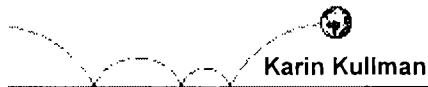

THE WHITE HOUSE

12-5

Anna -

Loretta already sent the packet to Bruce, but this is the info she sent. It's all the documents with edits through Friday. She's asking for comments by COB Wed.

Miko



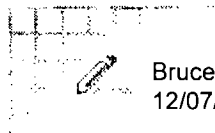
12/07/2000 11:41:53 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: edits to year-end documents

fyi

----- Forwarded by Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP on 12/07/2000 11:41 AM -----



Bruce N. Reed
12/07/2000 11:40:20 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Michael K. Gehrke/WHO/EOP@EOP, Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP, Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: edits to year-end documents

Sorry I didn't read this sooner. It looks good. Here are a few edits:

2-page summary:

* I think gun crime is worth its own bullet:

"Enacted most sweeping gun safety legislation in a generation

Since the President signed the Brady bill in 1993, more than 600,000 felons, fugitives, and other prohibited persons have been stopped from buying guns. Gun crime has declined 35 percent since 1992."

* A bullet on educational performance is at least as important as education technology:

"Raised standards, increased choice, and doubled federal education spending

Since 1992, reading and math scores have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders. Math SAT scores are at a 30-year high. The number of charter schools has grown from 1 to more than 2,000. Forty-nine states have put in place standards in core subjects. Federal investment in education and training has doubled since 1992.

* Add a sentence to smallest welfare rolls in 32 years that says, "People on welfare are five times more likely to be working than in 1992."

TIMELINE

As Loretta thought, you are missing a number of key executive actions. The big ones include:

* A series of memoranda to launch REGO and direct OMB to streamline the civilian workforce by 100,000 (which has grown to nearly 400,000 by the time we leave)

- * Executive order on child support, Feb 27, 1995
- * The memorandum on religious expression in schools, July 1995
- * The memorandum on school uniforms, Feb 23, 1996
- * The memoranda requiring minor mothers to stay in school or lose welfare benefits (May 10, 1996) and require welfare recipients to work within two years (July 16, 1996), and the welfare reform waivers for a record 43 states between 1993 and 1996.
- * The FDA tobacco rule (Aug 1995 and Aug 23, 1996)
- * The memorandum banning federal research on human cloning, 3/27/97
- * Creation of the Welfare to Work Partnership, May 20 1997
- * Memorandum creating the Health Care Quality Commission, which developed the Patients Bill of Rights (March 13, 1998), and the memoranda and regulations in 99 and 00 to apply patient protections to 80 million Americans.

I'm probably missing a few, but those are the best ones I can think of off the top of my head.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore

Eight Years of Peace, Progress and Prosperity

1993

January 22

Abolished Restrictions on Medical Research and the Right to Choose

As his first executive actions, President Clinton revoked the Gag Rule, which prohibited abortion counseling in clinics that receive federal funding to serve low-income patients. He also revoked restrictions on a woman's legal right to privately funded abortion services in military hospitals, restrictions on the import of RU-486, and the award of family planning grants. The President also lifted the moratorium on federal funding for research involving fetal tissue, allowing progress on research into treatments for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and leukemia. (Executive Memoranda, 1/22/93)

February 5

Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. The previous administration vetoed the bill twice. (PL 103-3, signed 2/5/93)

May 20

"Motor Voter" Registration

The Clinton Administration made it easier for millions of Americans to register to vote by allowing registration at the same time they get a driver's license. The Motor Voter law led to the registration of more than 28 million new voters, more registered voters than the passage of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18 years. (PL 103-31, signed 5/20/93).

August 10

Clinton-Gore Deficit Reduction Plan

Passed without a single Republican vote, the Clinton-Gore Administration's economic plan established fiscal discipline by slashing the deficit in half -- the largest deficit reduction plan in history -- while making important investment in our economic future, including education, health care, and science and technology research. Fiscal discipline established by the Clinton-Gore Administration has turned the largest deficits in our country's history into the largest surplus. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion/Working Family Tax Cut

President Clinton succeeded in passing an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, giving a tax cut to 15 million of the hardest-pressed American workers. In 1999, the EITC lifted 4.1 million people out of poverty -- nearly double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93).

Student Loan Reform

Created the Direct Student Loan Program, which cut red tape and administrative costs by eliminating subsidies and bureaucracy in the Student Loan Program. The program has saved taxpayers \$4 billion since 1993 and allowed interest rate reductions for students. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities Program

Created nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities with tax incentives and \$100 million per EZ in discretionary investment dollars to spur local community planning and economic growth in distressed communities. At the President's request, Congress expanded the program in 1994 and again in 1997. To date, the EZ program has leveraged over \$10 million in additional private investment into EZs. The EZ program represents the most ambitious incentives program ever offered by the federal government to promote private sector investment in distressed areas in America.

Childhood Immunization Initiative

In 1992, less than 60 percent of two-year-olds were fully immunized – the third lowest rate in the Western Hemisphere. The Clinton-Gore Economic Plan contained investments to guarantee the health of children and prevent the easily avoidable costs of preventable childhood diseases. Today, the nation's overall immunization rate for preschool children is at the highest rate ever recorded.

September 21

AmeriCorps Community Service Initiative

AmeriCorps allows Americans to serve communities across the country while earning money for college or skills training. Since its inception, 150,000 volunteers have participated in Americorps; that means that more people have enrolled this Clinton Administration initiative in its first 5 years than did in the Peace Corps' first 20 years. (PL 103-82, signed 9/21/93)

November 30

Brady Act Signed

After seven years of debate under previous administrations, the President signed legislation creating a five-day waiting period and background check before the purchase of a handgun. The Brady Law has helped to prevent a total of more than 536,000 felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns. Since 1993, the gun-related crime rate has declined by more than 35%. (PL 103-159, signed 11/30/93)

December 8

NAFTA Ratified

President Clinton worked to pass bipartisan legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement, creating the world's largest free trade zone. Since passage of NAFTA, the U.S. manufacturing sector has created 400,000 jobs, and exports to Canada and Mexico support 600,000 more jobs today than in 1993. (Signed 12/8/93)

March 31

Goals 2000 Education Standards

This legislation provided assistance to states to implement high standards and challenging curricula to help all children succeed. Today, 49 states have used Goals 2000 to adopt strong new academic standards. (PL 103-227, signed 3/31/94)

