
National Commission on Children

April 15, 1993

Hon. John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman

Dear Kim,

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Cheryl D. Hayes
Executive Director

Now that the National Summit on Children and Families has come to a successful close, and with the National Commission on Children due to sunset in a matter of weeks, I want to make sure that you have our most recent publications. As you may know, the bipartisan National Commission on Children was created by Congress and the President to "serve as a forum on behalf of the children of the nation." Its 34 members come from many walks of life and represent an array of viewpoints, professional affiliations, and political perspectives.

In June 1991 the Commission presented its final report, *Beyond Rhetoric: A New American Agenda for Children and Families*, to the President and Congressional leadership. Based on two-and-a-half years of intensive investigation and deliberation, the Commission called on all Americans to make children and families a top national priority, and proposed a comprehensive agenda for policy and program development. The response to *Beyond Rhetoric* was overwhelmingly positive; the National Commission on Children was inundated with requests for guidance on how to turn its proposals into action, and for more information about the country's children and families.

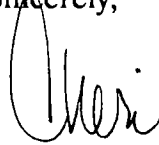
To move its recommendations forward the Commission produced a series of implementation guides, *Next Steps for Children and Families*, which outline strategies for ensuring income security, improving health, increasing educational achievement, strengthening and supporting families, and making programs and policies work. Based on the discussions of working groups chaired by Commission members, these monographs offer practical advice to policymakers, program directors, community activists, corporate leaders, and private citizens.

To clarify the dimensions of the problems that jeopardize our young people and their families' ability to raise them, we prepared *Just the Facts: A Summary of Recent Information on America's Children and Their Families*. This resource book is a ready reference for journalists who cover children's issues, advocates who work on behalf of children, policy analysts, and others who need easy access to data on conditions and trends. It contains updated facts and figures from a variety of federal sources, private surveys, and scholarly research studies originally compiled to inform the Commission's deliberations.

Page Two

My work with the Commission has been challenging and rewarding, and I am grateful for your support. With issues affecting children and families so much more at the center of debate than they were when we began our work, it is my wish that you look closely at the Commission's agenda and make it your own. I hope you find these volumes, and the enclosed summary of the Commission's final report, valuable resources in your work ahead.

Sincerely,



Cheryl D. Hayes

Kim Tilley
Research Associate
Office of Communications/Research
The White House
197 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

*If was great to
work with you
Thanks so much for
your kind note*

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

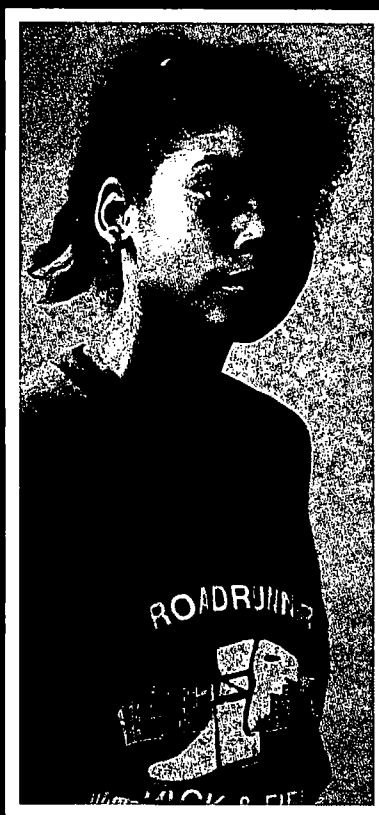
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BEYOND RHETORIC

A New American Agenda for
Children and Families



SUMMARY

FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN