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Dennis Lees, Ph.D.
Mgr., Mental Health Clinic
Jean Lewis
President, Parents of
Murdered Children
**Gordon Rondeau &
Elaine Rondeau**
Founders, Action America:
Murder Must End Now

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

President
Sanford A. Newman

Associate Directors
Amy R. Dawson
Brendan J. Fitzsimons

Communications Director
John W. Bartlett

Memorandum

To: Friends of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
From: Sandy Newman
Date: March 26, 1998
Re: Update

There have been some remarkable developments at FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS in the last few months. This year has seen major advances for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS in fundraising, in the enlistment of police prosecutors and crime survivors to advocate for our agenda and serve on our advisory committees, and in building public and Congressional support for major investments in child care and after-school programs.

**Additional 150 Police Chiefs, Prosecutors, and
Crime Survivors Join our Advisory Committees!**

In the past two months FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS has doubled the size of its National and State Advisory Committees which now include over 250 of the nation's best known and most respected police chiefs, prosecutors, and crime survivors. This is especially significant because all have signed, as a condition of membership, our Crime Prevention Agenda, which calls for sweeping investments aimed at giving kids the right start in life.

As we build momentum, it becomes clearer that the only obstacle to increasing the size of our state and national committees is the amount of staff time that we can devote to doing this.

Building Support for Child Care and After-School Programs

Our efforts this year are focused on the enormous opportunities to win major increases in federal support for child care and after-school programs. In 1998, we will be working with valuable allies such as the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Care Action Campaign, the Child Welfare League of America, and the YMCA, as well as other groups to use our unique voice to help the public understand the crime prevention impact of investments in kids.

A. New Report and Call for Action Issued

On February 5th, we held a press briefing releasing our latest research report, *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime*. Drawing on programs and research from across the country, this report clearly shows the crime prevention impact of investments in child care and after-school programs and the critical need for more investments in these programs.



Along with our report, we released a Call to Action signed by all the members of our National and State Advisory Committees and our Resource Council, urging public officials to cut crime and protect public safety by assuring that all kids and parents have access to quality child care, parenting coaching and family supports, and after-school, weekend and summer youth development programs.

Clips generated by our press briefing are still rolling in from scores of newspapers around the country including the *Washington Post*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *Miami Herald*. You may have also noted that this week's *Newsweek* contains an article by columnist Jonathan Alter regarding the importance of investments in kids in light of the tragedy in Jonesboro last week. The article quotes FIGHT CRIME President Sandy Newman and draws from statistics used in our reports. I've attached a copy of this article with news clips from our recent press briefing.

B. Major Cities Police Chiefs Endorse Our Call

In early February, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS Associate Director Amy Dawson and I gave a presentation about the crime prevention impact of investments in kids at the winter meeting of the Major Cities Police Chiefs Organization, an organization made up of police chiefs from 52 of the largest cities in the US and Canada.

The response from the Major Cities Chiefs was beyond anything we could have hoped for. Nearly half its members already belong to FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS Advisory Committees, and we expect to have nearly all of them signed within the next couple of months. More gratifying still, they passed a resolution nearly identical to the Call to Action we released on February 5th urging all elected officials to reduce crime and increase public safety by investing in child care, after-school programs, and parenting coaching. And then last week the National District Attorney's Association added a similar call for child care and after-school programs.

We are all excited about the impact this will have as these chiefs and prosecutors bring the message home that investing in our nation's most vulnerable children and families is one of the best ways to reduce crime and violence.

C. Bringing Our Message to Congress

Baltimore Police Commissioner Thomas Frazier represented FIGHT CRIME in a briefing to over 75 key Congressional staffers on the crime prevention impact of after-school programs as well as press conference convened by the Child Care Action Campaign on pending child care and after-school proposals. At both events, staffers and reporters were impressed as Commissioner Frazier explained that he was so convinced of the need for after-school programs that he has assigned police officers to create and staff 27 after-school centers in strategically selected neighborhoods — largely neighborhoods where other agencies were afraid to keep facilities open in the afternoon and the evening. He reports that, in the neighborhoods where his first center was opened, crime dropped 42% within a year.

Commissioner Frazier also testified on March 5th, to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources about the crime prevention impact of early childhood investments and after-school programs. In February, Arlington Chief of Police, Edward A. Flynn, testified on behalf of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS to the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families.

In addition to our members' participation in Congressional briefings and hearings, many of our Advisory Committee members have been directly contacting their Congresspersons or Senators to urge them to support larger investments in child care and after-school programs.

Growth at the State Level

Along with intensifying our national efforts to educate opinion leaders and the public, we're stepping up our organizing of committees in target states in 1998. We recently hired Kim Joris, a former police officer and detective, to coordinate our operations in North Carolina. Kim comes to us after recently serving on the Governor's Highway Safety Program and has significant experience in public relations and organizing. Together with our state partner, the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence, we are currently looking for a staff person to coordinate FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS, and we plan to launch as many as eight new state chapters this year.

Our efforts last year in Illinois provide a hint of the kind of impact such intense organizing efforts can have. So far we've been able to recruit the heads of all four of the state's major law enforcement organizations as well as the state's Attorney General, Chicago's Police Superintendent, the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and police, prosecutors and crime survivors from diverse communities state-wide to serve on our committee in Illinois. Our allies in Illinois, the Day Care Action Council and Voices for Illinois Children, led the fight for these initiatives, but they would tell you that the voices of FIGHT CRIME played a valuable part in ultimately winning \$40 million in extra funding for child care and early childhood programs last year. We've been able to accomplish all this even though we have yet to hire a state coordinator.

New Funders Build Fight Crime's Capacity

The news on the fundraising front has been terrific so far this year. This month, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS received a grant of \$75,000 a year for the next three years from the DeWitt Wallace, Reader's Digest Fund and a one-year grant of \$75,000 from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. These grants are the biggest that our organization has received so far.

In December and January, we also received a grant for an additional \$20,000 from the Naomi and Nehemia Cohen Foundation on top of \$5,000 they had already pledged, an \$11,000 grant from the Threshold Foundation, a \$5,000 renewal from the Blum-Kovler Foundation, as well as smaller grants from other valued supporters who helped us meet the terms of a \$10,000 challenge grant from David Stern and Tracey Hughes.

These grants are going to make a big difference in the coming year as we gear up to move our operations to the next level.

The Legislative Front

A number of child care initiatives have been introduced by the President and members of Congress over the last two months. President Clinton's proposal would provide \$4 billion a year for child care and an additional \$200 million a year for after-school programs. If passed, this could be the biggest step that Congress has ever taken to fight crime and help children get the right start in life. We've also noted, however, that this bill meets only one-fifth of the most urgent need for child care and after-school programs and we've urged Congress to tell the President "we'll see you and raise you".

The most ambitious child care proposal on the table was introduced by Senator Kennedy (D-MA) and calls for around \$6 billion a year for child care programs. House Democrats have recently introduced bills which would earmark about \$3 billion a year, from a new tobacco tax, to improve and expand child care. Senators Chaffee (R-RI) and Hatch (R-UT) have introduced a more modest proposal. I've enclosed a summary of the Clinton proposal, and would be glad to give you summaries of the other bills if you would like.

Although all of these proposals fall short of meeting the needs of America's children, it is heartening to watch as consensus grows on both sides of the aisle that it's time for major steps forward in helping kids get quality child care and after-school programs. While the legislative situation is very fluid and it is difficult to predict an outcome at this point, it is clear that the level of interest, in Congress and across the country — and the opportunity for substantial action — is very high.

This year's balanced budget and surpluses being recorded in states around the country have made it difficult for politicians to argue, as they have in the past, that there isn't enough money for these programs. It is clear that 1998 offers the best opportunity in decades to win major investments for kids at the state and federal level.

The groundwork we have laid so far has put us in a position to make an important contribution to this year's developments regarding programs for children. As we gear up to take advantage of this opportunity, we are beginning to glimpse the potential impact of our strategy. For example, our September press conference centered on our *After-School Programs or After-School Crime* report, showing that after-school programs could dramatically reduce crime. The report analyzed new data (compiled by the National Center for Juvenile Justice) revealing that after-school hours are the peak hours for juvenile crime and that violent juvenile crime triples in the first hour after school dismissal.

Now, we routinely see the report's analysis alluded to in support of after-school programs. For example, it has repeatedly been cited by the President (including in his State of the Union message and his earlier announcement of his child care and after-school initiative) and in statements by the Vice President, the Attorney General, members of Congress and state legislators around the country. We may even be nearing the point where these key data about juvenile crime become "common knowledge," routinely linked to the need for after-school programs. Earlier, a minority report of the Judiciary Committee noted that our public education efforts and other advocacy had played a key role in persuading the full committee to restore \$60 million in prevention programs which had been cut in subcommittee.

Despite considerable progress, we know that we have only begun to scratch the surface of the difference that we expect to make for kids. We remain focused on the enormous opportunities that lie ahead and the hard work that will be needed by Fight Crime and so many others to turn those opportunities into concrete improvements in the lives of children.

