, meaning Head Start funding will be 68-percent higher in 1999 than in 1993. The President is committed to meet his goal of enrolling one million children in Head Start.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year. In the FY99 budget, the President and Vice President proposed and won \$200 million for after-school programs, expanding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.

EDUCATION

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

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Fostering Diversity. The White House awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

Reducing Class Size. In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that minorities, and low-income students

in particular, benefit academically from smaller classes.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Help for limited-English proficient children. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. In the 1994-95 school year, 3 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were Asian Pacific American students. The FY99 budget provides a \$301 million boost to the Title I program.

Establishing the GEAR-UP: College Mentoring Initiative To Help Up to 100,000 Students Prepare for College. The President won \$120 million to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a program that incorporates the President's "High-Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college.

Helping to Assist Schools with More Foreign Language Programs; Opposing English Only. The Administration has restructured Foreign Language Assistance Programs to assist local schools in establishing programs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn English as adults.

Addressing Minority Needs. Hosted Asian Pacific American Education Forums to address the needs of Asian Pacific American students and their teachers.

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Asian Pacific Americans comprising 3 percent of all participants (1996 data). In 1998 alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Protecting Bilingual and Immigrant Education. The President is committed to ensuring that students with limited English skills get the extra help they need in order to meet the same high standards expected for all students. The Clinton administration fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual and immigrant education in the 1997 budget deal. For FY99, the Administration fought for and won a doubling of the investments in bilingual teacher training. Bilingual education funding helps school districts teach English and other academic subjects to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The

Immigrant Education program helps more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals.

Opposed Gallegly Amendment. The Administration opposed the Gallegly Amendment which would have ended the guarantee of public education for all children. It would have shifted immigration enforcement from the borders and work sites to classrooms and made children susceptible to gangs and violence.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes.

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

Falling Crime Rates. Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

Won Passage of the Most Comprehensive Crime Bill Ever. In 1994, after more than six years of gridlock, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the toughest, smartest Crime Bill in the nation's

history. Among other provisions, the new law now provides: a targeted "Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out" provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life; an expanded death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons; and funding for 100,000 more prison cells to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas.

In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

Championed and Signed the Violence Against Women Act. This law is the cornerstone of the President's efforts to fight domestic violence, bolstering local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address these crimes. The President created the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice and won \$283 million in FY99 budget to continue the Administration's efforts to combat gender-based crime.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation. The Administration approved new clean air standards for smog and soot that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment. This Administration has cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Brownfields grants have leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming. The Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way; and

secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Committed to Preserving Our Land. The Clinton Administration has protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. And the Administration has reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

IMMIGRATION

Fairness for Immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted in 1996.

Restoring Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. In June 1998, the President signed the Agricultural Research Act into law, which restores food stamp benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lawfully resided in the U.S. as of August 22, 1996, and lost assistance as a result of cuts in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. It restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship. This law funds a significant part of the President's 1999 budget proposal to restore food stamp benefits to 730,000 legal immigrants, but the President's budget proposal would go further by covering families with children regardless of the date they entered the U.S. This restoration builds on the President's success last year in restoring SSI and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform (see below).

Reversing Unfair Cuts; Protects Legal Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 restored \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the BBA does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions that have nothing to do with welfare reform, such as cutting off benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997 and again in 1998, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won many of the changes he sought in the 1996 law.

Strengthening the Naturalization Process. The Administration made naturalization a top priority of

the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. For instance, over one million individuals were naturalized in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America. In FY99, the Administration won an infusion of new resources to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and improve customer service.

Defended Immigrant Rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Deepening Cooperation with Japan. President Clinton signed new Defense Guidelines that will strengthen and deepen our most important security relationship in the Pacific.

Seeking Peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Administration is leading efforts to freeze North Korea's nuclear plutonium production capability and is seeking a permanent peace on the peninsula through deterrence, diplomacy and non-proliferation.

Renewed Bipartisan Consensus for Engagement with China. The Administration has renewed the bipartisan consensus for engagement with China to advance U.S. interests and draw the world's most populous nation more fully into the international community -- building a more constructive relationship through engagement and frank dialogue on human rights, religious freedom and Tibet.

Led International Efforts Against Terrorism. The Administration has led international efforts against terrorism, including signing domestic anti-terrorism legislation that ensures strong penalties for convicted terrorists and working with our allies to develop common approaches. The Clinton Administration is also addressing new threats to our infrastructure like cyberterrorism and biological and chemical weapons.

Secured Bipartisan Senate Ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Start II Treaty. The convention bans the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Start II, together with Start I, will reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals two-thirds from their Cold War heights. In 1996, President Clinton became the first world leader to sign the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**.

1/99

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Supporting Native Americans

ECONOMY

Closing the Book on A Generation of Deficits. In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be \$79 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs. More than 90 percent of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

Lowest Unemployment in Nearly Thirty Years -- down from 7.5% in 1992 to 4.3% today -- staying below 5% for 19 months in a row.

The Lowest Inflation in More than 30 Years. Since 1993, the inflation rate has averaged just 2.5 percent - the lowest average inflation rate since the Kennedy Administration.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

Fastest Real-Wage Growth In More Than Two Decades -- after adjusting for inflation, wages have increased 2.5% in the past 12 months -- the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades.

Tax Cuts for Working Families -- 15 million working families receive additional tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Largest Four-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s -- Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7% to 19.9% -- the biggest four-year drop in nearly 30 years. While this decrease marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million workers. The President further proposed increasing the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour by the year 2000. Increasing the minimum wage by one dollar in two equal steps simply restores the real value of the minimum wage to what it was in 1981.

Three Times More Loans to Native American-Owned Small Businesses. Between FY93 and FY98 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 2,000 loans to Native American-owned small businesses under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In FY1998 alone, the SBA granted 462 loans, worth \$76.5 million, to Native American-owned small businesses, three times the number of loans granted in FY93.

Promoted Lending In Indian Country. President Clinton signed the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act, which promotes more lending in Indian Country.

Provided Management and Technical Assistance To Native Americans. Established an Office of Native American Programs within the Minority Business Development Association at the Department of Commerce, with eight Native American Business Development Centers and a business consultant, that provides management and technical assistance to Native American businesses.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in underserved communities. The FY99 budget included a \$15 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$95 million), a 19 percent increase. The President's proposed FY2000 budget increases CDFI funding to \$125 million -- a \$30 million increase.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the Round II Empowerment Zones and Rural Enterprise Communities. The FY2000 budget proposes mandatory funding for ten years: \$150 million a year for the 15 Round II Urban EZs; \$10 million a year for the five Round II Rural EZs; and \$5 million a year for the twenty Round II Rural ECs. The Oglala Sioux Tribe was designated as one of the Round II EZs and the Metlakatla Indian, Four Corners, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe, and Northwoods Nijii were designated as Round II Rural Enterprise Communities.

Welfare to Work. The Administration passed a \$3 billion program to help long term welfare recipients find, get, and keep jobs. The FY 2000 budget includes a \$1 billion, one-year extension.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Providing Block Grants For Indian Housing. The FY99 budget provides \$620 million in block grants for Indian housing, which will serve 552 tribes. The President's FY2000 budget also calls for \$620 million in block grants.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

President Clinton Met With Tribal Leaders. On April 29, 1994, President Clinton became the first President to invite the leaders of all federally recognized tribes to the White House. On this historic occasion, the President pledged that his Administration would work with Tribal leaders to establish a true government-to-government partnership.