May 18

Head Start Expansion and Reform

President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and passed legislation increasing Head Start participation and quality. The new bill established minimum performance standards, strong accountability and created the Early Head Start program for early childhood development. The Administration has increased funding for Head Start by more than 90% since 1993. (PL 103-252, signed 5/18/94)

September 13

Crime Bill

Enacted the Clinton-Gore Administration's tough and smart crime fighting strategy. The Bill contained tougher penalties, including "three strikes and you're out" legislation, helped states build more prisons and increased prevention and victims rights. As a result, the overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 26 year low. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

Assault Weapons Ban

President Clinton and Vice President Gore overcame intense opposition by the gun lobby to ban 19 of the most dangerous assault weapons. Thanks in part to the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to take these dangerous guns off the streets, gun violence has declined by more than 35 percent since 1993. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

100,000 Community Police Officers

The Clinton-Gore Administration succeeded in passing a bill providing local governments funding to hire and redeploy 100,000 community police officers. COPS helped contribute to a decline that brought the overall crime rate to the lowest level in 25 years. In 1999, crime fell for the eighth consecutive year nationwide. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

Violence Against Women Act

The Clinton-Gore Administration fought for and signed this bill, which contains new penalties, resources to prosecute more domestic violence offenders, and funding to triple domestic violence shelters. The Administration also established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline. This initiative represents the first federal effort to address domestic violence and violence against women. Today, the number of victims of domestic violence has fallen from 1.1 million in 1993 to 876,340 in 1998. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

September 23

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund Created

Meeting an early campaign commitment, the President signs legislation creating the CDFI Fund to support both specialized financial institutions and traditional banks that serve lower-income communities. As of late 2000, the CDFI Fund had certified over 400 community development banks, community development credit unions, housing and business loan funds and venture capital firms as CDFIs. The CDFI Fund has provided over \$427 million in funding to institutions that provide capital and financial services to underserved markets.

October 31

California Desert Protection Act

The largest land protection bill since 1980 protected nearly 8 million acres of wilderness and created three new national parks. (PL 103-433, signed 10/31/94)

December 8

GATT Ratified

The Clinton-Gore Administration worked with a bipartisan majority in the Senate to pass legislation implementing the General Agreement on Tariffs and trade (GATT). This agreement allows American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system. (PL 103-465, signed 12/8/94)

1995

January 31

President Clinton Issues Loans Preventing Economic Collapse in Mexico

After Congress refused to act, President Clinton issues \$20 billion in emergency loans to Mexico to stabilize the country's financial markets. Loans from the United States and the International Monetary Fund stopped the collapse of the peso, prevented economic crisis, and helped the country return to solid economic growth. Mexico repaid the loans with interest three years ahead of schedule. U.S. taxpayers made a net gain of nearly \$580 million from the loan. (1/31/95)

March 8

Executive Order Preventing Permanent Striker Replacement Issued

In order to maintain fairness and balance between workers and management, President Clinton issued an executive order preventing the federal government from contracting with businesses that hire permanent replacements for employees engaging in lawful strikes. (E.O. 12954)

December 14

Dayton Peace Accords Signed

Leaders of the rival factions in the Bosnian civil war signed a treaty to end the nearly four-year-old conflict, formally approving the pact they had initialed in November in Dayton, Ohio after three weeks of U.S.-sponsored talks.

February 8**Telecommunications Reform Signed**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore achieved the first major overhaul of the telecommunications laws in 60 years. Reforms of the 1934 Telecommunications Act finally achieved by the Clinton-Gore Administration opened up competition between local telephone companies, long distance providers and cable companies; and requires the use of new V-chip technology to enable families to exercise greater control over the television programming that comes into their homes. The act also contained the Vice President's E-Rate proposal, which provides low-cost Internet connections for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals. (PL 104-104, signed 2/8/96)

April 26**Minimum Wage Increased**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for and won a 90-cent per hour increase in the minimum wage – increasing wages for 10 million workers. This increase was the first in 6 years and in 1996 it was the largest single-year increase ever. (PL 104-134, signed 4/26/96)

August 3**Food Quality Protection Act Signed**

This Act established toughest standards for pesticide residues in food ever, and for the first times required that the standards take into account special risks to children. (PL 104-170, signed 8/3/96)

August 6**Safe Drinking Water Act**

Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act required the strongest standards of safety and purity in America's drinking water while establishing a revolving loan fund to help communities upgrade their water treatment facilities. (PL 104-182, signed 8/6/96)

August 21**Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Reform**

This bipartisan health insurance reform bill guarantees that workers can keep their insurance if they lose or leave their jobs and expands coverage for small businesses and self-employed individuals. Roughly 25 million people have benefited from the greater flexibility that this law ensures. (PL 104-191, signed 8/21/96)

August 22**Welfare Reform Enacted**

President Clinton kept his promise to end welfare as we know it by requiring welfare recipients to work, limits the time they can stay on welfare, and provides child care and health care to help them make the move from welfare to work. It also enacted tough new child support enforcement measures proposed by the President. Since January 1993, the number of people on welfare has fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.3 million and has resulted in the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years. (PL 104-193, signed 8/22/96)

September 18

Created Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The creation of this National Monument preserved unspoiled remote canyons and extensive geologic and world-class paleontological sites. President Clinton was the first President to designate a National Monument since 1978 and throughout his term the President has protected more land as national monuments in the lower 48 states — over 4.6 million acres — than any president in history. (Presidential Proclamation, 9/18/96)

1997

April 24

Chemical Weapons Convention Ratified

In April, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, which makes the production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons illegal. (Ratified 4/24/97)

June 4

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act Reauthorized

The expanded IDEA ensures that children with disabilities can be in the classroom and be included in school activities like work experience, science clubs and field outings. It also applies the same high standards and ensures that children with disabilities learn the same things with the same curricula and the same assessments as all other children. (Signed 6/4/97)

July 16

Stronger Air Quality Regulations

On July 16, 1997, the President approved the strongest air quality standards in history to control pollution from smog and soot. The standards could prevent 15,000 premature deaths every year and will improve the lives of millions of Americans suffering from respiratory illness. Enforcement of the new standards has been delayed by court action. (7/16/97)

August 5

Balanced Budget Agreement

In February, the President submitted the first plan to finish the job of eliminating the deficit and the balanced budget in 27 years. On August 5th, he signed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which finished the job of eliminating the \$290 billion budget deficit. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