Enclosures

Selected Press Clips

Call to Action

Executive Summary of Our Report: *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Key Weapons Against Crime*

Job Descriptions

P.S. If you know people we should consider for the positions outlined on the attached job description sheet, please let them know about the openings here.

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Sheriff, LA County, CA
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Order of Police
E. Douglas Hamilton
Chief, Louisville, KY
Phil E. Keith
Chief, Knoxville, TN
R. Gil Kerlikowske
Commissioner, Buffalo, NY
Charles A. Moose
Chief, Portland, OR
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Jerry Sanders
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Darrel W. Stephens
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**FIGHT
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**INVEST
IN KIDS**

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Communications Director
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**A CALL FOR ACTION FROM AMERICA'S
FRONT LINE AGAINST CRIME**

The following statement has been signed by:

- ◇ *over 250 of the nation's leading police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors;*
- ◇ *the presidents of the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Union of Police Associations, which together represent 360,000 police officers; and*
- ◇ *the President of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children and many of the nation's crime survivors most active in victim advocacy; and*
- ◇ *more than twenty of America's leading criminologists and law enforcement, child and youth development experts.*

A similar statement has also been endorsed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the organization of police chiefs from 49 of the largest urban areas in North America representing 26 states and 3 Canadian provinces.

AS POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND CRIME SURVIVORS, we struggle every day against crime and its devastating impact. We are determined to see that dangerous criminals are arrested and put behind bars. But anyone who thinks that jailing a criminal is enough to undo the agony that crime leaves in its wake hasn't seen crime up close. That is why no one knows better that we that the most important weapons against crime are the investments which keep kids from becoming criminals — investments which enable all children to get the right start they need to become contributing citizens, and which show them that as adults they will be able to meet their families' basic needs through honest hard work.

We know from scientific research and from our own experience that these investments work to reduce crime. But they can only work for the children they reach.

CRIME DOES NOT RESPECT BOUNDARIES OF NEIGHBORHOODS, cities, or even states. When any of America's children fail to get the right start, their classmates are exposed to peer pressure that may undermine even the most dedicated parenting, and all of us are endangered.

Delivering these crime prevention investments to all children often requires community partnerships of government, parents, charities and volunteers, and the private sector. But that doesn't mean that public officials can meet their obligations by wishing someone else were doing the job. Since protecting the public safety is the most fundamental government responsibility, government must provide the policies and the funding necessary to create and sustain the necessary partnerships. When public officials fail to meet that responsibility, they take away our most effective weapons in the war against crime, forcing us to fight with one hand tied behind our backs.

WE THEREFORE CALL ON ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY by adopting common sense policies to:

- Provide for all infants, toddlers and preschool children access to quality child care at a price their parents can afford;
- Strengthen families and reduce child abuse, neglect and delinquency by offering all parents (at their option) "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens after-school programs, and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

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The Washington Post

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

Price
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Police Officials Back Spending On Child Care

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

After lobbying Congress to ban weapons and put more officers on the street, police officials from around the country have seized on what they say will be an even more powerful anti-crime weapon: child care.

Yesterday, more than 170 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors called for the states and federal government to increase support for quality educational child care for preschoolers and after-school programs for older children.

They said after-school programs would keep children occupied in positive ways at a time of day when juvenile crime peaks. And they cited research indicating that children who have attended early education programs similar to Head Start are less likely to become delinquent offenders.

The group praised President Clinton's recent proposal to spend nearly \$22 billion over five years to improve child care and help low-income parents pay for it. If enacted, "it would be one of the most important steps Congress has taken to fight crime," said Sanford A. Newman, president of a Washington group that brought together the law enforcement officials, called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Their lobbying support adds a new twist to the growing child-care debate, which could become a major legislative battle this year. Republican leaders have rejected the administration's plan as too expensive and many have said any child-care measure must provide help to stay-at-home parents as well as working parents.

Yesterday, the debate shifted again as the crime prevention argument triggered a new round of criticism.

"The whole idea that kids commit crimes simply because their parents aren't around is specious," said Darcy Olsen, a policy analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute. "Most people in the country have spent time without their parents at one time or another and not become criminal."

Brenda Hunter, a psychologist who appeared last week with the conservative Family Research Council in opposition to the president's plan, said "the research is being misinterpreted" by those advocating more child care.

"The research supports consistent, sensitive and responsive nurturing and mother is the best person to provide that," she said.

But law enforcement officials at yesterday's news conference urged that the child-care debate not pit working parents against stay-at-home parents.

Arlington County Police Chief Edward A. Flynn, one of the police officials appealing for more child-care funding, called it an "endless no-win debate over the philosophy of the family unit." The reality, he said, is that most parents work out of economic necessity.

The group referred to several studies, including one at the Perry Preschool program in Michigan, which is similar to Head Start, which found children who had been in the program were five times less likely to become chronic lawbreakers than a comparable group that had not attended the program.

One of the important ingredients of such programs, said Newman, was parent education, which helps reduce child abuse and neglect. That, in turn, helps reduce the likelihood those children will grow up to be lawbreakers.

Child care and after-school programs "are smart spending," Flynn said. "They can save us billions of tax dollars" that might otherwise be spent on imprisoning offenders and the other costs related to crime.

The group called for a bigger investment than Clinton's plan—more than \$130 billion over five years—to provide all families that need it good child care, after school care and help with parenting skills.

HARNESSING THE HYSTERIA

As the shots in Jonesboro fade, let's channel our grief into the larger cause of helping kids

BY JONATHAN ALTER

ONE OF THE MOST SHOCKING things about the Jonesboro massacre is that it's still shocking—that America's bottomless capacity for violence has not fully numbed us yet. Kids who kill is hardly a new story, but here we are having a national debate about it. That's good. The question is how we will deploy our emotional firepower.

Throughout last week, the arc of the story was familiar enough. We heard all of the predictable follow-up angles about life at the Westside Middle School the day after. (The fire alarm is now disconnected. Very helpful.) Lawyers took to the air to debate the proper punishment for prepubescent kids. A few news organizations felt some pangs of context and mentioned a new government report showing violence at American schools has actually dropped significantly in recent years. But that was a mere quibble amid the grief.

Beyond sympathy for the Jonesboro families and worry over which of my own kids' classmates could go postal, my first reaction to the media's latest *dance macabre* was irritation. Why must every event be turned into a morality play, with "lessons" to be drawn? Stuff happens. Bad stuff. Every day. It's unlikely that any law or program or curriculum could have prevented these murders. The strictest gun-control laws imaginable would still allow for ownership by wildlife-management-area supervisors like Andrew Golden's grandfather, whose rifles were used in the attack. And even the best parenting can yield horrific outcomes. (Jeffrey Dahmer's father, who wrote a moving book, seems an especially decent sort.) The easy answers elude us, yet we search endlessly for them anyway. As nature abhors a vacuum, so media abhor the unexplainable.

We're often told nowadays that the news cycle is too short. Technology allows everyone to report from the scene much faster than in the past, and all of the analysts are already out in force by dinner time on day one. But in another sense, the cycle of these tragic stories is much longer than it used to be. Before cable news and TV-magazine shows, a story about a massacre or serial killer would get serious attention on the network evening news (as well as saturation coverage locally) but mostly disappear the next day. Today it might live on for a week or more, kneaded into a hundred media shapes.

Because the tragic stories linger longer now, they can be lever-



PRIME TIME LIVE—ABC TV-AP

Easy answers elude us, but images like those of Andrew Golden's learning how to shoot should force us to keep asking the hard questions

aged more easily for social change. Sure, the logic that connects this massacre to a larger social agenda is thin. But logic can be overrated. And so my irritation at media "lessons" subsides into a question. Which is worse: to take a random tragedy and make it a symbol that galvanizes the country? Or to let the moment pass without any effort to channel the fear and emotion into something constructive? I'd argue that the latter is worse.

So let's see where we can take this. First, guns. The school massacre in Dunblane, Scotland, led to Great Britain's banning handguns altogether. That won't happen here, though the passage of the Brady bill shows gun control is less unrealistic than we often assume. A more fruitful approach may lie in emulating the anti-tobacco lawsuits. If the owner of a car is responsible when a family member gets in an accident, why not the owner of a gun? If you need a key to get toilet paper in many public restrooms, why not a key for a gun? Last summer the White House persuaded some gun manufacturers to make more weapons with safety locks, but the real way to bring change is to sue like hell after every incident. State attorneys general, who spearheaded the tobacco suits, are getting motivated, and juries may be sympathetic. The argument that the easy availability of guns has nothing to do with the death toll is now patently absurd. Anyone ever heard of a drive-by stabbing?

Police chiefs are all for gun control, but they also strongly support after-school programs. Fifty percent of all juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. We have 5 million latchkey kids in this country who lack adult supervision and supportive activities. A recent survey of 548 police chiefs conducted by Northeastern University showed that the chiefs chose "investment in programs" to help children by nearly 4-1 over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers" as the best way to fight juvenile crime.