Recognizing Native American Contributions to One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. President Clinton appointed 63 Native Americans to all levels of his Administration, including 11 to top positions requiring Senate confirmation and 30 to Presidential appointment positions. Native Americans serving in the Clinton Administration include: Raynell Morris, Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House; Elizabeth Homer, Director of the Office of American Indian Trust, Department of the Interior; Joy Harjo, Member of the National Council on the Arts; Robert Loescher, Member of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission; Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; William Yellowtail, Regional Administrator of Region VIII, Environmental Protection Agency; John Echohawk, Member of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission; Sedelta Verble, Deputy Director of the Office of Communications, Department of Agriculture; Mike Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Billy M. Burrage, Judge, U.S. District of Judges; Theodore Strong, Member of the Presidential Committee on Sustainable Development; Montie Deer, Chair - Designee of the National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior; and Gary Kimble, Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health & Human Services.

Strengthening the Relationship Between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations. In 1994, President Clinton executed a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies directing agencies to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments. On May 14, 1998, he issued an Executive Order that strengthens and makes effective across Administrations the 1994 Government-to-Government Memorandum. This executive order serves to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribal governments in the development of regulatory practices on federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities, to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribal governments, and to streamline the application process for and increase the availability of waivers to Indian tribal governments.

Ensuring Tribal Sovereignty. President Clinton created the Office of Tribal Justice to promote government-to-government relations with Indian tribes and ensure aggressive representation of tribal sovereignty in the courts. He also created a permanent White House working group composed of all Executive Branch Departments to advance tribal sovereignty across the administration.

Protected Religious Freedom. President Clinton signed an executive order that requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. He also successfully fought for passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in order to protect the right of free exercise of tribal religions. Finally, he directed federal agencies to ensure efficient collection and distribution of available eagle feathers and eagle parts to American Indians and Alaska Natives for traditional religious purposes.

Promoted Tribal Self-Determination. President Clinton supported passage and implementation of the Indian Self-Determination Act amendments, which gives tribal governments increased control of Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service resources spent within Indian Country. He also successfully fought attempts to penalize tribes for exercising their powers of self-governance, allow states to tax tribal governments on new trust lands, and permit direct taxation of tribal governments.

Resolving Disputed Indian Trust Fund Balances. The Administration is committed to resolving disputed Indian trust fund account balances through informal dispute resolution and supports the unique government-to-government relationship that exists in Indian trust land management issues. After tribal consultations, the Bureau of Indian Affairs submitted its "Recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior for Settlement of Disputed Tribal Accounts" to Congress in November 1997. Legislation reflecting these recommendations was proposed in 1998, but not enacted. It will be proposed again in the 106th Congress.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

Conducting a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is accurate, using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 12.2 percent of Native Americans living on a reservation were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member, or attend to their own serious health needs, without jeopardizing their job. The Family and Medical Leave Act covers just over 89 million workers -- about 70 percent of the American labor force and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment. The FY 2000 budget proposes expanding FMLA to reach workers in firms with over 25 employees, expanding coverage to 10 million more workers. In addition, the budget proposes providing resources to the Department of Labor to research the impact this law has had on the American family, and how to make leave accessible and affordable for more of America's working families.

Increasing Funding to the Indian Health Service. The Indian Health Service saw an increase of \$144 million over FY98. This increase will assist in providing much-needed quality health care to Indian communities. In his FY2000 budget, the President has proposed \$2.4 billion, an increase for the Indian Health Service (IHS) of \$170 million or 8 percent over the FY99 level.

Indian Health Service (IHS) Contract Support Costs. The FY99 House bill contained an objectionable provision that would allocate contract support costs (e.g., indirect costs) to tribes that have contracted and compacted their health systems on a proportional basis. The Native American community and IHS objected to this provision because some tribes would have received less funding than they received in FY98. The Administration opposed this, and ultimately the objectionable provision was removed entirely. For FY2000, the President's budget supports tribal self-determination by proposing a \$35 million (+17%) increase for contract support costs, to cover the costs of existing tribal contracts and compacts.

Preventing Diabetes. The President worked with Congressional leaders to make \$30 million available in each of 1998 - 2002 fiscal years (totaling \$150 million over five years) to the Indian Health Service for diabetes prevention, research and treatment in our Native American communities. Native Americans are three times as likely as white Americans to have diabetes and are less likely to access treatment for it. This grant will bring public health services, schools and nutrition programs together to reach children and families living on reservations, and to provide them with the information and tools to prevent and manage diabetes.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal. In addition, the President's FY2000 budget includes \$145 million for health education, prevention, and treatment services for minority populations. Working with minority public health providers, advocates, and other consumer representatives, CDC will continue a \$35 million demonstration program to enable selected communities to develop innovative and effective approaches to address these disparities.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Minority Community with an Historic \$157 Million Effort. Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload (44 percent of all new HIV cases). In FY99, there will be an unprecedented \$157 million investment that will improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. The President has also put forth a proposal that, if enacted, will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget of 1997 included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, approximately 70,000 children and over 25,000 infants who benefited from WIC were Native American.

Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families. Issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.

Increasing Funding for Indian Head Start. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start (which includes Indian Head Start) by 68 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.6 billion in FY99. Of the estimated 822,000 children that were enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 3.4 percent of the children were Native American. The final FY99 budget specified \$130 million for Indian Head Start -- a \$9 million increase over FY98. For FY2000, the President's budget provides \$147 million for Indian Head Start -- a \$17 million increase over FY99.

EDUCATION

Strengthening Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-Funded Schools and Colleges Serving Tribes. The President's proposed FY2000 budget provides \$542 million for the operation of elementary and secondary schools, tribally controlled community colleges, and assistance to Indian children attending public schools. This represents an increase of \$35 million from FY99.

Reducing Class Size in BIA-Funded Schools. In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment (\$1.2 billion) on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that reducing class size to 15-18 students in the early grades improves student achievement, particularly among low-income and minority students in inner cities. Included in the \$1.2 billion for the first year of the initiative is \$6 million for the BIA-funded schools. In his FY2000 budget, the President has called for \$7 million to go toward BIA-funded schools.

Repairing and Modernizing Schools on Reservations. The FY99 budget provides \$60 million to replace older, unsafe, and dilapidated schools on reservations in accordance with a Congressionally-approved priority list of replacement schools and would provide for much-needed health and safety-related repairs and improvements that together comprise a roughly \$700 million backlog. In his FY2000 budget, the President has proposed \$108 million, an 80 percent increase over the FY99 enacted level, to replace and repair some of the 185 BIA-funded schools on reservations.

Increased Funding for Indian Education. President Clinton won a 10 percent increase (from \$60 million to \$66 million) for the Indian Education program in the Department of Education in his FY 1999 budget. Serving nearly half a million Native American students, the Act's programs include grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), Indian tribes and organizations, Indian-controlled schools, and individuals to address the unique educational and cultural academic needs of Native Americans.

Recognizing Tribal Colleges. President Clinton signed an executive order that aims to ensure that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized as accredited institutions, have access to the opportunities afforded other institutions, and have federal resources committed to them on a continuing basis.

Supporting AmeriCorps. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps. This includes hundreds of Native Americans who have had the chance to participate. In 1998 alone, nearly 50,000 young people had the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans. The FY 2000 budget includes funding to engage 69,000 Americans in community service with a goal of 100,000 AmeriCorps participants in 2002.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Workforce Investment Act consolidated the Summer Jobs and the year round youth programs into one Youth Activities formula grant. The FY 2000 budget includes \$1 billion for youth activities, equivalent to the amount provided for these programs in FY 1999.

Youth Opportunity Grants (YOG). YOG provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget. The FY 2000 budget continues funding for YOG at the 1999 level of \$250 million.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship tax credits and a 20 percent Lifetime Learning tax credit to help offset tuition costs. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 51 percent of all Native American students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Increasing Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals. The President's FY2000 budget proposes a \$103 million increase in funding over FY99 to ensure that every child has access to computers, the Internet, high-quality educational software, and teachers that can use technology in the classroom.

Striving for Excellence. Thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the **Title I program** is helping millions of disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills. The FY2000 budget requests nearly \$8 billion for Title I, a \$320 million increase over FY99. This funding will support educational services for more than 12 million disadvantaged students, over 500,000 more than last year. Over 182,000 Indian students will be served by Title I in FY99.

Establishing the GEAR-UP Initiative to Help Up to 380,000 Students Prepare for College. The President won \$120 million in FY99 to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle and high school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a program that incorporates the President's "High Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring and scholarship efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare students at high-poverty middle schools for college. President Clinton's FY2000 budget doubles funding -- from \$120 million in FY99 to \$240 million -- for the GEAR UP program. This would increase the number of participating students from 177,000 in FY99 to 381,000 in FY 2000.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

FIGHTING CRIME

Improved Law Enforcement in Indian Country. The final FY99 budget bill includes a \$109 million increase -- for the Departments of Justice and Interior -- for the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. The initiative will improve public safety for the 1.4 million residents on the approximately 56 million acres of Indian lands. This funding will increase the number of law enforcement officers on Indian lands, provide more equipment, expand detention facilities, enhance juvenile crime prevention, and improve the effectiveness of tribal courts. Although violent crime has been declining nationally for several years, it has been on the rise in Indian Country. At the same time, police service on Indian lands has been steadily shrinking. Recognizing these facts, the President made a major commitment to improve law enforcement in Indian country. The President's FY2000 budget includes \$164 million, a 50 percent increase over FY99, for the Departments of Justice and Interior for the second year of the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative.

Hiring More Police Through COPS Program. The FY99 budget provided \$35 million for hiring police officers through the COPS program exclusively in Indian Country.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Protecting Tribal Natural Resources. President Clinton established the American Indian Environmental Office to work with tribes to protect water quality and the environment in Indian Country. Other tribal environmental achievements include:

- ▶ Established for the first time the right of Alaska Natives to fish for subsistence purposes.

- ▶ Requested more than \$160 million (a 15 percent increase) in his FY99 budget for EPA support of tribal environmental protection programs on reservations. As a part of this program, EPA will continue to build and support tribal capacity to implement, operate, and enforce federal environmental laws.
- ▶ Supported the exercise of Northwest Tribes' treaty fishing rights.

Mitigating Environmental Impacts on Tribal Lands. In FY97, DOD entered into a new era in its relationship with Indian tribes through the development of Cooperative Agreements (CAs) with tribal governments to mitigate environmental impacts on Indian lands resulting from DOD activities. In addition, DOD demonstrated and validated several promising new technologies that target environmental problems caused by past DOD activities on Indian lands.

Promoting Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

2/99

CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION LABOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"We have to continue in Washington to fight for the right to organize and to function in a union that will permit you to have a life you enjoy."

-- President Bill Clinton, March 18, 1998

Creating More Jobs and a Stronger Economy

- **Nearly 18 Million New Jobs Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore** -- Since President Clinton took office, the economy has added 17.7 million new jobs -- 1.7 million more new jobs in 71 months than were created during the entire 96 months of the Reagan Administration (17.7 million under Clinton vs. 16.0 million under Reagan).
- **Fastest Real Wage Growth in More Than Two Decades** -- Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen 3.8 percent -- more than twice the rate of inflation. After adjusting for inflation, wages have increased at about a 2.5 percent pace in the past 12 months -- the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades.
- **Unemployment Down To 4.3 Percent in December -- A 29-Year Low.** In 1992, the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. In December 1998, the unemployment rate was 4.3 percent -- its lowest level in 29 years. For 1998 as a whole, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent -- its lowest level since 1969. The unemployment rate has been below 5 percent for 18 months in a row.
- **Construction Jobs Are Coming Back.** Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, construction and manufacturing jobs are coming back: after losing 662,000 jobs in construction during the previous four years, more than 1.6 million new construction jobs have been added since January 1993 -- a faster annual rate than any other Administration since Harry S Truman was President.
- **Manufacturing Jobs Are Up Under President Clinton.** After losing 2.1 million manufacturing jobs between 1981 and 1992, the economy has created 459,000 new manufacturing jobs since January 1993. Manufacturing jobs are up under President Clinton, but are being hurt by the financial crisis in Asia.
- **World Leader in Auto Production Four Years in a Row** -- After losing 46,000 jobs in the auto industry during the Bush years, we have 148,000 new auto jobs during the Clinton-Gore Administration. And for the first time since the 1970s, America has led the world in auto production for four years in a row.
- **Highest Homeownership Rate in History** -- there are more than 7 million new homeowners since the President took office.
- **Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits** -- in 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Creating Better Jobs

- **Increased the Minimum Wage** from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million. For an average full-time minimum wage worker this amounts to a \$1,800 raise. President Clinton also proposed an additional minimum wage increase in 1998.

- **Saving Social Security First** -- The President is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.
- Signed the **Family and Medical Leave Act** into law -- allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. Millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.
- **Fighting for Critical Education Investments** -- maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. In 1998, the President won passage of a number of his education priorities, including funding for his initiatives to recruit quality teachers, reduce class size and to increase early child literacy.
- **More School-to-Career Opportunities with School-To-Work** -- the Clinton Administration is providing hundreds of thousands of students with school-to-career opportunities; students experience work-based learning and gain access to pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education.
- **Expanded Job Training To Help 666,000 Dislocated Workers** -- the FY99 budget includes \$1.4 billion for the dislocated worker program which will help some 666,000 dislocated workers get the training and reemployment services they need to return to work as quickly as possible. This represents an increase of \$55 million compared to FY98. Since 1993, dislocated worker funding has been expanded by 171 percent.
- **Fighting for Paycheck Equity** -- called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination.
- Expanded **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief for **15 million working families**.
- **\$500 Per-Child Tax Credit** -- 26 million families with 40 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit.
- **Increasing Pension Security** -- Fought for legislation that has expanded pension coverage, made pensions more secure for 40 million American workers and retirees, and simplified pension plan administration. Promoting new efforts to encourage retirement savings.
- **Signed the Bipartisan Workforce Investment Act** --- reforming America's job training system for the 21st Century.
- Opposed the creation of **company unions**.
- Blocked efforts to undermine **prevailing wage** laws.
- Revitalized **enforcement at the Labor Department** by adding more **front-line enforcers**.
- Signed **Hatch Act reform** into law -- allowing federal civil servants to more actively participate in the political process.
- **Rescinded** Reagan Administration Executive Order **prohibiting the rehiring of PATCO strikers**.
- **Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965** providing health care coverage for up to five million children.
- **Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights** -- Called on Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need.
- **Signed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform** which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.
- Supported the comprehensive **Occupational Safety and Health Reform Act** and opposed efforts to make the workplace less safe.