\$500 per Child Tax Credit

As part of the Balanced Budget Agreement, the President secured a \$500 per child tax credit for approximately 27 million families with children under 17, including thirteen million children from families with incomes below \$30,000. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Children's Health Insurance Program Created

At the urging of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the largest increase in children's health coverage since the creation of Medicaid -- the five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), which will provide health care coverage for up to five million children. As of June 2000, approximately 2.5 million children were enrolled in S-CHIP. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

HOPE Scholarships/Lifetime Learning Tax Credits

President Clinton proposed and passed the largest increase in college opportunity since the GI bill. The Hope Scholarship provides a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for tuition and fees for the first two years of college. When fully phased-in, the Lifetime Learning tax credit will provide a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 of tuition and fees for students beyond the first two years of college, or taking classes part-time. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Landmark Education Investments: America Reads, Charter Schools, Head Start

The President succeeded in doubling investments in education technology, increasing charter school funding, expanding Head Start to reach more than 800,000 children; and increasing Pell Grant maximum grants by the largest amount in two decades. The Budget also provided \$300 million for the President's America Reads Challenge. Together, these programs are the most significant increase in education funding at the national level in 30 years. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Created 20 more Empowerment Zones and 20 more rural Enterprise Communities

Following Congress' 1994 designation of Cleveland and Los Angeles as EZs, the President requested a Round 2 of 20 new EZs and 20 new rural Enterprise Communities. The Round 2 EZs received expanded tax-exempt bonding authority to increase their ability to stimulate private-sector job creation for low-income residents.

November 19

Adoption and Safe Families Act

This bipartisan legislation enacted many of the recommendations of the President's Adoption 2002 report. In order to meet the President's challenge of doubling the number of adoptions by 2002, the Act provides incentives to states to permanently place children in foster care. In 1999, 46,000 foster care children were adopted -- more than a 64 percent increase since 1996 and the biggest increase in adoptions since the National Foster Care Program was created almost 20 years ago. (PL 105-89, signed 11/19/97)

November 21

FDA Reform Legislation Signed

The President supported and signed the FDA Modernization Act of 1997, the first major food and medical products reform in 35 years. The act cut approval times of new drugs in half, simplified the review process for medical devices, expanded participation in experimental treatments for AIDS, Alzheimer's and cancer patients, and protected consumers by ensuring accurate food labeling. (PL 105-115, signed 11/21/97)

December 16

NATO Expanded to Eastern Europe

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright signed protocols for the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO. The expansion of NATO to include these three former Warsaw Pact nations was a historic step in ensuring peace and stability in Eastern Europe. NATO expansion was ratified in May 1998 after it was approved by a strong bipartisan Senate majority.

1998

April 11

Good Friday Peace Accords Signed

On April 11, President Clinton helped conclude the Good Friday Peace Accords, a historic peace agreement between all the major parties to the long conflict over Northern Ireland. The accord represents the best hope in a generation for a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. (4/11/98)

October 7

GEAR UP Initiative Created

In his 1998 State of the Union address, President Clinton urged Congress "to support our efforts to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children, starting in the 6th grade, so that they can get the guidance and hope they need so they can know that they, too, will be able to go on to college." Congress enacted GEAR UP without a single dissenting vote. GEAR UP provides intensive early intervention services that will help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)

October 21

Class Size Reduction Initiative Launched

After initially refusing to provide any funding at all, Congress agreed to provide \$1.2 billion for the first year of the President's new initiative to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades to a national average of 18. This initiative is the first comprehensive effort at reducing class size across the nation. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)

October 23

Wye Middle East Peace Agreement Signed

On October 23, 1998, after nine days of negotiations at the Wye Conference Center in Maryland, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat signed an agreement that will strengthen Israeli security, expand the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhance opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. (10/23/98)

- October 27** **Head Start Expansion and Reauthorization**
The Reauthorization of the Head Start paved the way for further quality improvements, doubled participation in the Early Head Start program and moved toward the President's goal of providing quality Head Start opportunities for 1 million children. (PL 105-285, 10/27/98)
- December 12** **Global Warming Protocol Signed in Kyoto, Japan**
With critical leadership from the Clinton-Gore Administration, 160 nations agreed on the basic architecture of a strategy to combat global warming on December 12, 1997. This agreement is the first time that major nations of the world ever committed themselves to a comprehensive plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- December 16** **Air Attacks on Saddam Hussein**
Beginning December 16, 1998, American forces attacked Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological programs, and its military capacity to threaten its neighbors. Saddam Hussein had announced that he would no longer cooperate with U.N. inspectors to conduct inspections that would guarantee that Iraq does not try and rebuild its capacity to create weapons of mass destruction.

1999

- June 16** **Leading the World in Eliminating Child Labor**
In June 1999, the President traveled to the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva, Switzerland to urge adoption of an historic international convention that would ban the worst forms of child labor. The next day, the Child Labor Convention was unanimously adopted by delegates at the conference. It represents the largest investment in American history to end abusive child labor around the globe.
- June 20** **Achieving Victory in Kosovo**
President Clinton led the NATO Alliance in a 79-day air war that expelled Serb forces from Kosovo and restored self-government to the province, ending a decade of repression and reversing Slobodan Milosovic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the face of Allied unity, American military superiority, and strong Presidential leadership, Milosovic withdrew his troops and permitted international peacekeepers to begin returning refugees. (3/24-6/20/99)
- November 12** **Financial Modernization Legislation Enacted**
President Clinton signed the Financial Modernization Act into law, finally revamping a banking system that had been in place since the Great Depression. The new law will increase innovation and competition in the financial services industry, including traditional banking, insurance and securities industries, giving consumers greater choice and lower prices. The President insisted that the new regulatory structure permit banking institutions to expand into these newly authorized lines of business only if they satisfactorily serve the credit needs of their communities, and that the law include many of the consumer privacy provisions he proposed. (PL 106-102, signed 11/12/99)

November 29

Work Incentives Improvement Act Signed

After months of congressional inaction, President Clinton insisted that Congress pass the Work Incentives Improvement Act as a condition of the budget agreement. This bipartisan Act allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work. This law represents one of the most important legislative advances for people with disabilities since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

21st Century Policing Initiative Launched

The President's successful community policing initiative funded 100,000 officers around the country and played a key role in producing the longest continuous drop in crime on record. In 1999, President Clinton secured funding for the first installment of the 21st Century Policing Initiative over Congressional opposition. The new initiative will fund up to 50,000 additional community police officers by 2005 and equip them with new, advanced tools to fight crime. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