Yet the juvenile-justice bill pending in the Senate is overwhelmingly tilted toward more enforcement. By failing to earmark more for prevention, we're "ignoring the most powerful weapon in our anti-crime arsenal," says Sanford Newman, of a group called Fight Crime—Invest in Kids. And fighting crime is not the only way to make more funding for prevention a bipartisan issue. Character education—a greater emphasis on explicitly teaching right from wrong—is also prevention. Today's goal in Washington and state capitols should be to make prevention as much of a mom-and-apple-pie issue as, say, hunting.

The problem of troubled youth is, as Colin Powell says, the biggest threat to the future of the United States. The amazing thing about the problem is that we actually know what the solution to it is. The solution, especially for the 15 million kids living in poverty, is a relationship with a caring adult: a teacher, mentor, coach. It doesn't always work. It may not have worked in the cases of Andrew Golden and Mitchell Johnson, who already came from a supportive environment. And it sure isn't easy. But as the shots fired in Jonesboro reverberate around the world, let's harness the hysteria to the larger work before us.

Police chiefs support child care programs

CHILDREN FROM PAGE D-1

school and set up an after-school sports program.

Joyce Lee Itkin, Allegheny County clerk of courts and wife of state House Minority Whip Ivan Itkin of Point Breeze, who is the only declared Democratic gubernatorial candidate, has worked to create the program. She modeled it after a California effort called "Cops and Jocks."

"Idle time breeds crime," DeFazio said. "Programs like this are like saving money, investing for the future."

The law enforcement group, gathered under the name "Fight Crime, Invest in Kids," issued its report at a Capitol Hill news conference. Its members urged lawmakers to pass legislation pumping billions of dollars into child care, after-school and parent-education programs that provide "coaches" for those who want them.

"Fight Crime, Invest in Kids" is a nonprofit organization funded by private foundations that include the Rockefeller Family Fund, the John and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, the Hitachi Foundation and the Woods Foundation.

The group's report is the latest entry in the congressional debate over child care legislation. While many believe that Congress will pass some child care legislation this year, others worry that it will be lost in the battle over whether the federal government should be encouraging parents — especially mothers — to care for their children themselves, instead of funneling money into child care programs.

Edward Flynn, chief of the Arlington, Va., County Police Department, told the news conference that such a debate "ignores the reality" that many parents must work.

The focus shouldn't be on the "ideal family," but instead on finding ways to fight crime, Flynn contended. Investing money in programs to help children and their parents should be seen as being "tough on crime," he added.

Sanford Newman, president of "Fight Crime, Invest in Kids," praised President Clinton's new child care initiative as "a major step in the right direction" and said it could be a major crime-fighting tool.

Clinton's plan would spend \$22 billion over five years to help more low-income Americans pay for quality child care, expand the number of Head Start and after-school programs and increase the child care tax credit.

Another plan by GOP senators would spend \$11 billion over five years, with emphasis on extending the child care tax credit to families with a stay-at-home parent.

But even Clinton's proposal "meets only one-fifth of the most urgent child care needs," Newman said.

The law enforcement group acknowledges that its own proposal could cost \$20 billion annually. But the cost of maintaining prisons and the emotional costs paid by crime victims are far greater, the group contends.

"If you can guarantee a space in a prison to a criminal, you ought to be able to guarantee a space in a Head Start program to a toddler or a place in an after-school program to a school-ager," Newman said.

Chiefs support child care programs

By Karen MacPherson

Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The best anti-crime weapons are good child care, parent education "coaches" and after-school programs — not more prisons or tougher laws; a group of nearly 200 police chiefs and sheriffs said in a report released yesterday.

The group contended in its report, endorsed by Allegheny County Sheriff Peter DeFazio and Pittsburgh Police Chief Robert McNeilly Jr., that research clearly showed the "dramatic crime-prevention potential of early childhood care and after-school programs."

"It is time to cut crime's most important supply line: Its ability to turn America's kids into criminals," the report said.

"Our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investment in child care, parenting education and after-school programs needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety."

For example, statistics make clear that the peak hours for violent juvenile crime are from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., which is why after-school programs could be such a crime deterrent, the report noted.

In a telephone interview, DeFazio agreed that programs such as the newly minted "Youth Athletes and Law Enforcement" program in the Pittsburgh area were designed to "give kids something to do" after school besides getting into trouble. The program, just beginning, will have police officers "adopt" a high

Police back care programs as way to help reduce crime

The Dallas Morning News

Friday, February 6, 1998

By Barbara Kessler

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Children's advocates who believe improved child care and after-school programs are key to slowing crime have gained some powerful allies more often associated with cracking down on criminals than coddling kids.

A study and call to action signed by nearly 200 police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims released Thursday suggests that crime could be cut dramatically, perhaps in half, by improving the supervision and lives of children, especially those considered at-risk for delinquency.

Specifically, the report urges Congress and local lawmakers to put more money and effort into child care, parent coaching and after-school and summer programs.

"There's no mystery here about the steps we can take to reduce crime. The bad news is, we're not doing it," said Sanford A. Newman, president of the nonprofit group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, which compiled the study.

He cited the national shortage of affordable, quality child care for all families, and he noted that Head Start preschool programs are able to serve only 4 of every 10 low-income children eligible.

Dallas Police Chief Ben Click has agreed to serve as an adviser to the group, joining police chiefs and commissioners from Baltimore, Miami, Salt Lake City and Portland, Ore.

The study details a recent poll of 548 police chiefs who found they favored increased attention to children's programs over hiring more police officers or trying more juveniles as adults as the best way to fight crime.

Asked to pick the "most effective" strategy to reducing crime over the long term, 60 percent of the chiefs selected "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start," according to the poll.

More than 92 percent of the chiefs agreed that the government should fully fund Head Start for infants and toddlers, work to prevent child abuse, provide parent training for high-risk families and improve after-school and mentoring programs.

The anti-crime group, based in Washington, D.C., and formed in 1996, supports President Clinton's child-care proposals but also claims bipartisan support.

Some Republicans have said they favor broad federal tax cuts for families, instead of diluting tax dollars through the package of programs and grants to states proposed by Mr. Clinton. Other Republicans are crafting different child-care proposals.

But in a media conference, Republican Sheriff Patrick Sullivan of Arapahoe County, Colo., said the signers of the call to action are not advocating "big government."

"But I do believe government has to look at where it's investing its dollars," he said. "We need to redirect some money into early child care and spend wisely."

Child care is not the "budget-buster" that the naysayers portray, said Gilbert Gallegos, national president of the Fraternal Order of Police and a former deputy chief in Albuquerque who also spoke at the Tuesday media conference.

"It's cheaper to help kids develop now than to incarcerate them later," Mr. Gallegos said, citing a decades-long study that showed every dollar spent on quality preschool saved \$7 in later welfare and prison costs.

Aside from the long-term benefits of nudging children toward productive, law-abiding futures, after-school programs can immediately reduce crime, said Dr. James Alan Fox, dean of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston.

The "prime time for juvenile crime" is between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. when about 50 percent of juvenile violent crimes occur, he said. Studies in certain cities have shown a noticeable drop in neighborhood crime reports when after-school programs are established.

Several Texans signed the 50-page report, titled "Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime," which draws on wide research by nationally known child-care experts and criminologists.

The Texas signers include Travis County District Attorney Ronald Earle, Harris County Attorney Michael Fleming, police chiefs Russ Leach of El Paso and Al Phillipus of San Antonio and sheriffs Larry Olivarez of Neches County and Margo Frasier of Travis County.

Chief Click believes the group's priorities dovetail with his focus on youth development and crime prevention, said Dallas Police Department spokesman Ed Spencer.

While maintaining a policy of "aggressive enforcement" toward crime, the Dallas department has recently added many community pro-

grams geared to help kids avoid trouble, he said. They include officer-child mentoring partnerships and after-school activities such as inner-city scouting and a horseback riding club.

Most of the 186 supporters of the report are prosecutors and police chiefs, but about 20 are nationally prominent crime-victim advocates. Ellen Halbert, the first crime victim appointed to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, said "crime prevention is victim prevention." She urged Congress to address crime before it occurs.

"Anything else is too little and too late," said Ms. Halbert, who was raped, stabbed, beaten with a hammer and left for dead by a teenager who broke into her home in 1986.

"I'm really convinced that we are a nation that doesn't value our children. We are letting them grow up in poverty and neglect and I believe if we'd invested in early childhood programs this wouldn't have happened to me."

The report is based partly on research showing that child care is often inadequate and too costly for poor working families and that America suffers from a chronic shortage of after-school and summer programs for elementary through high school children.

In the Dallas Independent School District, about 18,000 elementary school children participate in on-site after-school programs — many of them free or available for a nominal fee, said spokesman Loretta Simon.

But the number served is still only about one-fifth of the 99,000 students enrolled in those grades.

The Miami Herald

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A gold star for top cops

The evidence is in. So 170 of the nation's top cops and sheriffs have joined with prosecutors, crime victims, and others in supporting more and better day care as a *crime-fighting* weapon.

They also threw support to other children's programs, such as intense home counseling for troubled families and after-school programs for all kids through the teenage years.