Established Better Labor Relations

- Appointed a National Labor Relations Board that is **fair to workers and their unions** for a change. And placed in all levels of government Presidential appointees who are dedicated to fighting for the issues that matter most to working men and women.
- Issued an Executive Order **prohibiting federal agencies from doing business with employers that permanently replace striking workers.**
- Supported **anti-"striker replacement"** legislation -- which would have prohibited companies from permanently replacing striking workers.
- **Preserving the Collective Bargaining Process** -- the Administration has played an activist role in helping to resolve tough disputes, bringing parties together to reach agreement. These collective bargaining disputes have included: Northwest Airlines, American Airlines, Long Island Rail Road, UPS, Teamster national trucking contract, Amtrak, Mineworkers and Bituminous Coal Operators Association.
- **Opposed Republican So-called "Paycheck Protection" Measures** -- which would have limited organized labor's political activity.
- Created the **National Partnership Council** for Federal government unions.
- Created the **Task Force on Excellence in State and Local Government through Labor Management Cooperation** for non-federal public workers.
- **Rescinded** Bush Administration Executive Orders **prohibiting pre-hire agreements** on federal construction projects and requiring all government contractors to post a notice telling workers they have a right not to join a union. In sharp contrast, **President Clinton authorized agencies to use Project Labor Agreements** where they serve the best interests of the government and the people.
- **Supporting the Right of All Workers to Organize** -- The President recently proposed, for the first time ever, up to \$25 million to create a new arm of the International Labor Organization, to work with developing countries to put in place basic labor protections, safe workplaces, and the right to organize, so that workers everywhere can enjoy the advantages of a strong social safety net.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of the Hispanic Community

ECONOMY

Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits -- in 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs. Since President Clinton took office, the economy has added 17.7 million new jobs -- 1.7 million more new jobs in 71 months than were created during the entire 96 months of the Reagan Administration (17.7 million under Clinton vs. 16.0 million under Reagan).

Record-Low Unemployment for Latinos. Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the Latino unemployment rate has dropped from 11.6 percent in 1992 to 7.2 percent in 1998 -- its lowest annual level ever.

Income of Median Hispanic Households Up \$2,553 in Past Two Years. In 1997, the income of the median Hispanic household, adjusted for inflation, increased from \$25,477 in 1996 to \$26,628 in 1997 -- an increase of \$1,151 or 4.5 percent. Over the past two years, the income of the typical Hispanic household has risen \$2,553 -- or nearly 11 percent -- the largest two-year increase in Hispanic income on record.

Real Wages Are Rising for Hispanics. The real wages of Hispanics have risen rapidly in the past two years, up 4.0 percent for Hispanic men and 2.6 percent for Hispanic women since 1996.

Inflation -- Lowest Since 1961. In the third quarter, the GDP price index rose 1.0 percent at an annual rate. Over the past year, inflation rose just 1.0 percent -- the smallest increase in 37 years.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted more than 1.2 million Hispanics out of poverty.

Largest Hispanic Poverty Drop In Two Decades. In 1997, the Hispanic poverty rate dropped from 29.4 percent to 27.1 percent -- the largest one-year drop in Hispanic poverty since 1978. Since President Clinton took office, Hispanic poverty has dropped from 30.6 percent to 27.1 percent. While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting 1.6 million Hispanic workers.

Fighting for Paycheck Equity. The President has called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. In 1997, the median earnings of Hispanic women represented 56 percent of the median earnings for all men.

Two and a Half Times More Small Business Loans to Hispanic Entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 15,000 loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 3,300 loans, worth \$615 million, to Hispanic small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Building on the efforts of the SBA, Vice President Gore unveiled aggressive plans to increase lending and business services to the African American and Hispanic business communities nationwide. The SBA has set a goal of providing an estimated total of \$1.86 billion in loans to African American small businesses over a three-year period and \$2.5 billion worth of loans to Hispanic-owned businesses by the year 2000. In addition, the Vice President announced an unprecedented agreement between SBA and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers to increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years -- a 50 percent increase over current levels.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women-owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the next round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The FY99 budget included a 19 percent increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million in FY98 to \$95 million).

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers. Congress approved the President's full request for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work.

Providing Incentives to Save. The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.

Increasing Homeownership. The Clinton Administration launched a program to increase the homeownership rate of Hispanics in the U.S. through advertising, education and counseling programs and working with lending institutions to better serve the Hispanic community. Progress has been made, four million Hispanics now own their homes, one million more Hispanic homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.

Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative. The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative.

Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public

outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue.

An Administration That Looks like One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez are members of the President's Cabinet. Federico Peña and Henry Cisneros previously served in the President's Cabinet.

Judicial Appointments. Seven percent of all judicial appointments are Hispanics including the Honorable Jose Cabranes, Judge, Second Circuit U.S. Circuit Court, The Honorable Carlos Moreno, Judge, Central District of California, U.S. District Court and the Honorable Hilda Tagle, Judge, Southern District of Texas, U.S. District Court.

Senior Level Administration Appointments. President Clinton has appointed more Hispanics to senior level positions than any President in American history. Eight percent of Presidential appointments, including boards and commissions, are held by Latinos. These Presidential appointees include Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) President George Muñoz; Norma Cantu, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education; Saul Ramirez, Jr., Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary; Eduardo Gonzalez, Director of the United States Marshals Service; Eluid Levi Martinez, Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of Interior; Ida L. Castro, Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Patricia T. Montoya, Commissioner for Children, Youth & Families at the Department of Health and Human Services; and John U. Sepulveda, Deputy Director at the Office of Personnel Management. White House appointees include: Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste; Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Mickey Ibarra; and Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs Janet Murguia.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit Hispanics, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for Hispanics and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed *amicus* briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and opposed an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Spanish have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Oppose English-Only Legislation. Strongly opposed legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn English as adults.

Increasing Voter Registration. During 1995 and 1996, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law registered nearly 14 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. Notably, 1996 saw the highest percentage of voter registration since 1960. [FEC, 6/97]

Opposed California Prop. 187. Opposed California's Proposition 187, which would have made illegal immigrants ineligible for public school education at all levels and ineligible for public health care services.

Working for Fair Housing. To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, HUD will double the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. HUD has also committed \$15 million to 67 fair housing centers around the country to assist in fighting housing discrimination. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The final budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this

Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory “Redlining” Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory “redlining” practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Working to Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

IMMIGRATION

Fairness for Immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted in 1996.

Restoring Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. In June 1998, the President signed the Agricultural Research Act into law, which restores food stamp benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lawfully resided in the U.S. as of August 22, 1996, and lost assistance as a result of cuts in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. It restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship. This law funds a significant part of the President’s 1999 budget proposal to restore food stamp benefits to 730,000 legal immigrants, but the President’s budget proposal would go further by covering families with children regardless of the date they entered the U.S. This restoration builds on the President’s success last year in restoring SSI and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform (see below).

Reversing Unfair Cuts; Protects Legal Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 restored \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments

or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the BBA does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions that have nothing to do with welfare reform, such as the cutting off benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997 and again in 1998, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won many of the changes he sought in the 1996 law.

Strengthening the Naturalization Process. The President has made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. For instance, over one million individuals were naturalized in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America. In FY99, the Administration won an infusion of new resources to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and improve customer service.

Defended Immigrant Rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

EDUCATION

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Enacted a Hispanic Education Action Plan. The Hispanic dropout rate is 2.5 times the rate for African Americans and 3.5 times the rate for white non-Hispanics. The Administration is reaching out to Hispanic youth, encouraging them to stay in school, graduate from high school, and go on to college so that they can compete successfully for good jobs and take advantage of promising career opportunities. As part of these efforts, the Clinton Administration put forth and won passage of an Hispanic Education Action Plan in the FY99 budget. As part of this plan, the President proposed significant increases in Title I funding and a number of other programs that enhance educational opportunity for Hispanic Americans. The final budget included increases of \$494 million for these programs; for example, it provides a \$301 million increase for Title I; \$600 million for TRIO college preparation programs, an increase of \$70 million over FY 1998, which will provide support services to over 700,000 students; and \$50 million for Bilingual Education Professional Development -- double the FY 1998 level -- to begin to provide 20,000 teachers over five years with the training they need to teach Limited English Proficient students.