Off their beat? No. Most wise police officers know that crime prevention has a lot more to do with working on social ills than sirens and handcuffs. This new effort is through a foundation-funded organization, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. Miami Chief Donald Warshaw is on its board. Palm Beach Sheriff Bob Neumann was the other South Florida signatory of a "call to action" on day care and after-school programs that was sent to Congress on Thursday.

The evidence comes from many stud-

LOOKING AT EVIDENCE Nation's police chiefs support more and better day care for U.S. kids.

ies on crime that show that a healthy child ready to start school is less likely ever to be engaged in crime. Ditto for children who are in recreational and other programs when

school's not in session.

The chiefs' call is in support of President Clinton's initiatives on day care. It well could translate to Gov. Lawton Chiles's \$84 million budget increase for day care in Florida and for a Healthy Families counseling program. And there are local efforts in South Florida to expand such programs as Success by Six and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Taking care of children shouldn't be a partisan matter, although it is getting bogged down in debates detached from daily realities over whether mothers should stay home when many families have few choices. The chiefs bring a fresh perspective to the debate, although their message is an old one: As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

Group links lack of supervision, crime

By ROB NELSON
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — A non-profit advocacy group says crime rates can be cut significantly if children are given constructive places to go after school — what President Clinton called the "prime time" for juvenile crime in his recent State of the Union speech.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a group based in Washington, D.C., released a report Thursday highlighting the connection between a lack of childhood supervision and later involvement with crime.

The bipartisan crime prevention organization is made up of police officers, prosecutors, criminologists and crime survivors from across the country. Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson, St. Petersburg police Chief Goliath Davis III and St. Petersburg City Administrator Darrel W. Stephens are among the 200 members of the group's advisory committee and resource council, Fight Crime officials said.

"(Police officers) know what works in fighting crime," group member and Miami police Chief Donald Warshaw said in a telephone news conference. "In polls of what they think will work, investing in the after-school hours almost always wins out over hiring more officers and building more prisons."

George Sweat, police chief in Winston-Salem, N.C., was more blunt in echoing Warshaw's emphasis on the importance of early intervention.

"Our fight against crime needs to start in the high chair, not wait for the electric chair," he said.

Almost half the incidents of juvenile crime occur between 2 and 8 p.m., experts say. Many of those crimes are committed by children who grew up without quality care and supervision in the after-school hours, which makes them several times more likely to become chronic lawbreakers by adulthood, the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids report said. If they had access to quality, affordable child care, many of those youthful offenders would never have been on the streets in the first place, experts said.

"We're a nation that doesn't value its children," said Ellen Halbert, a Fight Crime: Invest in Kids member who was beaten and stabbed in 1986 by an 18-year-old intruder who left her for dead after checking her pulse. "If we had invested in kids earlier, then maybe attacks like mine never would have happened."

The organization is calling for government and the private sector to develop better, larger after-school child care programs; as well as create guidance courses for young parents. The benefits to taxpayers would far outweigh the costs, experts say. According to a study conducted by Mark A. Cohen, a professor at Vanderbilt University, every child prevented from entering a life of crime saves the country around \$2 million.

"There's no mystery about the steps we could take," said Sanford Newman, president of the group. "The bad news is we're just not doing it yet."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

THE PEOPLE PAPER

Group: Programs for kids a priority

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Child care and after-school programs steer children away from crime, and the government should spend more money on them, a private group said yesterday.

The group, dubbed "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," said more than 180 law-enforcement leaders and crime victims support their position and have urged Congress to put more emphasis on preventing crime.

"When we deny millions of pre-schoolers early childhood care and when we deny school-age children after-school programs, their risk of becoming criminals skyrockets," said Sanford Newman, group president.

The group has criticized juvenile crime bills pending in Congress, saying they will starve child care and after-school programs that include sports, music and drama activities. The bills would toughen federal laws dealing with juvenile crime and give states strong incen-

tives to do the same.

Supporters of get-tough measures pending in Congress say they are designed to fix weaknesses in the juvenile justice system and that prevention is addressed in other legislation. They also have said that spending more money won't necessarily reduce crime.

President Clinton's budget proposal for 1999, released Monday, seeks increases for Head Start and several programs to boost child care, including child care tax credits for middle-income people, child care subsidies for poor parents and day care block grants for states.

The Fight Crime group issued a report yesterday citing studies showing the benefits of the programs they back.

In a letter to Congress, the group asked lawmakers to spend an additional \$10 billion on Head Start and at least \$20 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to make child care available to more parents. ■

Philadelphia, PA
News
Philadelphia
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Friday

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FEB 6, 1998

The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

Utah's Independent Voice Since 1871

MONDAY/MARCH 16, 1998

Ortega's Answer to Kid Crime: Alternative Activities

Give Youths Something to Do After School, Police Boss Says

BY HOLLY MULLEN

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

You could call it the weekday "witching hour." The clock strikes 3 p.m. Schools are just letting out, kids are on the streets and the crime rate suddenly skyrockets.

Statistically, youths commit more crime between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. than any other time of the day. It's true in Utah and the rest of the nation. And, according to a 1995 study by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, late afternoon is "crime time" almost equally in the urban and rural areas of the state.

It's no surprise then that Salt Lake City Police Chief Ruben Ortega is on a



Al Hartmann/The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Police Chief Ruben Ortega

mission to turn that trend around. Recently elected chairman of the Major Cities Chiefs, an organization of police chiefs from the largest cities in the United States and Canada, Ortega has an agenda, and he isn't the least bit timid about it.

"We know crime is going to occur. But our best potential for reducing it is in our kids. We need to give them structure and positive activity after school."

"Right now, too many of them have only the malls and the streets."

And then, Ortega, who was sitting for a recent interview at a conference table in his spacious eighth-floor office at police headquarters in downtown Salt Lake City, said something many politically conservative Utahns would rather not hear.

The government needs to help. A lot.

"We need funds," Ortega says. "We need the elected and appointed leadership to support after-school programs for children. These programs cost money, but it's an investment that will pay off."

In this, Ortega has the support of some

See ORTEGA, Page A-7

Ortega Contends Youth Programs Can Cut Crime

■ Continued From A-1

powerful Democrats in Congress, notably Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who on March 2 introduced a bill calling for \$7.25 billion over five years for after-school, weekend and summer programs for school-age children. Kennedy has suggested paying for the programs through a tobacco tax or by cutting corporate tax breaks.

The government would earmark the money for youth programs only, which is the piece of the bill Republicans cannot agree with, says Jeanne Lopatto, press secretary for the Senate Judiciary Committee and a staff member of Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, who chairs the panel.

"There is a clear difference in methods of funding and administering these programs," Lopatto says. Hatch has introduced his own proposal, dubbed the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act of 1997, which would give the states \$2.5 billion over five years to spend on anti-crime measures largely as they see fit.

Youth Crime Prevention: The Hatch bill would earmark 60 percent of the grants for youth crime prevention, Lonatto says.

"The money would go to the states, as opposed to the federal government telling them what to do and how to spend it. The states know best how to use the money."

Already there are numerous after-school programs in place for children along the Wasatch Front. Some of them, such as community centers, receive government aid. Others, like the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and other nonprofits, depend largely on private foundations and donations for support. Still others, like Kids Together, one after-school program offered in some Salt Lake City and Jordan school districts, operate for profit.

The Salt Lake City police are making their own contribution, Ortega says, but it still is not enough. The department sponsors three Boy Scout and three Girl Scout troops in low-income neighborhoods. There is also a police Explorer post with 20 teen-age girls and boys.

These early intervention programs go hand-in-hand with enforcement, Ortega says.

"We'll never arrest ourselves out of the crime problem," Ortega says. "But we can decrease it by identifying the neediest kids early and working with them."

"I can walk into any grade school in town and the teachers can tell me who is at risk to fail," Ortega says. "They come to school dirty and hungry. They are withdrawn. They are truant. We've got to get to these children and let them know someone cares about what happens to them."

It is this combination of early intervention and prevention that is succeeding on the streets of Boston, a city that Ortega and many other law-enforcement leaders cite for its groundbreaking approach to fighting youth crime.

Until the shooting death of a 16-year-old boy on Dec. 11, 1997, the city had gone for 29 months without a juvenile murder.

Network of Cooperation: Boston's program relies on cooperation by police, courts and social agencies to target the most violent and repeat youth criminals, says Jim Jordan, spokesman for Police Commissioner Paul Evans.

"With the help of some good intelligence, we're targeting which youngster is most likely to get killed or to kill somebody," Jordan says. Once the "regulars" are identified, police and probation officers ride herd on them.

In 25 percent of Boston's murders, the shooter was already on probation. And those suspects averaged nine criminal arraignments — on cases ranging from petty property crimes to homicide, Jordan says.

Once the repeat offenders were taken out, a "startling revelation occurred," Jordan says.

The number of violent crimes by youth began to collapse.

Four years ago, when President Clinton proposed the massive crime bill, the cry went up against many of the programs geared toward youth.

"Midnight basketball" became the buzzwords for all that was silly, frivolous and unnecessary.

This time around, Ruben Ortega is feeling more optimistic that Kennedy's bill will succeed, that more of that elusive federal aid will come this way.

That's because Ortega sees after-school care as a bipartisan issue. He wants to believe that politicians will rise above their petty differences and invest in children.

He shrugs his shoulders and smiles.

"I gotta believe," he says, "that this is one issue the Democrats and Republicans can agree on."

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**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

**QUALITY CHILD CARE AND
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

POWERFUL WEAPONS AGAINST CRIME

A Report

from

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

February 1998

Executive Summary

Full Report is available on the
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' web site at
<http://www.fightcrime.org/>

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QUALITY CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS: POWERFUL WEAPONS AGAINST CRIME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WE MUST SPARE NO EFFORT in making sure that dangerous criminals are behind bars. But that strategy by itself will never be enough to make our communities safe. Police, prosecutors, crime survivors, criminologists and child development experts all report the same conclusion: **Quality educational child care for preschool children and after-school programs for school-age kids are among the most powerful weapons in America's anti-crime arsenal.**

The time for philosophical debate about whether such investments "might work" is over. The proof is in: Good child care and after-school youth development programs for at-risk youngsters sharply reduce crime and help children develop the skills and values to become good neighbors and responsible adults instead of criminals. When we fail to invest in the proven programs that help kids get the right start, we all pay an enormous price.

**IT IS TIME TO CUT CRIME'S
MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLY
LINE: ITS ABILITY TO TURN
KIDS INTO CRIMINALS.**

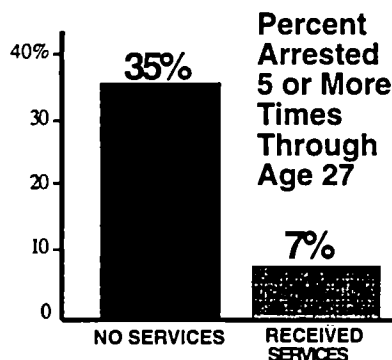
It is time to cut crime's most important supply line: Its ability to turn America's kids into criminals.

QUALITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: PROVEN TO CUT CRIME DRAMATICALLY

Perry Preschool & Home Visit Program's Impact

Decrease In Crime

Preschool and weekly home visits led to an 80% drop in the number of chronic offenders.



"OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME NEEDS TO START IN THE HIGH CHAIR, not wait for the electric chair," says Winston-Salem (NC) Chief of Police George Sweat.

He's right.

Powerful evidence from one study after another proves that quality child care in the first five years of life can greatly reduce the risk that today's babies and toddlers will become tomorrow's juvenile delinquents and criminals.

The early childhood development programs for at-risk children which have proven most effective in preventing future delinquency and crime are those which, like the Head Start program for three-and four-year-olds and the Early Head Start

**"OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME
NEEDS TO START IN THE
HIGH CHAIR, NOT WAIT FOR
THE ELECTRIC CHAIR."**

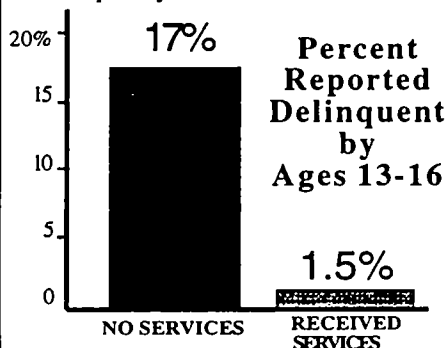
program for children younger than three, supplement educational day care with programs to involve parents and to coach and support them in child-rearing.¹ For example:

- ◇ A High/Scope Foundation study at the Perry Preschool in Michigan offered at-risk three- and four-year-olds a quality Head Start-style preschool program, supplemented by weekly in-home coaching for parents. Twenty-two years later, those who had been denied the services as toddlers were *five times more likely* to be chronic lawbreakers by age 27.²
- ◇ A similar program in Syracuse, providing child development and health services for at-risk infants and toddlers and parenting support for their mothers and fathers, found that kids denied the services were *ten times more likely* to be delinquent by age 16.³

SYRACUSE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM'S IMPACT

Drop in Delinquency

Parent Training, home visits, early childhood education, health, and other human services dramatically cut delinquency.



ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS to provide coaching in parenting skills for at-risk parents is through home visits to those parents who want help. Home visitor programs have been proven to strikingly reduce child abuse and neglect while they improve parenting, help children develop into good neighbors, and even reduce the risk that the parent will engage in criminal activity.

Although abuse and neglect are not normally included in crime statistics, most Americans would agree that they are among the nation's most serious crimes. If we included them in our definition of serious crimes, abuse and neglect would make up nearly one-fifth of all serious crimes reported each year. Child abuse and neglect also sharply increase the risk that a child will grow up to become a criminal.⁴

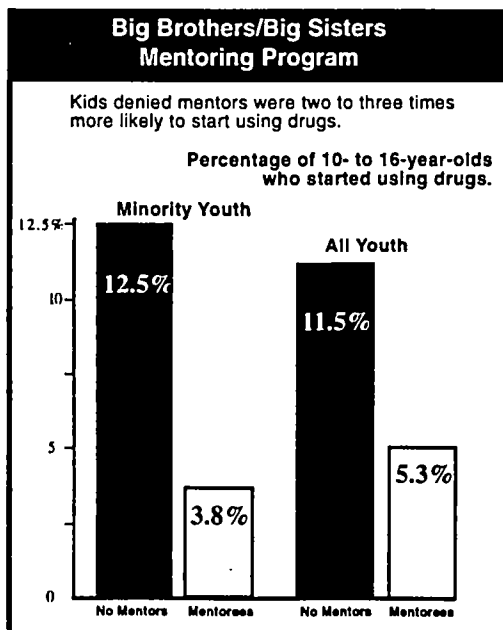
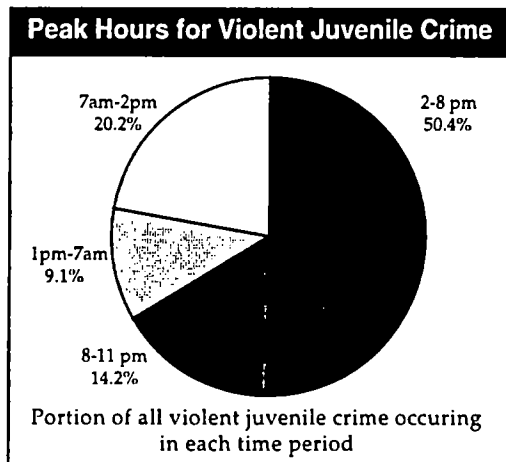
The risk of abuse and neglect declines when parents have adequate knowledge of how children develop in their early years. The potential for abuse skyrockets, for example, when a parent thinks infants are supposed to be toilet-trained at six months, or doesn't understand that young children "go to pieces" when they are tired, or doesn't know that shaking a child can cause brain damage.

**IF WE INCLUDE THEM IN OUR
DEFINITION OF SERIOUS
CRIMES, ABUSE AND NEGLECT
MAKE UP NEARLY ONE FIFTH
OF ALL SERIOUS CRIMES
REPORTED EACH YEAR.**

Studies show that roughly half of all abuse and neglect among high-risk families might be eliminated if such parents were offered family support programs, including parenting-coaching visits to those who want them.⁵

QUALITY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS BUILD VALUES AND SKILLS WHILE THEY SHUT DOWN "PRIME TIME FOR JUVENILE CRIME"

THE PEAK HOURS FOR VIOLENT JUVENILE CRIME ARE FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.



THE PEAK HOURS FOR VIOLENT JUVENILE CRIME are from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In the hour after the school bell rings, juvenile crime suddenly *triples* and prime time for juvenile crime begins. Half of all violent juvenile crime occurs between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and *two-thirds* occurs in the nine hours between 2:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.⁶

Quality after-school, weekend and summer programs for children and youth can cut crime dramatically — by offering school-age kids a safe haven from negative influences, and providing constructive activities that teach them not only the skills they need to succeed, but also core values like responsibility, hard work, and respect and concern for others.

For example:

- ◇ A study of juvenile arrests in a public housing project which instituted an after-school skills development program showed that the number of juvenile arrests declined by 75 percent by the end of the after school program.⁷
- ◇ In the first year after the Baltimore Police Department opened an after-school program in a high-crime area, crime in that neighborhood dropped 42%.⁸
- ◇ A Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers/Big Sisters' carefully-designed mentoring program showed that young people randomly assigned to receive a trained mentor were only about half as likely to begin illegal drug use or to hit someone as those randomly assigned to the control group.⁹
- ◇ Participants randomly assigned to a high school Quantum Opportunities Program of counseling, academic and life skills support, community service, and financial incentives, were less than one-quarter as likely to be convicted of a crime during the high-risk high school years as those in a control group. In other words, denying kids these services *quadrupled* the likelihood that they would be convicted of a crime while in high school. *The impact on crime was virtually immediate*, and those who participated in the program were

DENYING KIDS THESE SERVICES QUADRUPLED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WOULD BE CONVICTED OF A CRIME WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL. THE IMPACT ON CRIME WAS VIRTUALLY IMMEDIATE.

fifty percent more likely to graduate high school on time and two-and-a-half times more likely to attend post-secondary schooling.¹⁰ Programs like Quantum Opportunities show what can happen when after-school enrichment activities are integrated with in-school help for at-risk youngsters.

Quality school-age programs have been shown to have special importance for low-income youngsters, especially those growing up in neighborhoods where “hanging out” means being exposed

to negative influences from peers and from older children and adults. These youngsters learn to be more cooperative, get along better with others resolve conflicts more amicably, read more, participate in more academically enriching activities, and improve grades and school conduct, when they are provided quality after-school programs.¹¹

As the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development observed in its seminal report on youth development programs, “risk will be transformed into opportunity” when we provide young people with the out-of-school youth development programs that can turn “their non-school hours into the time of their lives.”¹²

CHILD CARE: A SYSTEM IN CRISIS

OUR NATION’S CHILD CARE SYSTEM IS IN CRISIS.

As this decade began, the Committee for Economic Development, made up of executives from America’s largest corporations, declared, “The lack of availability of quality child care that is developmentally appropriate, has educational value, and is affordable has created a crisis of national proportions that affects most families but hits low-income families the hardest.”¹³

AS WE NEAR THE END OF THE DECADE, THAT CRISIS HAS ESCALATED.

As we near the end of the decade, that crisis has worsened.

AS OF 1995, more than three out of five women with children younger than six, and more than three out of four women with school-age children, were working outside the home.¹⁴ Even among mothers of one-year-olds, more than half work full- or part-time.¹⁵ For many of these parents, especially those at the bottom of the income ladder, debate about whether they should work or stay home ignores reality.

With full-time work at the minimum wage bringing in about \$9,000 a year after social security taxes, many families find that they can’t possibly make ends meet and provide for their children unless both parents work outside the home. Moreover, one out of four children live with only one parent,¹⁶ and half of all children can now expect to live an average of at least five years in a single-parent family.¹⁷

In some two-parent, middle-income families, adjustments in the tax code may modestly affect parental decisions to work outside the home. But such measures are no substitute for ensuring access to quality child care in the pre-school years, and quality after-school, summer and weekend child and youth development programs for our most at-risk population — the youngsters who must be our first crime prevention priority.

THE HEAD START CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK PRESCHOOLERS IS SO UNDERFUNDED IT CAN REACH JUST FOUR IN TEN ELIGIBLE KIDS — AND USUALLY FOR JUST HALF OF THEIR PARENTS' WORK DAY, FOR ONLY PART OF THE YEAR.

The issue for many families — and for law enforcement — is not whether parents will work. It is whether the care children receive while their parents are working will be good enough to help the kids get a good start in life, or whether it will be care that damages their development and ultimately damages the public safety.

TODAY, QUALITY CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS are financially out of reach for millions of America's most at-risk children and youth. Their families — mostly young and still near the lowest earning levels of their working lives — can no more afford to pay for quality child care during these years than they could afford to pay the full cost of the education we provide through public schools.

Yet the Head Start child development program for at-risk preschoolers is so underfunded it can reach just four in ten eligible kids — and usually for just half of their parents' work day, for only part of the year. And despite all the evidence that the first three years of life are critical to brain development, programs like Early Head Start, designed for kids under three, have funds to serve only a tiny fraction of the babies and toddlers who need them.

FOR THOSE OF US ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME, THE ONCE-QUIET CRISIS IN CHILD CARE IS NOW NOISY, PERVERSIVE, INSISTENT, AND TRAGIC. IT SCREAMS THROUGH OUR POLICE SIRENS RUSHING TO YET ANOTHER CRIME THAT NEVER HAD TO HAPPEN. IT IS HEARD IN THE CRIES OF AGONY OF THOUSANDS OF CRIME VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHOSE LIVES ARE NEEDLESSLY LOST OR SHATTERED EACH YEAR. IT IS VISIBLE AS YELLOW CRIME SCENE TAPE, BODY BAGS, AND BLOOD-STAINED SIDEWALKS ON THE NIGHTLY NEWS.

Meanwhile, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which assists communities in helping working families afford quality care, today can serve only one in ten of the kids who most need it. Parenting education and family resource programs, whether linked directly to child care or operating separately, can serve only a tiny fraction of the at-risk families who would benefit most. And after-school programs are largely unavailable, especially for the children who need them most.

FOR THOSE OF US ON THE FRONT LINES of the battle against crime, the once-quiet crisis in child care is now noisy, pervasive, insistent, and tragic. It screams through our police sirens rushing to yet another crime that never had to happen. It is heard in the cries of agony of thousands of crime victims and their families whose lives are needlessly lost or shattered each year. It is visible as yellow crime scene tape, body bags, and blood-stained sidewalks on the nightly news.

IF WE WANT OUR OWN FAMILIES TO BE SAFE, WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN MAKING SURE THAT EVERY WORKING FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILD CARE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

If there is one point in the discussion of child care that no American can afford to miss, it is this: If we want our own families to be safe, we all have a stake in making sure that every working family has access to quality child care and after school programs, and that all at-risk families have access to parenting education coaching.

Make no mistake about it: *Our nation's child care crisis is a crime prevention crisis.*

THAT'S THE BAD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS is that there is no mystery about how to solve that crisis.

PENNY-WISE, POUND-FOOLISH POLICY CHOICES: WASTING MONEY AND LIVES

WHEN AMERICA FAILS TO INVEST IN CHILDREN, we all pay far more later — not just in lives and fear, but also in tax dollars. For example:

- ◇ Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study saved \$150,000 per participant in crime costs alone. Even after subtracting the interest that could have been earned by investing the program's funding in financial markets, the project produced a net savings of \$7.16 — including more than six dollars in crime savings — for every dollar invested.¹⁸

**THE HIGH/SCOPE-
FOUNDATION'S PERRY
PRESCHOOL STUDY SAVED
\$150,000 PER PARTICIPANT
IN CRIME COSTS ALONE.**

Barnett estimates that the cost, including increased crime and welfare costs among others, of failing to provide at least two years of quality early childhood care and education to low-income children is approximately \$100,000 per child. That's a total of about \$400 billion for all poor children now under five.

- ◇ A recent unpublished study prepared by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime could save the country from \$1.7 million to \$2.3 million.¹⁹

**PROFESSOR MARK A.
COHEN OF VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY ESTIMATES
THAT EACH HIGH-RISK
YOUTH PREVENTED FROM
ADOPTING A LIFE OF CRIME
COULD SAVE THE COUNTRY
FROM \$1.7 MILLION TO
\$2.3 MILLION.**

AS AMERICA DEBATES how to use expected budget surpluses, we should consider this reminder from the business executives of the Committee for Economic Development:

"Education is an investment, not an expense. If we can ensure that all children are born healthy and develop the skills and knowledge they need to be productive, self-

supporting adults, whatever is spent on their development and education will be returned many times over in higher productivity, incomes, and taxes and in lower costs for welfare, health care, crime, and myriad other economic and social problems.”²⁰

“WHEN CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS SAVE DOLLARS AND CUT CRIME, WHY SHOULDN’T OUR FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE THE FUNDING THAT WILL ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO GET THE JOB DONE?”

“The question is not whether we can afford these programs,” says former U.S. Attorney General and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliot L. Richardson. “It is whether we can afford to jeopardize the safety of millions of Americans and saddle future generations with the cost of failing to make these proven investments today. When child care and after-school programs save dollars and cut crime, why shouldn’t our federal and state governments provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?”

AN EMERGING UNANIMITY AMONG ANTI-CRIME LEADERS

THE PEOPLE FIGHTING CRIME ON THE FRONT LINES are less concerned with political ideology than with hard-nosed practical solutions. They insist on dealing with the real world as they find it, and on doing what really works to fight crime.

Everyone agrees, of course, that dangerous criminals need to be locked up. But those who work day in and day out to track down, arrest, and prosecute criminals know that this vital defense is only a stop-gap measure. In the words of Baltimore Police Commissioner Thomas C. Frazier, “Police know that we cannot just arrest our way out of the crime problem.”

“We can make ourselves and our children safer,” says Buffalo Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske, “by investing in child care and after-school programs for America’s most vulnerable kids, instead of waiting to spend far more — in money and lives — on those who become America’s ‘Most Wanted’ adults.”

92 PERCENT OF POLICE CHIEFS NATION-WIDE AGREED THAT “AMERICA COULD SHARPLY REDUCE CRIME IF GOVERNMENT INVESTED MORE IN PROGRAMS TO HELP CHILDREN AND YOUTH GET A GOOD START.”

It is now clear that crime fighters have reached a nearly unanimous conclusion: We need to go on the offense by investing in the child care, parenting education and after-school programs that can keep kids from becoming criminals in the first place.

A POLL OF POLICE CHIEFS conducted for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS by Northeastern University criminologist Jack McDevitt tells the story:²¹

- ◇ 92 percent of police chiefs nationwide agreed that *"America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start"* by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers, preventing child abuse, providing parenting training for high-risk families, improving schools and providing after-school programs and mentoring."
- ◇ Nine out of ten chiefs also agreed that *"if America doesn't pay for greater investments in programs to help children and youth now, we will all pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."*
- ◇ When asked to pick the strategy that would be "most effective" in the long term in reducing crime and violence, the chiefs chose "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start" nearly four to one over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers."

"IGNORING PREVENTION INVESTMENTS LEAVES US STUCK ON A TREADMILL," says former U.S. Attorney General Richardson, "running harder and harder to put people in jail while more kids are turned into criminals about as fast as we can lock them up."

MANY CRIME VICTIMS agree. Their tragedies have given them a deep and fundamental understanding that wait-for-the-crime approaches are too little, too late for too many Americans. The voices of crime survivors speak eloquently of the need for a comprehensive and aggressive "invest-in-kids" prevention strategy:

CRIME VICTIMS' TRAGEDIES HAVE GIVEN THEM A DEEP AND FUNDAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING THAT WAIT-FOR-THE-CRIME APPROACHES ARE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE FOR TOO MANY AMERICANS.

"What happened to me didn't have to happen. If we as a nation were investing in programs like quality child care and after-school programs, to give kids the right start, I probably wouldn't have needed those 600 stitches and all those surgeries to repair the damage."

— Ellen Halbert, former Vice-Chair, Texas Board of Criminal Justice.
Ms. Halbert, of Austin, was brutally raped, beaten and stabbed by an intruder in her home in 1986.

"To make America safe, we need to be as willing to guarantee our kids space in child care or an after-school program as we are to guarantee a criminal room and board in a prison cell. If we want to do more than flex our muscles and talk about crime — if we want to really keep Americans safe — we must start investing in the programs we know can steer kids down the right path."

— Jean Lewis, President,
National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

"WE COULD BE SAVING THOUSANDS OF LIVES... BY INVESTING NOW IN THE PROGRAMS PROVEN TO GIVE KIDS THE RIGHT START IN LIFE."

"Saying we can cure crime by building more prisons is like saying we can cure death by building more cemeteries. But we could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing now in the child care and after-school programs proven to give kids the right start in life."

—Marc Klaas, President, Klaas Foundation for Children

Mr. Klaas' 12-year-old daughter Polly was kidnapped and murdered in 1993.

FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME: A CALL FOR ACTION

TODAY HUNDREDS OF OUR NATION'S MOST DISTINGUISHED POLICE CHIEFS, sheriffs, prosecutors, crime victim advocates and scholars have joined in calling on all public officials to protect the public safety by adopting common sense policies to:

- Provide for all infants, toddlers and preschool children access to quality child care at a price their parents can afford.

That means child care in which staffing levels are high enough and training good enough to assure that children receive the nurturing and stimulation they need to start school ready to succeed and to learn the concern for others and other core values which begin to develop in the first years of life. To be most effective in reducing crime, quality child care and development programs for our most at-risk families should be linked to parenting education and family support.

At the federal level, this means we should be assuring through Early Head Start or other quality programs that our most at-risk babies and toddlers receive the care they need from birth to age three. It means that we should be assuring that Head Start has enough funding to serve all the low-income children who need it, and to provide full-day, high-quality year-round care for the children of working parents. And it means sufficient increases in funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grants to states so that all families will have the help they need to access quality care.

CHILD CARE IN WHICH STAFFING LEVELS ARE HIGH ENOUGH AND TRAINING GOOD ENOUGH... EARLY HEAD START... HEAD START... [AND] SUFFICIENT INCREASES IN FUNDING FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES.

For states, it means that more should follow the lead of states like North Carolina and Ohio, which have sharply increased their own investment in quality child care and development programs to help their children get the right start.

[STATES] SHOULD FOLLOW THE LEAD OF STATES LIKE NORTH CAROLINA AND OHIO, WHICH HAVE SHARPLY INCREASED THEIR OWN INVESTMENT IN QUALITY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS... AND OF STATES LIKE MISSOURI AND HAWAII, [WHICH] HAVE LED THE WAY IN SHOWING THAT THEY CAN IMPLEMENT LARGE-SCALE, EFFECTIVE, PARENTING EDUCATION AND FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.

- Strengthen families and reduce child abuse, neglect and delinquency by offering all parents (at their option) “parenting coaches” through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource programs.

States like Missouri and Hawaii have led the way in showing that they can implement large-scale, effective, parenting education and family resource programs, including coaching by home visitors for those who want them, without intruding on family privacy. And the plain fact is, many parents desperately need — and want — more knowledge about normal child development and coaching in parenting skills.

When at-risk parents who want to learn more about parenting — including many young parents who may never have seen healthy parenting in their own homes — are denied that help, their children and all of us are endangered.

- Provide for all of America’s school-age children and teens access to after-school, weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

Neither the risk that children will go astray, nor the opportunity to help them realize their potential to become good neighbors and responsible adults, ends when they start school. Early childhood programs must be followed by school-age child care and child and youth development programs. Of course, the after-school options needed for a first-grader, an eighth-grader, and a high school junior differ markedly from one another. But all our youngsters, and especially those in low-income or high-crime areas who are

most at risk of delinquency or of becoming crime victims, need access to programs that can help them develop the skills and values they need to succeed as adults.

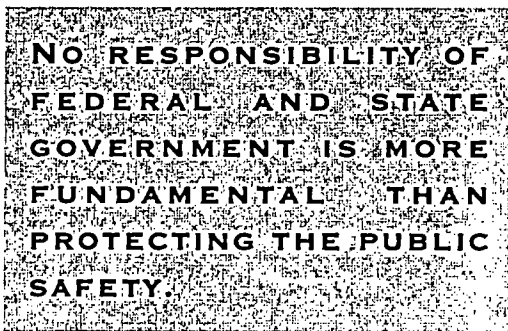
ALL OF OUR YOUNGSTERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN LOW-INCOME OR HIGH-CRIME AREAS WHO ARE MOST AT RISK OF DELINQUENCY OR OF BECOMING CRIME VICTIMS, NEED ACCESS TO PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP THEM DEVELOP THE SKILLS AND VALUES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED AS ADULTS.

For the federal government, that will require a major increase in a commitment currently so small that it barely begins to be noticed. For states and localities, it may mean implementing programs like New York City’s Beacon schools, through which community groups provide after-school programs in coordination with schools. Other states and localities may choose models which enable children and teens to access the services of community organizations off the school premises — models like the Schools of the 21st Century, sometimes called Family

Resource Centers, now in over 500 schools in 17 states, which use public schools as the hub of a network of services, such as parenting education, full-day, high-quality care for 3-5 year-olds, and child care before and after school and during summer vacations.²²

CONCLUSION

TAKEN AS A WHOLE, OUR FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS are falling far short of the investment in child care, parenting-education, and after-school programs needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety. That shortfall is part of a gaping crime prevention deficit that jeopardizes the safety of every American.



NO RESPONSIBILITY OF
FEDERAL AND STATE
GOVERNMENT IS MORE
FUNDAMENTAL THAN
PROTECTING THE PUBLIC
SAFETY.

It is time that leaders at the state and federal level laid out a plan to eliminate that deficit.

We all know that the actual delivery of services like child care and after-school programs must take place not in our legislatures but in our communities, through partnerships of parents, federal, state and local government, and community organizations. But no responsibility of federal and state government is more fundamental than protecting the public safety.

That responsibility simply cannot be met without providing communities with the resources to assure that all families, and especially those whose children are most at risk of going astray, have access to quality child care, parenting-education, and after-school programs at a price they can afford.

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FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a national anti-crime organization led by those on the front lines of the battle against crime: Police chiefs, sheriffs, police organization leaders, prosecutors, crime victims and those from whom murder has taken loved ones.

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Sanford A. Newman, President
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Former US Attorney General
and Secretary of HEW, of
Defense and of Commerce
Grant Woods
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Mgr., Mental Health Clinic
Jean Lewis
President, Parents of
Murdered Children
**Gordon Rondeau &
Elaine Rondeau**
Founders, Action America:
Murder Must End Now

**FIGHT
CRIME****INVEST
IN KIDS**

Facsimile

TO: Bobbi Greene
FROM: John W. Bartlett
DATE: January 16, 1998
PAGES: 7
RE: FIGHT CRIME's support for Clinton child care plan

456-6244

Ms. Greene,

Sandy is out of the office today, but asked me to fax you copies of some of our materials.

As Sandy discussed with you, our first release was less complimentary than it ought to have been. I am enclosing that release, along with an editorial board memo we distributed late last week, and a subsequent press release (from Wednesday's press briefing by the Child Care Action Campaign). These documents reflect the development of our position of strong support for President Clinton's child care initiative.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Enclosures

Press Release 1/7/98

Editorial Board Memorandum 1/9/98

Press Release 1/14/98

President
Sanford A. Newman

Associate Directors
Amy R. Dawson
Brendan J. Fitzsimons

Media Director
John W. Bartlett

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Director, Bush Center in Child
Development and Social Policy,
Yale University

community groups. But there is no government responsibility more fundamental than protecting public safety. The government can't meet that obligation without going far beyond this proposal's limited initiatives on infant and toddler care and after-school programs."

— Elmhurst (IL) Police Chief John Millner
for **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**

"Today, the deficit which most threatens America's families is the *crime prevention deficit* — the gaping shortfall in our investment in the programs proven to prevent crime by helping at-risk kids get the right start."

— Sanford A. Newman, President, **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**

"We guarantee criminals taxpayer-provided room and board in a jail cell. Shouldn't we be just as ready to *prevent crime* by guaranteeing good child care to toddlers and quality after-school programs for older kids?"

— Buffalo (NY) Police Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, president,
Police Executive Research Forum, for **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**

Crime Fighters Say Congress should earmark permanent funding for every American community to ensure that:

- all low-income children have access to a Head Start program — and Early Head Start or other quality programs for kids under three — with the resources to offer top quality, full-day, year-round care.
- CCDBG commitments ensure that every working family has access to quality early childhood education and care so their kids can start school ready to succeed.
- all school-age youth have access to quality after-school programs that protect them from violence and help them build skills and values like honesty, responsibility and teamwork.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS leaders are available for comment by calling (202) 638-0690.

For more information on the anti-crime impact of investments in kids, call **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS** or visit <http://www.fightcrime.org/> on the Internet.

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Founders, Action America:
Murder Must End Now

FIGHT CRIME



INVEST IN KIDS

COPY

Facsimile

TO: Editorial Writers
DATE: January 9, 1998

FROM: John W. Bartlett
PAGES: 5

RE: "A New Consensus on Child Care & After-School Programs":
Key Facts and Background for your Editorials on
President Clinton's Child Care Proposal

Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims & Scholars Now Agree: Child Care, After School Programs = Key Weapons Against Crime

When Government Fails to Assure Access to Quality Child Care, it Breaches
Its Most Fundamental Responsibility — Protecting Public Safety

One of the most striking new developments of the past year has been the virtual unanimity among police, prosecutors, crime victims and criminologists — crossing all ideological lines — that investments in quality early childhood development and after-school programs are among our most powerful weapons against crime. For example:

- Nine out of ten police chiefs (92%) nation-wide, in a Northeastern University poll, agreed "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers... and providing after-school programs and mentoring" for older kids.
- The police chiefs pick "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start" as the "most effective" anti-crime strategy *nearly 4-to-1* over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers."

Studies show dramatic Impact of Early Childhood Care on Crime. For example, two studies compared kids randomly assigned to receive quality early childhood care or to do without it. Results: Denying these services multiplied by *ten times* the risk of later delinquency and by *five times* the risk the kids would become chronic lawbreakers as adults.

After-school hours are "prime time for juvenile crime." FBI data show that violent juvenile crime *triples* in the hour after school lets out; the peak hours are from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. These are also the peak hours for teen experimentation with sex and drugs.

What does this mean for Americans, and for President Clinton's child care Initiative? Police, prosecutors, and crime victims are a pretty conservative bunch. Here's what they say:

"We guarantee criminals taxpayer-provided room and board in a jail cell. Shouldn't we be just as ready to *prevent* crime by guaranteeing good child care to toddlers and quality after-school programs for older kids?"

— Buffalo (NY) Police Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, president,
Police Executive Research Forum, for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

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A project of the Action Against Crime and Violence Education Fund

President
Sanford A. Newman

Associate Directors
Amy R. Dawson
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Communications Director
John W. Bartlett

COPY**FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**

page 2 of 2

"A New Consensus on Child Care & After-School Programs"

"We could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing up front in the proven early childhood care and youth development programs that can turn kids away from crime by teaching them the values and skills to succeed."

— Jean Lewis, president,
Nat'l Organization of Parents of Murdered Children
for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

"Everyone knows that the delivery of child care must take place not in our capitals but in our communities, through partnerships of schools, parents, businesses and community groups. But there is no government responsibility more fundamental than protecting public safety. The government can't meet that obligation without committing to major new initiatives and investing public funds in these programs for kids."

— Elmhurst (IL) Police Chief John Millner,
for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

"Today, the deficit which most threatens America's families is the *crime prevention deficit* — the gaping shortfall in our investment in the programs proven to prevent crime by helping at-risk kids get the right start."

— former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson,
for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

The Bottom Line from a law enforcement perspective: Clinton's child care proposal is a major step forward which would substantially reduce crime. All members of Congress, regardless of party or ideology, should view his proposal as a minimum floor, and expand on it to provide more funding for after-school programs, Head Start, and quality child care for those children who are otherwise most at risk of getting into trouble.

For more information on the powerful crime-prevention impact of early childhood care and after-school programs, refer to the enclosed 3-page fact sheet. Additional information, and interviews, are available by calling (202) 638-0690, or at <http://www.fightcrime.org/>.

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CRIME****INVEST
IN KIDS****President**
Sanford A. Newman**Associate Directors**
Amy R. Dawson
Brendan J. Fitzsimons**Communications Director**
John W. Bartlett**For Immediate Release**

Wednesday, January 14, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

CONTACT: John W. Bartlett
(202) 638-0690**Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims: Clinton Child Care
Proposal Would Be Powerful Blow Against Crime***Congress Should 'See and Raise' Clinton's Bid*

"Passage of President Clinton's proposal on early childhood care and after-school programs would be among the most important and powerful anti-crime steps ever taken by Congress," says Sanford A. Newman, President of **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS** a bi-partisan, national anti-crime organization led by police chiefs, prosecutors and crime survivors.

"If Congress wants to really unleash America's most powerful anti-crime weapons, it should 'see and raise' Clinton's opening bid," Newman said. "We urge Congress to view the President's proposal as a floor; proposals seeking a substantial reduction in crime should certainly not drop below this floor."

"We guarantee criminals taxpayer-provided room and board in a jail cell. Shouldn't we be just as ready to *prevent* crime by guaranteeing good child care to toddlers and quality after-school programs for older kids?" remarked Buffalo (NY) Police Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, president of the Police Executive Research Forum.

"We could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing up front in the proven early childhood care and youth development programs that can turn kids away from crime by teaching them the values and skills to succeed," said Jean Lewis, president of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children. Ms. Lewis' son Scott was murdered in 1981.

After-school hours are "prime time for juvenile crime." FBI data show that violent juvenile crime *triples* in the hour after school lets out; the peak hours are between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. These are also the peak hours for teen experimentation with sex and drugs.

"Investments in quality early childhood development and after-school programs for at-risk kids are our most powerful weapons against crime. The first after-school program we started cut neighborhood crime 42 percent the first year," said Baltimore (MD) Police Commissioner Thomas C. Frazier. "When the peak hours of crime are from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and when studies show that shutting at-risk kids out of quality early childhood care can multiply by up to ten times their risk of delinquency by their mid-teens, it's just common sense to fight crime by investing in early childhood care and after-school programs."

Studies show dramatic impact of early childhood care on crime. For example, two studies compared kids randomly assigned to receive quality early childhood care or to do without it. The results: Denying these services multiplied by *ten times* the risk of later delinquency and by *five times* the risk the kids would become chronic lawbreakers as adults.

"Everyone knows that the delivery of child care must take place not in our capitals but in our communities, through partnerships of schools, parents, businesses and community

- MORE -

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FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

page 2 of 2

'Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims: Clinton Child Care Proposal Would Be Powerful Blow Against Crime'

groups," said John Millner, Chief of Police in Elmhurst, Illinois. "But there is no government responsibility more fundamental than protecting public safety. The government can't meet that obligation without committing the funds so every community can ensure that early childhood care and after-school programs reach all the kids that need them."

Emerging Unanimity Among Law Enforcement Leaders. One of the most striking developments of the past year has been the emergence of virtual unanimity among police, prosecutors, crime victims and criminologists — crossing all ideological lines — that investments in quality early childhood development and after-school programs are among our most powerful weapons against crime.

Frazier noted that in a Northeastern University poll of police chiefs nation-wide...

- ... More than nine out of ten police chiefs (92%) agreed "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers... and providing after-school programs and mentoring" for older kids.
- ... Police chiefs chose "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start" as the "most effective" anti-crime strategy *nearly 4-to-1* over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers."

Can we afford such investments? Early childhood care and after-school programs actually save millions of taxpayer dollars. In one study, early childhood care prevented \$150,000 *per child* in later crime costs. And the human dividends — the lives saved, and the sense of safety we could have again in our communities — are priceless.

"The President's funding for child care is a major step forward, but still meets only a portion of the need. When child care and after-school programs save dollars and cut crime, why shouldn't Congress provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?" said former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson, one of FIGHT CRIME's founders.

The Bottom Line from a law enforcement perspective: Clinton's child care proposal is a major step forward which would substantially reduce crime. All members of Congress, regardless of party or ideology, should view his proposal as a minimum floor, and expand on it to provide more funding for after-school programs, Head Start, and quality child care for those children who are otherwise most at risk of getting into trouble.

For more information on the powerful crime-prevention impact of early childhood care and after-school programs, call (202) 638-0690, or visit <http://www.fightcrime.org/> on the Internet.