Increased Funding for Hispanic-Serving Colleges. In FY98, the Administration enacted an 11 percent increase for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges and universities with at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollments.

Established a Hispanic Advisory Commission. In 1994, the President issued an Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanics which established an advisory commission to oversee the improvement in education for Hispanics and would work to ensure that Hispanic-Serving Institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanics. The Commission's report identified contributing factors impacting attainment of educational excellence, corrective policy actions, and plans for program development and funding.

Implemented the Student Diversity Partnership Program. Partnered with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, an Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education to implement the Student Diversity Partnership Program. This program will ensure an adequate supply of diverse and qualified scientists and engineers for the 21st century. In addition, the White House recently awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Hispanics comprising 13 percent of all participants (1996 data) In 1998, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and will earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Summer Jobs program provides an estimated 25 percent of the summer jobs held by African American 14-15 years olds and at least 16 percent held by Hispanic 14-15 year olds. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship credits and a 20 percent tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 54 percent of all Hispanic students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Protecting Bilingual and Immigrant Education. The President is committed to ensuring that students with limited English skills get the extra help they need in order to meet the same high standards expected for all students. The Clinton administration fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual and immigrant education in the 1997 budget deal. For FY99, the Administration fought for and won a doubling of the investments in bilingual teacher training as part of its Hispanic Education

Action Plan. Bilingual education funding helps school districts teach English and other academic subjects to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program helps more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Help for limited-English proficient children. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. Now Hispanics are 32% of the children served in Title I, the largest share of all communities. The FY99 budget provides a \$301 million boost to the Title I program.

More Assistance for Migrant Children and Families. Migrant families face particularly difficult obstacles to gaining the education and training they would need to improve their standard of living. President Clinton improved the Migrant Education Program in the 1994 reauthorization, and won a 16 percent increase in FY99. As part of his Hispanic Education Action Plan, he also won increases for the High School Equivalency Program, the, College Assistance Migrant Program, and a Migrant Youth Job Training Demonstration.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

Reducing Class Size. In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that minorities, and low-income students in particular, benefit academically from smaller classes.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals.

Establishing the GEAR-UP: College Mentoring Initiative To Help Up to 100,000 Students Prepare for College. The President won \$120 million to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a program that incorporates the

President's "High-Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. There are major health disparities among Hispanics. Latinos are nearly twice as likely to develop diabetes than non-Latinos and Latinos have two to three times the rate of stomach cancer as white Americans. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Minority Community with an Historic \$130 Million Effort. Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload (44 percent of all new HIV cases). In FY99, there will be an unprecedented \$130 million investment that will improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. Six percent of all beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare are Hispanic.

The President has also put forth a new proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. Hispanic children make up 30 percent of all uninsured children and African American children make up 25 percent of all uninsured. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 30 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were Hispanic.

Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Of the estimated 830,000 children that were enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 26 percent of the children are of Hispanic origin. The President proposed and won an increase of \$313 million to Head Start in FY99, meaning Head Start funding will be 68-percent higher in 1999 than in 1993. The President is committed to meet his goal of enrolling one million children in Head Start.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year. In the FY99 budget, the President and Vice President proposed and won \$200 million for after-school programs, expanding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes.

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

Falling Crime Rates. Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation. The Administration approved new clean air standards for smog and soot that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment. This Administration has cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Brownfields grants have leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming. The Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way; and secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Committed to Preserving Our Land. The Clinton Administration has protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. And the Administration has reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Cuba. The Clinton Administration increased efforts to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba by keeping pressure on the Castro government for change while reaching out to the Cuban people. The President has strengthened international consensus on the need for action to promote human rights and democracy. Responding to the Pope's historic visit to Cuba, the Clinton Administration authorized humanitarian measures to alleviate the Cuban people's suffering, helping them to prepare for a democratic future and increase contact.

Support Our Closest Neighbors. The Administration took decisive action in assembling a financial support package for Mexico. The President's leadership prevented a prolonged financial crisis in Mexico and its spread to other Latin American countries. In addition, the President traveled to Latin America and launched hemispheric negotiations for Free Trade Area of the Americas.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
Increasing Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities

"Increased access to health care, more assistance at home and in the workplace, remarkable new technologies made more available: This is how we can make sure that all Americans can take their rightful place in our 21st century workplaces."

President Clinton
January 13, 1999

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to expanding opportunities for Americans with disabilities and demonstrating to all Americans that people with disabilities -- given access to the workplace, health care, community services, and technology -- make significant contributions to our society and economy.

EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Fighting to Enact the Work Incentives Improvement Act (WIIA) -- The Work Incentives Improvement Act is an historic bill produced through the bipartisan efforts of Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth and Moynihan in collaboration with leaders in the disability community and staff throughout the Administration. On January 13, 1999, the President previewed one of his FY2000 budget initiatives, committing to the full funding of the WIIA. The Administration's budget initiative, which invests \$1.2 billion over five years, will help provide better health care options for people with disabilities who work.

The Work Incentives Improvement Act will improve access to health care by: (1) expanding states' ability to provide a Medicaid buy-in to people with disabilities who return to work; (2) extending Medicare coverage, for the first time, for people with disabilities who return to work; and (3) creating a new Medicaid buy-in demonstration to help people with a specific physical or mental impairment that is not severe enough to qualify for health assistance, but is likely to lead to a severe disability in the absence of medical treatment. In addition, WIIA will modernize the employment services system by creating a "ticket" that will enable Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to go to any of a number of public or private providers for vocational rehabilitation. If the beneficiary goes to work and achieves substantial earnings, providers would be paid a portion of the benefits saved. And WIIA creates a Work Incentive Grant program to provide benefits planning and assistance, facilitating access to information about work incentives, and better integrate services to people with disabilities working or returning to work.

Providing a \$1,000 Tax Credit for Work-Related Expenses for People with Disabilities -- On January 13, 1999, the President announced a new proposal that will allow workers with significant disabilities to receive an annual \$1,000 tax credit to help cover the formal and informal costs that are associated with employment, such as special transportation and technology. Like the Jeffords-Kennedy-Roth-Moynihan Work Incentive Act, this tax credit, which will assist 200,000 to 300,000 Americans, will help ensure that people with disabilities have the tools they need to return to work.

Establishing the Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities -- On March 13, 1998, President Clinton signed an Executive Order establishing a National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, charged with creating a coordinated and aggressive national policy to bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate that is as close as possible to that of the general adult population. According to a 1998 Bureau of Labor Statistics report, only 30 percent of persons with severe disabilities were in the labor force in the third quarter of 1994 (latest data available).

Taking Action on All of the Task Force's Formal Recommendations -- In December, the Vice President accepted the report of the President's Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities. Alexis M. Herman, Secretary of Labor, chairs the Task Force and Tony Coelho, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, serve as Vice-Chair. The Administration has taken action on all the Task Force formal recommendations: work to pass the Work Incentive Improvement Act; work to pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights; examine tax options to assist with expenses of work; foster interdisciplinary consortia for employment services; accelerate development and adoption of assistive technology; direct Small Business Administration to expand outreach; remove Federal hiring barriers for people with mental illness and direct the Office of Personnel Management to develop model plan for Federal hiring of people with disabilities.

Signing the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Improving Worker Training and Placement Options for People with Disabilities -- Last year, the President signed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which included the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The new Act establishes better links between the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system and the general workforce development system. Job seekers with disabilities will have improved options for service through the mainstream worker training and placement system, as well as through the disability-specific VR system. The U.S. Department of Labor, with assistance from the Department of Education, has been providing valuable technical assistance to the network of one-stop career centers on how to provide nondiscriminatory and accessible services to people with disabilities. In addition, the Rehabilitation Act has also been strengthened to give increased options to individuals with disabilities in developing employment plans.

Working on Innovative Strategies to Improve Employment of Adults with Disabilities -- Agencies within the Clinton Administration continue to work on innovative strategies to employ Americans with disabilities. The Social Security Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Education are all participating in inter-agency demonstration projects to expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. For instance, the Department of Education has awarded six systems-change grants to establish models of improved cooperation and coordination between State Vocational Rehabilitation programs, public employment/employment training programs, and other related programs. The grants will assist in reducing barriers to employment and increasing the capacity of the State's overall employment system to serve individuals with disabilities. The focus of these systems change projects is increasing the employment rate of individuals with disabilities who are currently receiving support through public programs.

Supporting Families -- President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) making workplaces more accommodating for many families that include a child or adult with

a disability. In his 1999 State of the Union, the President proposed to extend the benefits of the Family and Medical Leave Act to ten million more American workers. Currently, only workers who are employed at businesses with 50 or more employees are protected. By covering workers in businesses with 25 or more workers, 10 million more American workers will be covered by the FMLA. The President also called for expanding the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers to take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations, such as accompany one's child to dental or medical appointments.

Helping Move People from Welfare to Work -- Some of those who are having the hardest time moving from welfare to work are people with disabilities. Recognizing the special needs of this and other hard-to-place populations, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion to assist long-term welfare recipients obtain jobs. In addition, the FY99 budget included a number of measures designed to expand welfare to work activities. The final budget included \$283 million for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work and \$75 million to assist states and localities in developing flexible transportation alternatives, such as van services. For FY 2000, the President announced that he will propose an additional \$1 billion for his Welfare-to-Work program to ensure that those remaining on the welfare rolls who face the greatest challenges can succeed in the workforce and to increase the employment of fathers of children on welfare so they can better support their children.

Funding a Disability Research Institute -- The Vice President recently announced that the Social Security Administration will fund a Disability Research Institute to help provide policy-makers with information and research data in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability policy area, including ways to assess work ability and return-to-work strategies.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Enacting a Stronger Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) -- In 1997, the President signed into law a stronger Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, so that in FY 2000, IDEA will serve 6.2 million children with disabilities. The expanded IDEA reaffirms and strengthens our national commitment to provide a world class education for all our children. It ensures that our nation's schools are safe and conducive to learning for children, while scrupulously protecting the rights of our disabled students. This bill makes it clear once and for all that children with disabilities have a right to be in the classroom and to be included in school activities like work experience, science clubs and field outings. IDEA also helps all classroom teachers get the full range of teaching skills that they need to teach children with disabilities. Teachers are now required to be involved in the development of individual education plans to help disabled children succeed. In addition, President Clinton has proposed requiring that states establish performance goals for special education.

Opposing Amendments to IDEA -- In the 105th Congress, the Majority in the House sought to amend the Individual with Disabilities Education Act to make it easier to expel children with disabilities who were judged by school officials to be potentially violent in school. These broad, subjective judgements could have resulted in inappropriate expulsion of large numbers of students with disabilities. The Administration, working with parents, successfully opposed these amendments.

Enforcing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act -- The Clinton Administration has supported the rights of children with disabilities under IDEA in the following Federal Court cases: *Cedar Rapids Community School District v. Garrett F.*; *Marie O. v. Edgar*; *Sacramento City Unified School District v. Holland*; *Hartmann v. Loudon County Board of Education*.

EXPANDING THE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

Adding a New Statue to the FDR Memorial -- On May 2, 1997, President Clinton dedicated the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to honor the thirty-second President of the United States. On July 2, 1998, Vice President Gore announced that the FDR Memorial will soon include an additional outdoor room at the main entrance which will depict FDR in the small wheelchair he invented. Thanks to the efforts of the disability community, the Clinton-Gore Administration has selected a specific design that will show how FDR became one of our greatest presidents while he had a disability and used a wheelchair.

INCREASING ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

Vigorously Enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act -- President Clinton has led the fight for vigorous enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Fair Housing Act, the IDEA and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in housing, schools, workplaces and public areas across the nation.

Working to Stop Discrimination Against People With AIDS -- President Clinton supports the Supreme Court's decision in *Bragdon v. Abbott*, which reinforces the protections offered by the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS. The President directed the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to vigorously prosecute those who discriminate against people with AIDS, leading to actions against health care providers and facilities that violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years. This increase, the first since EEOC took responsibility for investigating violations of the ADA, will help give the EEOC the resources it needs to investigate claims of discrimination under the ADA.

Working for Fair Housing -- In response to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has committed to doubling the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The FY99 budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs to \$40 million -- a \$10 million increase over FY98 funding. That 33-

percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

Increasing Outreach -- In July 1998, the President directed key Federal civil rights agencies to increase their outreach efforts to individuals with disabilities, including those in diverse cultural communities, including immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities and rural residents.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY NOW

Saving Social Security First -- President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted to preserve the program for all eligible individuals, including the one-third of beneficiaries who are covered by the disability and survivors insurance programs.

Protecting Supplemental Security Income Benefits -- In 1995, the President vetoed a budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on Supplemental Security Income -- families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for home modifications, equipment and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time. In addition, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act ensured that 30,000 disabled children losing SSI because of the new tighter eligibility criteria kept their Medicaid coverage.

HELPING TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights -- President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Proposing New Initiatives to Improve Prevention and Treatment and Fairness for People with Mental Illnesses -- The President and Vice President advocated for and enacted the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, which took steps to end discrimination based on mental illnesses. On January 14, 1999, Mrs. Gore unveiled three new major initiatives, including: an unprecedented \$70 million increase in the mental health services block grant, a 24 percent increase, totaling \$358 million for FY2000, which will enable states to target particularly-hard-to-reach adults and children with severe mental illnesses; the announcement of a White House Conference on Mental Health to be held this spring; and a Presidential request to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to explore measures to eliminate the stricter standards currently applied to federal hiring practices for adults with psychiatric disabilities.

Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs -- On July 29, 1998, the anniversary of the ADA, President Clinton announced that the Health Care Financing Administration was directing State Medicaid Directors to provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs and in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act. State Medicaid Directors are being urged to conduct self-evaluations to ensure that their practices and procedures encourage rather than inhibit integration into communities. The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services; since he took office, the President has approved over 300 such waivers. As a result, the number of people with developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs has increased significantly.

Increasing Access to Health Care and Supporting Employment for Disabled Americans -- The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created an optional program whereby States could allow people with disabilities who were earning up to 250 percent of poverty to purchase Medicaid coverage. Oregon is the first state to take advantage of this policy, and they have created a program that will let individuals go to work and get or keep Medicaid. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala has asked every governor to seriously consider this program.

Passing Meaningful Health Insurance Reform -- President Clinton signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.

Protecting the Medicaid Guarantee for People with Disabilities -- The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities -- rejecting proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. The President vetoed the Republican's proposal in the 104th Congress to block grant the Medicaid program, preserving Medicaid coverage for six million persons with disabilities. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions. Thanks to President Clinton, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act preserved the Federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for populations who depend on it.

INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Increasing Public Transportation Accessibility -- The Department of Transportation and the Access Board have issued final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions for over-the-road bus (OTRB) accessibility and provides a definition of what constitutes discriminatory action. The regulation requires large fixed-route operators to achieve 50% of full fleet accessibility by October 2006 and 100% by October 2012. The Department has strengthened the regulations by including provisions making OTRB operators individually and collectively accountable for providing accessible service. Additionally, in 1998, President Clinton signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), legislation that provides significantly increased resources to make our Nation's surface transportation systems accessible. The Act included increased funding for the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities grant program.

Expanding Accessibility to the Parks and Wilderness -- In October 1997, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Federal wilderness management agencies and a nonprofit organization called Wilderness Inquiry, Inc. (WI), to coordinate their policies to “establish a general framework of cooperation between the agencies and WI for increased opportunities for people of all abilities to use and enjoy the programs, facilities, and activities of the agencies.” On November 10, 1998, President Clinton signed legislation (H.R. 4501) that requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study to improve the access for persons with disabilities to outdoor recreational opportunities (such as fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, hiking, boating, and camping) made available to the public on the Federal lands in the National Forest System, the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Increasing Housing Options -- The Clinton-Gore Administration took a number of significant actions in 1998 that advanced housing policy for people with disabilities. First, HUD issued a statement supporting the view that institutional living does not constitute real housing for people with disabilities. On April 28, 1998, Fannie Mae announced the publication of “A Home of Your Own Guide,” the first manual specifically created to provide step-by-step home buying guidance for people with disabilities. And in February, HUD Secretary Cuomo issued a directive encouraging communities to use community development block grant funds for home modifications for people with disabilities. Also, in HUD’s recent Notices of Funding Availability, the agency included bonus points for developers when they seek to build structures that include “visitability” by people with disabilities.

Increasing Section 8 Funding in HUD Appropriations -- President Clinton supported the inclusion of \$40 million in Section 8 funding for people with disabilities, in part to offset the displacement likely to occur as a result of “elderly-only” designation of public housing formerly occupied by people with disabilities.

Reinventing Government -- Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, the Clinton-Gore Administration is making government smaller, better managed and more efficient, creating a government that works better and costs less. The Administration is dramatically improving customer service to give all Americans the best service they've ever experienced with the government.

PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Signing the Assistive Technology Act -- Technology is a crucial component in enabling people with disabilities to obtain and keep meaningful employment. President Clinton supported and signed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, which reauthorized the old “Tech Act” that created State Assistive Technology Centers to provide assistive devices to needy individuals with disabilities. On January 13, 1999, President Clinton announced a new initiative to improve the development, adoption and prevalence of information and communications technologies to help people with disabilities work. This initiative, if enacted, will: (1) help make the Federal government a “model user” of assistive technology; (2) support new and expanded state loan programs to make assistive technology more affordable for Americans with disabilities; and (3) invest in research and development and technology transfer in areas such as “text to speech” for people who are blind, automatic captioning

for people who are deaf, and speech recognition and eye tracking for people who can't use a keyboard. This \$35 million investment in FY 2000 will more than double the Administration's current investment in deploying assistive technology.

Ensuring the Federal Government Provides Accessible Technology and Information -- The Clinton-Gore Administration recommended, and Congress enacted, changes to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. These changes strengthened the obligations of Federal agencies to provide accessible technology and information to their employees and customers. Section 508 now grants the Access Board authority to issue accessibility regulations. In addition, Federal employees as well as agency constituents now have the right to file a complaint under a procedure similar to that outlined under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. With these changes, the Federal government can use its considerable purchasing power to influence private industry toward developing universally designed technology that is accessible to almost everyone.

Ensuring that the Telecommunications Revolution Benefits All -- In June 1998, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed rules to implement the portion (Section 225) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that requires that telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities, where readily achievable. In addition, the FCC has amended rules to require closed captioning to video programming for the 27 million Americans with hearing disabilities; proposed improvements on Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) to ensure that TTY users have access to telecommunications network; and proposed a requirement to expand TRS so that persons with speech disabilities have access to telecommunications.

CREATING AN ADMINISTRATION THAT LOOKS LIKE ONE AMERICA

Appointed the Most Diverse Administration in History -- President Clinton has appointed a highly talented and the most diverse Administration in history, including the appointment of record numbers of people with disabilities in the White House and throughout the Clinton-Gore Administration. The Federal government now employs more than 100,000 employees with some type of disability. President Clinton's Administration appointees include: Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services; Paul Miller, Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Fredric Schroeder, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Commission. People with disabilities serve in the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, State and Transportation. President Clinton has also appointed people with disabilities to positions in such independent agencies as the National Council on Disability and the Social Security Administration, as U.S. District Court Judges and to various Presidential Committees, Commissions and Task Forces. In the White House, Charles Ruff serves as Counsel to the President. And Jonathan Young, Associate Director of Disability Outreach, is the first person with a disability ever appointed to do disability outreach in the White House Office of Public Liaison.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Supporting Women and Families

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Protecting Families.** The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.
- **Cutting Taxes for 15 Million Working Families** by extending the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 1997, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people, including 2.2 million children, out of poverty -- double the number of people lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993.
- **Increasing the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15**, giving six million women a raise.
- **Narrowing the Wage Gap.** In 1996, the median earnings of women working full-time increased 3 percent. In 1997, the median earnings of women represented 74 percent of the median earnings for men, the narrowest gap ever.
- **Fighting for Paycheck Equity.** Called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination.
- **Highest Homeownership Rate in History.** There are more than seven million new homeowners since the President took office. Women's homeownership has increased 14% with 1.9 million new women homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.
- **Providing Incentives to Save.** The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.
- **Increasing Pension Security.** Fought for legislation that has expanded pension coverage, made pensions more secure for 40 million American workers and retirees, and simplified pension plan administration. Promoting new efforts to encourage retirement savings.
- **Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits.** In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.
- **Saving Social Security First.** In 1999, nearly 60 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries will be women. Social Security will be the major source of retirement income for a majority of these women. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century and has urged that budget surpluses be reserved for a bipartisan plan to strengthen Social Security.

CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN:

- **Extending Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).** This is the single largest investment in Health Care for children since 1965. The President fought to ensure that the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to millions of uninsured children.
- **Fought for and Won \$500 Child Tax Credit for 26 Million Families with Over 40 Million Children under Age 17.** Twelve million children from families with income below \$30,000 will receive the child tax credit as a result of the President's efforts.
- **Largest Four-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s.** Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 19.9 percent -- the biggest four-year drop in nearly 30 years (1965-1969). While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.
- **Helping 7.4 Million Women and Children with WIC.** In FY99, 7.4 million women, infants and children will receive health and food assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), one million more than in 1994.

- **Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families.** Issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.
- **Held First-Ever White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning and the White House Conference on Child Care.** In April 1997, the President and First Lady held the White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning to highlight the benefits of early nurturing by parents. And in October 1997, the White House Conference on Child Care began a dialogue on the child care challenges facing parents today -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.
- **Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History.** In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.
- **Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act.** This law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.
- **Signed the Comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative.** Thanks to President Clinton, immunization rates among two-year-olds have reached historic highs.
- **Took Steps to Ensure Children Have Safe Medications.** Unveiled an FDA regulation that protects children by requiring manufacturers to study appropriate dosage levels of drugs for pediatric populations.
- **Launched New Strategies to Reduce the High Rate of Teen Pregnancies.** Teen (aged 15 to 19 years) births have fallen six years in a row, by 12 percent from 1991 to 1996.
- **Increased Child Support Collections by 80%.** Signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history.
- **Imposed Strict Measures to Keep Cigarettes out of the Hands of Our Children** by restricting youth-targeted advertising; and the FDA made 18 the minimum age to purchase tobacco products nationwide, requiring photo I.D.s for anyone under the age of 27. And the President is fighting to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- **Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years.** Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.
- **Providing Early Education to 835,000 Children with Head Start.** More than 200,000 additional children are enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992.
- **More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Class Sizes.** Won a down payment on the President's new initiative to hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers, helping school districts reduce class size in the early grades.
- **Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade.** More than 1000 colleges have committed Work Study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. Won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.
- **Striving for Excellence with National Education Standards.** Seeking high national standards for all students, the President has proposed a first-ever national test in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math.
- **Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public School.** Supported increase of public charter schools, from one charter school in the nation in 1993 to more than 1,000 charter schools in 1998, on track toward 3,000 quality charter schools early next century.
- **Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children.** Created a new mentoring initiative to help up to 100,000 low income middle school children prepare for college.

- **Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year.** Expanded the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.
- **Paying for College Through Community Service.** AmeriCorps has allowed more than 100,000 young people to serve their communities while earning money for college or skills training.
- **Fought for Passage of Education Tax Breaks to Promote Lifelong Learning.** Representing the largest single increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included a \$1,500 Hope Scholarship to make the first two years of college universally available, and a 20-percent tuition tax credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and working Americans pursuing lifelong learning.
- **Expanded Work Study.** This year, nearly one million students will be able to work their way through college because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program.
- **Largest Maximum Pell Grant Award Ever.** In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the largest one-year increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years. In 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever.

IMPROVING OUR NATION'S HEALTH:

- **Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting the 22 Million American Women Enrolled in Medicare.** Extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits, including more affordable annual mammograms for all beneficiaries, cervical cancer screening, and tests to help detect osteoporosis. The President also put forth a proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.
- **Increased Funding for Breast Cancer Research.** Since the President took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has doubled, from \$283 million in FY93 to \$550 million in FY98 (Health and Human Services' discretionary funding). In addition, the President has implemented the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure the quality of mammograms. Women can now find a certified mammography facility by calling 1-800-4-CANCER.
- **Providing Protection with the Patients' Bill of Rights.** The President has called on Congress to pass Federally enforceable consumer health care protections that include: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists including direct access to an OB-GYN; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to ensure that patients' care will not abruptly change if their provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process for consumers to resolve their differences with their health plans; a limit on financial incentives to doctors to limit care and assurances that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options. Women are particularly vulnerable without these health care protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs that are directly addressed by a patients' bill of rights.
- **Preventing Discrimination Based on Genetic Information Both by Health Plans and Employers.** The Administration has urged Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to prohibit health plans from inappropriately using genetic screening information to deny coverage, set premiums, or to distribute confidential information. The President also has supported legislation that ensures that employers do not use genetic information to discriminate against employees.
- **Fought for Greater Health Security for America's Families.** The President signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which helps millions of Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions keep their health insurance.
- **Endorsed Legislation That Would Ban Drive-thru Mastectomies,** allowing women to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours following a mastectomy.

- **Ended Drive-Thru Deliveries.** Proposed and signed into law legislation requiring insurers to cover at least 48 hours of a post-natal hospital stay (72 hours for a Cesarean).

MAKING OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES SAFER:

- **Violent Crime at Lowest Level Since 1973.** Violent crime fell 7 percent in 1997 and 21 percent since 1993. The murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.
- **Putting 100,000 New Police on the Street.** In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities.
- **Signed the Assault Weapons Ban, the Brady Bill and an Extension of Brady into Law.** The Brady Law has already kept handguns away from more than 250,000 persons including felons, fugitives and other prohibited purchasers (including individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or who are under restraining orders). The President signed into law the extension of the Brady Law, which prohibits anyone convicted of a domestic violence offense -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm.
- **Held the First-Ever White House Conference on School Safety.** On October 15, 1998, the President hosted the White House Conference on School Safety. The participants explored solutions to this national challenge: How do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school in America.
- **Signed Megan's Law and the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act.** Requiring states to set up sex offender registration systems and allows community notification when sex offenders move into neighborhoods.
- **Championed and Signed the Violence Against Women Act,** the cornerstone of the President's efforts to fight domestic violence, bolstering local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address these crimes. Created the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. Won \$283 million in FY99 budget to continue the Administration's efforts to combat gender-based crime.
- **More than Quadrupled Funding to Domestic Violence Shelters** and signed the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996 which makes it a Federal crime to cross state lines intending to injure or harass another person.
- **Established Nationwide 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline.** The hotline (1-800-797-SAFE) provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need. Since the hotline opened, there have been more than 230,000 calls -- averaging 8,000 calls a month -- from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN:

- **Reversed the "Gag Rule"** limiting the information federally funded family planning clinics could give to women.
- **Increased Funding for Family Planning.** The FY99 budget increased Title X Family Planning grants by \$12 million -- a 24 percent increase since FY93. And in 1998, successfully defeated parental consent restrictions on contraceptives services for minors.
- **Provided Contraceptive Coverage to More than a Million Women.** The FY99 budget requires the 300 Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans (FEHBP) to cover contraceptive drugs and devices, providing coverage to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age.
- **Protected FDA's Role in Testing RU-486.** In 1993, reversed the ban on the importation of Mifepristone or RU-486. In 1998, successfully fought for removal of a provision that would prohibit the FDA from testing, developing or approving RU-486, thereby usurping the Agency's role in making scientific determinations about the effect of drugs on the safety and health of the American people.
- **Signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act,** establishing a safety-zone around women's health clinics.

STRENGTHENING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS:

- **Increasing Funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).** The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

GENERATING MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN:

- **Women Are Starting Businesses at Twice the Rate of All Businesses.** Women own nearly 40 percent of all firms in the United States. These eight million women-owned firms employ 18.5 million —one in every five U.S. workers — and contribute \$2.3 trillion to the economy. The Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership is working to foster this growth.
- **Expanded Small Business Opportunities for Women.** In the FY99 budget, doubled the funding for SBA Women's Business Centers which provides resources to foster increased entrepreneurship among women.
- **Tripled the Number of Small Business Loans to Women Entrepreneurs.** Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 50,000 loans to women entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 10,000 loans, worth \$1.67 billion, to women small business owners, triple the number of loans granted in 1992.

WOMEN AS PARTNERS IN DECISION MAKING:

- **Appointed More Women than Any Other President** -- 40 percent of Administration appointees are women.
- **Women Hold 28 Percent of the Top Positions** -- 28 percent of the positions requiring Senate confirmation (PAS) are held by women. Additionally,
 - 34 percent of Presidential appointments, including boards and commissions, are held by women.
 - 41 percent of non-career Senior Executive Service positions are held by women.
 - 58 percent of Schedule C positions are held by women.
- **Appointed the First Women Ever to Serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno, and Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.** Including the Attorney General and Secretary of State, women make up 32 percent of the Clinton Cabinet: Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Janet Yellen, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; and Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative all serve in the President's Cabinet.
- **30 Percent of All of the President's Judicial Nominees Are Women.**
- **Nominated the Second Woman to Serve on the Supreme Court.** During his first year in office, President Clinton nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the United States Supreme Court. Justice Ginsburg is only the second woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

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