Leveraged \$90 Billion in International Debt Relief

President Clinton has been an international leader in recognizing and solving the debt problems of developing countries. To meet the commitments he made at the G-7 Economic Summit in Cologne in June and at his address to the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in September, President Clinton secured funds from Congress to leverage over \$90 billion of debt relief for developing nations. Along with funds from other creditor nations, this plan tripled the amount of debt relief available to the world's poorest nations. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

2000

April 7

Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act Passed

In his January 1999 State of the Union Address the President stated that "we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on Social Security can earn." In 2000, the House and Senate unanimously voted to eliminate the retirement earnings test for people above the normal retirement age. (PL 106-182, signed 4/7/00)

April 15

A New National Monument To Preserve Ancient Sequoias

On April 15, President Clinton signed a proclamation creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument. This 328,000-acre monument will ensure lasting protection for 34 groves of ancient sequoias, the largest trees on Earth. (4/15/00)

- May 18** **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act**
Expands two-way trade and create incentives for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the Caribbean Basin to continue reforming their economies and participate more fully in the benefits of the global economy. This area forms the 6th largest export market for the United States. (PL 106-200, signed 5/18/00)
- June 9** **Preserving Four Unique and Irreplaceable National Monuments**
President Clinton signed proclamations creating four new national monuments to protect federal lands representing unique, irreplaceable pieces of America's natural and cultural heritage. The four are the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in southwest Colorado, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon, the Hanford Reach National Monument in south central Washington, and the Ironwood Forest National Monument in southern Arizona. (6/9/00)
- June 30** **Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act**
This act eliminated legal barriers to using electronic technology to form and sign contracts, collect and store documents, and send and receive notices and disclosures. It also contained important protections making sure that consumers shopping on-line are protected to the same extent as paper transactions. (PL 106-229, signed 6/30/00)
- July 1** **Campaign Finance Disclosure**
President Clinton signed the first new campaign finance reform legislation in 20 years, closing a loophole that allowed tax-exempt groups to use undisclosed donors to pay for political ad campaigns. (PL 106-230, signed 7/1/00)
- July 13** **Plan Colombia Enacted**
President Clinton proposed a new aid package to bolster democracy and combat drug trafficking in Colombia. The agreement will enhance alternative development, strengthen civil justice and democratic institutions, and provide assistance aimed at reducing the flow of cocaine and other narcotics to the United States. (PL 106-246, signed 7/13/00)
- October 10** **China-PNTR Enacted**
This act was a crucial step to complete a major trade goal of the Clinton-Gore Administration, opening China's markets to American manufactured goods, farm products and services by allowing China to become part of the WTO, forcing it to slash import barriers against American goods and services. The United States agreed to maintain market access policies we currently apply to China. (PL 106-286, signed 10/10/00)

November 13

New Worker Health And Safety Rules To Prevent Repetitive Stress Injuries

The new rule announced by the administration is aimed at reducing approximately 1.8 million repetitive stress injuries that affect workers. Based on extensive scientific research and public comment, the Administration's proposal would save 300,000 workers the pain and suffering associated with these injuries, and save American businesses \$9 billion a year in workers compensation and lost productivity. The final rules will take effect January 16, 2001. (11/13/00)

The Clinton Presidency: A Historic Era of Progress and Prosperity

- **Longest economic expansion in American history**

The President's strategy of fiscal discipline, open foreign markets and investments in the American people helped create the conditions for a record 115 months of economic expansion. Growth has averaged 4 percent per year since 1993.

- **Lowest federal income tax burden in 35 years**

President Clinton enacted targeted tax cuts such as the Earned Income Tax Credit expansion, \$500 child tax credit, and the HOPE Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits. Federal income taxes as a percentage of income for the typical American family have dropped to their lowest level in 35 years.

- **Highest homeownership in American history**

A strong economy and fiscal discipline kept interest rates low, making it possible for more families to buy homes. The homeownership rate increased from 64.2 percent in 1992 to 67.7 percent, the highest rate ever.

- **More than 22 million new jobs**

More than 22 million jobs were created in less than eight years -- the most ever under a single administration, and more than were created in the previous twelve years.

- **Lowest unemployment in 30 years**

Unemployment dropped from more than 7 percent in 1993 to just 3.9 percent in October 2000. Unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics fell to the lowest rates on record, and the unemployment rate for women is the lowest in more than 40 years.

- **Lowest crime rate in 25 years**

Because of President Clinton's tough and smart anti-crime strategy of enacting tougher penalties, increasing prosecution and prevention, and fighting for common sense gun safety laws, the crime rate declined for 8 consecutive years, the longest continuous drop on record, and is at the lowest level since 1973.

- **100,000 more police on the street**

As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, President Clinton enacted a new initiative to fund 100,000 community police officers for more than 11,000 law enforcement agencies.

- **Smallest welfare rolls in 32 years**

In 1992, the President pledged to end welfare as we know it and signed landmark bipartisan welfare reform legislation in 1996. Since then, welfare caseloads have been cut in half, to the lowest level since 1968, and millions of parents have joined the workforce.

- **Family and Medical Leave Act for 20 million Americans**

To help parents succeed at work and at home, President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. Over 20 million Americans have taken unpaid leave to care for a newborn child or sick family member.

- **Higher incomes at all levels**

After falling by nearly \$2,000 between 1988 and 1992, the median family's income rose by \$6,338, after adjusting for inflation, since 1993. African American family income increased even more, rising by nearly \$7,000 since 1993. After years of stagnant income growth among average and lower income families, all income brackets experienced double-digit income growth since 1993. The bottom 20 percent saw the largest income growth at 16.3 percent.

- **Lowest teen birth rate in 60 years**

In his 1995 State of the Union Address, President Clinton challenged Americans to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy. The birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined every year of the Clinton Presidency, from 60.7 per 1,000 teens in 1992 to a record low of 49.6 in 1999.

- **Largest expansion of college opportunity since the GI Bill**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have nearly doubled financial aid for students by increasing Pell Grants to the largest award ever, expanding Federal Work-Study to allow 1 million students to work their way through college, and by creating new tax credits and scholarships such as Lifetime Learning tax credits and the HOPE scholarship. At the same time, taxpayers have saved \$18 billion due to the decline in student loan defaults, increased collections and savings from the direct student loan program.

- **Lowest poverty rate in 20 years**

Since Congress passed President Clinton's Economic Plan in 1993, the poverty rate declined from 15.1 percent to 11.8 percent last year – the largest six-year drop in poverty in nearly 30 years. There are now 7 million fewer people in poverty than in 1993. The child poverty rate declined more than 25 percent, the poverty rates for single mothers, African Americans and the elderly have dropped to their lowest level on record, and the Hispanic poverty rate dropped to its lowest level since 1979.

- **Deactivated more than 1,700 nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Union**

Efforts of the Clinton-Gore Administration led to the dismantling of more than 1,700 nuclear warheads, 300 launchers and 425 land and submarine based missiles from the former Soviet Union.

- **Protected millions of acres of American land**

President Clinton protected more land in the lower 48 states than any president since Theodore Roosevelt. He has protected 5 new national parks, designated 11 new national monuments and expanded two others and proposed protections for 60 million acres of roadless areas in America's national forests.

- **Paid off \$360 billion of the national debt**

Between 1998-2000, the national debt was reduced by \$363 billion — the largest three-year debt pay-down in American history. We are now on track to pay off the entire debt by 2012.

- **Converted the largest budget deficit in American history to the largest surplus**

Thanks in large part to the 1993 Deficit Reduction Act, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, and President Clinton's call to save the surplus for debt reduction, Social Security, and Medicare solvency, America has put its fiscal house in order. The deficit was \$290 billion in 1993 and expected to grow to \$455 billion by this year. Instead, we have a projected surplus of \$237 billion.

- **More families own stock than ever before**

The number of families owning stock in the United States increased by 40 percent since 1992.

- **Lowest infant mortality rate in American history**

The Clinton Administration expanded efforts to provide mothers and newborn children with health care. Today, a record high 82 percent of all mothers receive prenatal care. The infant mortality rate has dropped from 8.5 deaths per 1,000 in 1992 to 7.2 deaths per 1,000 in 1998, the lowest rate ever recorded.

- **Most diverse cabinet in American history**

The President has appointed more African Americans, women and Hispanics to the Cabinet than any other President in history. He appointed the first female Attorney General, the first female Secretary of State and the first Asian American cabinet secretary ever.

- **Lowest government spending in three decades**

Under President Clinton federal government spending as a share of the economy has decreased from 22.2 percent in 1992 to a projected 18.5 percent in 2000, the lowest since 1966.

- **Connected 95 percent of schools to the Internet**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore's new commitment to education technology, including the E-Rate and a 3,000 percent increase in educational technology funding, increased the percentage of schools connected to the Internet from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999.

The Clinton Presidency: Lowest Crime Rates in a Generation

More violent crimes were reported in 1992 than ever before, with nearly two million murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults occurring in the United States. Gun crime had skyrocketed to the highest point in 20 years as more than half a million total gun crimes were reported. Parents fought a daily battle to keep their children away from drugs and gangs, as more young people than ever were involved in violent crimes. In 1992 alone, more than 850,000 children were victims of violent crime, and guns killed 5,379 children – an average of nearly fifteen every day. Communities struggled to fight crime, but the federal response remained bogged down in partisan differences.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted policies that provided tougher penalties and enforcement along with smart crime prevention measures, funded more than 100,000 new police officers on America's streets, provided the leadership to pass common sense gun safety legislation including the Brady Bill and assault weapons ban, and implemented a comprehensive anti-drug strategy.

Support for Proven Local Solutions: 100,000 Community Police Officers

- ✓ THEN: Between 1989 and 1992, violent crime rates increased by 13 percent. In 1992, there were nearly two million murders, rapes and aggravated assaults reported. Cities including Houston, Boston and New York brought down crime rates with community policing, but most communities lacked the resources to hire and redeploy enough police officers to fight and prevent crime.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton fought for and signed a plan to help communities across the country move to community policing by funding the hiring and redeployment of 100,000 new police officers over five years. The Administration's COPS initiative, passed as part of the 1994 Crime Bill, has provided more than 11,000 law enforcement agencies funding to hire or redeploy more than 100,000 police officers. The federal government has also made record investments helping local authorities fight crime – increasing funding for state and local law enforcement by more than 300 percent since 1993. Overall crime rates has dropped every year under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the longest continuous drop on record and crime is now at a 26-year low.

Community Policing Initiative is Improving America's Neighborhoods

"By working in the same neighborhoods day-in, day-out, we developed real ties to the community. We took real steps to fix problems in neighborhoods. We formed partnerships. We problem solved. We prevented crime... COPS money makes this possible... Thank you, Mr. President, for making it possible to fulfill my dream. Thank you for making it possible to return our police to their communities. Thank you for being the first president to take the police truly seriously, to listen to us, and to give us the tools we need to keep our people safe."

-- Corporal Irma Rivera, Arlington, Virginia. Corporal Rivera has been with the Arlington County Police Department since April 1992. Due to a COPS grant, she was able to join the Community Based/Problem-Oriented Policing Section, which worked to rid Arlington neighborhoods of gang and drug-related crime.

Common Sense Gun Safety Laws: the Brady Act and the Assault Weapons Ban

- ✓ THEN: Gun violence reached its highest point in 20 years; a record 565,000 Americans were victims of gun crime in 1992. Murders by juveniles increased by 65 percent between 1987 and 1993, reaching the highest level ever in 1993. In 1992, an average of nearly 15 children were killed every day by firearms through violence, accidents or suicides.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton fought the gun lobby and won common sense gun safety laws including the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, overall gun crime has declined 40 percent, and firearms related homicides committed by juveniles have dropped by nearly 50 percent. There were 227,000 fewer gun crimes in 1999 than 1992, and 1,246 fewer children were killed by guns than in 1992.
 - Background checks performed under the Brady Law have prevented more than 611,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers from buying a gun.
 - The Assault Weapons Ban, passed as part of the 1994 Crime Bill, banned the manufacture, sale and importation of 19 of the deadliest assault weapons.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with state and local governments to increase prosecution of gun crime. Since 1992, the number of federal firearms cases has increased 16 percent, and as a result of this Administration's unprecedented partnership with states and localities, overall gun prosecutions - federal, state, and local combined - are up 22 percent. In addition, federal gun offenders are serving sentences that are about two years longer than in 1992 and the number of serious gun offenders sent to federal prison for more than five years is up more than 41 percent.
 - Clinton-Gore Administration U.S. Attorneys in Richmond (Project Exile) and Boston (Operation Ceasefire) were instrumental in innovative efforts to crack down on armed drug traffickers, violent criminals, gang members and violent youth which has helped to reduce crime in these cities. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also implemented a comprehensive crime gun tracing initiative - the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) - in 38 cities to trace crime guns and identify and arrest illegal gun traffickers.
 - Finally, to combat violence in schools, the Clinton-Gore Administration enacted the Gun Free Schools Act, which requires schools to adopt zero-tolerance policies toward guns in schools and expel students bringing firearms to school. Over the 1996-98 school years, nearly 10,000 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Common Sense Gun Safety Laws Are Making America Safer

"President Clinton, you and your administration have helped make this country safer through your support for the Brady law and the 1994 crime bill and your persistence in pursuing common-sense laws and strategies to reduce gun violence."

-- **James Brady**, February 11, 2000. James S. Brady was shot along with President Reagan and two law enforcement officers in an assassination attempt in 1981. Although seriously wounded by the gunshot wound to the head, Mr. Brady has actively lobbied for stronger gun laws.

* * *

"If my son Scott had not been shot by a classmate with a grudge and an assault weapon over ten years ago, I might likely be a grandma today... With the leadership and perseverance of President Clinton, we won the fight to pass the Assault Weapons Ban, and have taken an important step toward preventing countless other families from suffering the way my family has."

-- **Bryl Phillips-Taylor**. Bryl Phillips-Taylor lost her son, Scott, the summer before he was scheduled to enroll in college at Virginia Tech in 1989. Scott was killed by a fellow student who held a grudge against him after luring him into the woods and shooting him six times with an AK-47 assault rifle that he had taken from an unlocked gun storage shed. Since then, Bryl has worked tirelessly to promote the passage of common sense gun laws, including the successful passage of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban.

"Five short years ago, Richmond was known nationwide for our high crime and murder rates. Today, we've received national attention not for the problem, but for the solution. We've attacked crime from all fronts, and one of the most successful avenues has been through strong gun enforcement. President Clinton shares my philosophy that America needs to send a strong message to gun criminals that breaking gun laws will not be tolerated. That's why we worked with the Clinton Administration to create the nation's first "Project Exile" program, a partnership at the federal and local levels that has guaranteed that anyone caught with an illegal gun serves five years in federal prison. Project Exile is now being replicated across America by other communities, and gun prosecutions are up. Project Exile's success in getting tough on gun criminals is due in no small measure to our partnership and President Clinton's leadership in the fight to reduce crime and gun violence"

-- **Colonel Jerry Oliver, Chief of Police, Richmond, Virginia**. Colonel Oliver is nationally recognized for his success in helping to dramatically reduce crime in Richmond through innovative new partnerships and programs, such as "Project Exile." Created through a partnership with the Clinton Administration, U.S. Attorney Helen Fahey, Colonel Oliver and community leaders, "Project Exile" has helped take gun criminals off of the streets of Richmond by ensuring that felons caught illegally carrying firearms serve a minimum five year sentence in federal prison.

Tough and Smart Crime Fighting Policies: The 1994 Crime Bill

- ✓ THEN: While crime increased during the 1980s and early 1990s, Washington bickered over false choices between punishment and prevention. This political division blocked passage of a federal crime bill for six years. When President Clinton took office, the violent crime rate had skyrocketed to the highest point in 20 years, juvenile violence reached record levels, and gang and drug violence were epidemic in many communities.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton launched a new approach to crime fighting that emphasized *both* tough anti-crime measures like increased prosecution, more prisons and stiffer penalties, as well as smart prevention measures including expanding community policing, common sense gun safety laws, increased drug treatment, and after-school programs. The 1994 Crime Bill was a historic turning point in federal anti-crime efforts, enacting the COPS program and banning the importation of 19 of the most dangerous assault weapons. The Crime Bill also contained:
 - Stiffer criminal penalties including a federal 'three-strikes-and-you're out' law and expansion of the death penalty for killing a law enforcement officers and incentives for states to adopt truth-in-sentencing for violent offenders.

- Drug courts to provide increased judicial supervision and drug treatment for non-violent offenders and boot camps for first-time young offenders.
- Increased funding for prison construction, and anti-drug and gang programs.
- A new law making it illegal for juveniles to own handguns.
- Registration of sexually violent offenders with state officials upon release from prison.
- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which tripled the number of domestic violence shelters, increased resources to prosecute domestic violence offenders, and established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline.

Local Partnerships are Reducing Crime in Boston

"The Clinton Administration has been a key partner in all of our efforts, whether it's been through major grants, consistent public support for our collaborative efforts or deploying personnel from federal agencies, such as BATF, DEA, FBI, INS and the US Attorney, to work on task forces with us. We are very grateful for this partnership."

-- **Boston Police Commissioner Paul F. Evans**, November 16, 2000. In the early 1990's, Boston faced a surge in homicides, gang-related crime, and youth violence. To address their crime problems, the Boston Police Department forged working relationships with Mayor Thomas Menino; local probation officers, parole officers and prosecutors; local, state and federal agencies; and each of Boston's neighborhoods. As a result, Boston has reached its lowest violent crime rate since 1971, the number of homicides is at its lowest point since 1961 and every year since 1993, the number of juveniles killed by guns has decreased.

Violence Against Women Act Funding Supports Domestic Violence Shelters and Services

"VAWA money that Esperanza has received in the past has assisted our program with victims in the court system. In fact, with VAWA funding, we were able to hire a court advocate who helps women obtain protection orders, helps them with security, and provides translation services. I am proud to say that our court advocate has helped about 1,500 women to date... President Clinton is a very strong advocate who cares and supports women everywhere. He is a person to be there to care when caring makes the difference between despair and hope."

-- **Connie R. Trujillo, Santa Fe, New Mexico**. Connie Trujillo is a domestic violence survivor and the Executive Director of Esperanza, Shelter for Battered Families, one of the oldest battered women's shelters in the country. With Violence Against Women Act funding, Esperanza has been able to hire a court-based advocate to assist victims in obtaining orders of protection and in safety planning, and in one year, this advocate has assisted about 1,500 victims in court.

Successful Drug Control Strategy: Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement

- ✓ THEN: The nation suffered from an unbalanced and ineffective drug control strategy that left more than a million addicted individuals untreated, and failed to cut the supply of drugs to America's communities. In 1992, there were 1,302 drug-related murders, approximately 555 tons of cocaine flooded the streets, and 62 percent of those who needed drug treatment went untreated.

- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton placed a new emphasis on a balanced anti-drug strategy. He elevated the Drug Czar to a cabinet-level post, replaced political appointees with professionals and appointed four-star General Barry McCaffrey as director of the office – the first person with a drug interdiction background to hold the post. Funding for anti-drug efforts has increased by more than 50 percent – from \$12.2 billion in 1993 to \$18.5 billion in 2000.
 - Prevention funding has increased by one-third, including a successful Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, the largest targeted media effort ever to educate youth about the dangers of drug use.
 - Treatment funding is up 33 percent, and the treatment gap has closed by five percent. To break the cycle of drugs and crime, President Clinton funded Drug Courts to provide treatment for non-violent offenders and helped to expand the number of Drug Courts from a dozen in 1994 to more than 400 in October 1999. The number of federal inmates receiving substance abuse treatment rose from 1,135 in 1992 to 10,816 in 1999, and the Administration has encouraged states to adopt comprehensive drug testing and intervention for prisoners and parolees.
 - President Clinton has also stepped up interdiction and enforcement efforts. The Administration has increased the number of FBI, DEA, and Border Patrol Agents and is working with allies to stop international cultivation and trafficking. Seizures of cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine reached record levels in 1999. Drug-related arrests and convictions also increased, with arrests up 46 percent and federal convictions rising by more than 20 percent.

Drug Courts Are Reducing Crime and Drug Abuse

"President Clinton's historic expansion of drug courts across our nation has played a vital role in our success in reducing crime and drug abuse in our communities. Drug Courts across the United States are resulting in increased sobriety and reduced criminality among drug using offenders. By demanding accountability, but also providing rehabilitative services to this drug using population, Drug Courts are creating safer and healthier communities, while reducing the numbers of offenders in custody and the financial costs to our communities."

-- Judge Jeffrey S. Tauber, President of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and Director of the National Drug Court Institute. Judge Tauber initiated and presided over the design and implementation of the Oakland Drug Court Program, one of the first in the nation, and was also the first chair of the California Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Progress For America's Families and Communities in the Fight Against Crime

- ✓ **Crime Rate Drops Every Year:** The overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 26 year low.
- ✓ **Violent Crime Down Every Year:** The violent crime rate is at its lowest level in over two decades and is 30 percent lower than it was in 1992. In 1999, the homicide rate dropped to its lowest point since 1966. The murder rate has dropped more than 38 percent since 1992.
- ✓ **Gun Crime Rate Drops Dramatically:** Since 1993, the gun-related crime rate has declined by more than 40 percent. The number of juvenile gun offenders peaked in 1993, and has dropped 57 percent since then.
- ✓ **School Crime Rate Down:** The school crime rate – the number of thefts or violent crimes committed at schools – has decreased from 155 per 1,000 students in 1993 to 101 per 1,000 students in 1998. That's a drop of nearly 35 percent.

- ✓ **Domestic Violence Declines:** The number of women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declined 21 percent from 1993 to 1998.
- ✓ **Teen Drug Use Drops:** Teen drug use has turned the corner, dropping for the third year in a row. Youth marijuana use has dropped over 25 percent.
- ✓ **Record Levels of Federal Drug Seizures:** Federal drug seizures have increased to record high levels since 1993, including the highest level of federal cocaine seizures ever – a 10 percent increase over 1992 levels. In 1999, federal agents seized more than three times the amount of marijuana than was seized in 1992.
- ✓ **Cocaine Supply Decreases:** Coca leaf eradication in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru increased by more than five times between 1992 and 1998. The amount of cocaine available for consumption in the United States has dropped by more than 30 percent since 1992.
- ✓ **Drug-Related Murders Cut in Half:** The drug related murder rate has been cut almost in half since 1992. Drug related murders are now at their lowest level in over a decade.

The Clinton Presidency: Historic Economic Growth

President Clinton and Vice President Gore launched a new economic strategy of fiscal discipline, invested in the American people and opened foreign markets so that American workers could compete abroad. President Clinton also worked to foster growth of the New Economy by investing in education, expanding research and development in high technology areas and reforming telecommunications laws. After eight years, the results of President Clinton's economic leadership for the American people are clear. America is in the midst of the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

Reversing Years of Economic Decline with the 1993 Economic Plan

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, the United States economy was in trouble. Ten million Americans were unemployed, the country faced record deficits and welfare rolls were growing. Family incomes were losing ground to inflation and jobs were being created at the slowest rate since the Great Depression.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the 1993 Economic Plan, which passed Congress without a single Republican vote and put the country on the path of fiscal discipline. Eight years later, we have the lowest unemployment in 30 years, more than 22 million new jobs, the highest homeownership rate in history, the smallest welfare rolls in 32 years, and the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. The 1993 economic plan included:
 - \$500 billion in deficit reduction, including \$255 billion in spending cuts. The new emphasis on fiscal discipline and deficit reduction led to a drop in interest rates, which spurred investment and an increase in the rate of job creation, wage growth and productivity.
 - Tax cuts and investment incentives for 90 percent of small businesses to help create jobs, including a targeted capital gains tax cut, an extension of health insurance deductions and increased expensing.
 - An expansion in the Earned Income Tax Credit that provided tax cuts to 15 million working families, with the average family with two children receiving more than \$1,000.
 - Investments in preserving Medicare that dedicated some of the taxes paid by Social Security beneficiaries to the Medicare Trust Fund and extended the life of Medicare by three years to 2002. Further reforms and a creak-down on waste and fraud have extended the life of Medicare a total of 26 years.
 - Creation of the Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities initiative, which provided nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities with a total of \$3.5 billion in job and wage credits and other incentives to build and revitalize cities and rural areas.
 - Student loan reforms which created the Direct Student Loan Program, leading to less paperwork and reduced costs for students and families – saving taxpayers money by lowering federal administrative costs and providing competition and flexibility for students.
 - Extension of the 20 percent tax credit for research and development expenditures, making it easier for new companies to take advantage of the tax credit. The plan also included credits to encourage employer-provided educational and training assistance and a targeted jobs tax credit.

Clinton-Gore Economic Plan Has Dramatically Improved the Economy

"My colleagues and I have been very appreciative of your [President Clinton's] support of the Fed over the years, and your commitment to fiscal discipline has been instrumental in achieving what in a few weeks-- will be the longest economic expansion in the nation's history."

-- **Alan Greenspan**, Federal Reserve Board Chairman, January 4, 2000, with President Clinton at Chairman Greenspan's re-nomination announcement

"The deficit has come down, and I give the Clinton Administration and President Clinton himself a lot of credit for that. [He] did something about it, fast. And I think we are seeing some benefits."

-- **Paul Volcker**, Federal Reserve Board Chairman (1979-1987), in *Audacity*, Fall 1994

One of the reasons Goldman Sachs cites for the "best economy ever" is that "on the policy side, trade, fiscal, and monetary policies have been excellent, working in ways that have facilitated growth without inflation. The Clinton Administration has worked to liberalize trade and has used any revenue windfalls to reduce the federal budget deficit."

-- **Goldman Sachs**, March 1998

"Clinton's 1993 budget cuts, which reduced projected red ink by more than \$400 billion over five years, sparked a major drop in interest rates that helped boost investment in all the equipment and systems that brought forth the New Age economy of technological innovation and rising productivity."

-- **Business Week**, May 19, 1997

Ensuring that All Americans Benefit from the Strong Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, unemployment reached 7.5 percent, the highest level in eight years. At the same time, unemployment and poverty rates for African Americans and Hispanics were alarmingly high: unemployment reached 14.2 percent for African Americans and 11.8 percent for Hispanics. Poverty rates for both groups were nearly 30 percent. Working American families were struggling to get by. And a 1992 Gallup Poll reported that by a two-to-one margin, Americans said that the next generation would be the first American generation to do worse than their parents, and those in the middle class were the most pessimistic.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore made smart investments in the American people to ensure that all Americans would benefit from the New Economy:
 - Making work pay. Expansions in the Earned Income Tax Credit included in the President's 1993 Economic Plan are making work pay for 15 million working families, lifting roughly twice as many people out of poverty in 1999 as in 1993. Low income families have also benefited from a \$1 increase in the minimum wage and incentives to save for the future through Individual Development Accounts, created under this Administration.
 - Investing in education and training. The Clinton-Gore significantly increased investments in education, expanded college opportunity and transformed the job training system to more effectively provide needed job skills and promote lifelong learning.
 - Promoting homeownership and community development. The Clinton-Gore Administration helped an unprecedented number of Americans become homeowners and put in place key initiatives to help bring economic development and renewal to communities that have not yet benefited from the soaring economy, including Empowerment Zones, the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, and the reformation of the Community

Reinvestment Act regulations. The Clinton Administration also launched the New Markets Initiative, aimed at bringing economic development to urban and rural underserved areas to insure that all Americans benefit from prosperity.

- Supporting working families. In 1996, the President signed a welfare reform bill that promoted work and responsibility. This Administration has also doubled child support collections and funding for child care, and made significant investments in transportation, and housing for low-income working families, and created incentives for employers to hire those moving from welfare to work.

Making the Dream of Homeownership a Reality

"I feel true independence in owning my own home. To those who think it's impossible: It is possible. Don't let anyone talk you out of it."

-- **Lucy Vocu, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.** Lucy is a first-time homeowner who moved from a two-bedroom rental house into a new three-bedroom home.

Empowerment Zones Are a Potent Weapon Against Poverty

"I am living proof that the Empowerment Zone works! If it wasn't for the Empowerment Zone, I would have never have had the chance to buy this building or to expand my business. We are fighting the war against poverty throughout our neighborhoods and cities, but we have a very potent weapon — the Empowerment Zones. And we will use that weapon to win this war because, after all, our future and our children's future depends on it. We must never give up hope."

-- **Nancy Santana, North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** Nancy is a single mother of three who used resources and a loan she obtained through her local Empowerment Zone to move from welfare to start her own business, Nancy Santana's Cleaning and Maintenance Services. Four years later, her business employs over 25 people, many of whom she recruited off of welfare.

Community Development Financial Institutions Expand Economic Opportunity

"President Clinton's efforts have been very helpful to me. I had trouble getting funding from other sources. The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta has worked with me and people in my community, helping us improve our position in life. Now, I can get into this business, where otherwise I could not have."

-- **Ephron Lewis** co-founded Lewis & Sons Rice Processing — the only African-American-owned rice processing company in the country — with his father. The construction of his plant was made possible by a loan and technical assistance from the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, a community development financial institution supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He now farms roughly 3,000 acres, producing rice, wheat and soybeans.

Encouraging the Growth of Small Businesses

"I started my small consulting and legal firm with the principle that everyone should have a shot at the twin American dreams of owning your own business and owning your own home. I look for the dreamers, the ones who want to be a part of this country in the best way, but who don't have the tools and information they need. I hope to be an instrument of growth and change in Brooklyn's Latino community through increased business opportunities. This SBA loan will allow me to set up an office outside my home, close to where I can make the most of the services I have to offer."

-- **Enealia Nau, Small Business Owner from Brooklyn, NY.** Enealia Nau is a first-generation American, operates a small business consulting firm from her home in Brooklyn. After putting herself through college and law school, Ms. Nau started her consulting firm that focuses on the legal and financial needs of the minority communities from which she draws her clients. Ms. Nau helps families from minority communities realize the American dream through starting their own businesses—from beauty shops to corner stores—and buying their first homes.

Opening World Markets to American Goods

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, 10 million Americans were unemployed, new job creation was slow, and wages were stagnant. Other nations' high trade barriers limited the ability of American businesses and farmers to sell their goods abroad and hampered economic recovery. In addition, the country's trade policies failed to reflect our values by failing to take into account the responsibility to protect our environment, eliminate child labor and sweatshops and protect the rights of workers around the world.
- ✓ NOW: Increasing markets for American goods was a critical piece of President Clinton's economic strategy, and his work in reducing trade barriers has helped fuel our record economic growth over the last eight years.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the difficult fights to pass NAFTA and GATT through the Congress, creating the world's largest free trade zone and allowing American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration also concluded a historic agreement with China and won passage of Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, opening China's markets for U.S. goods and services, strengthening U.S.-China relations and continuing to pave the way toward economic freedom for the Chinese people.
 - For the past eight years, the United States has also led the world in developing successful responses to international economic crises, such as those in Asia, Mexico and Russia.
 - Progress made over the last eight years has recognized the importance of American values as the Administration has made historic strides in reaching global agreements to eliminate child labor, advance workers rights and protect the environment.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has guaranteed future competitiveness by making key investments in education and training for American workers, funding research and development and putting us on a path to eliminate the debt, which will keep interest rates low and investment and productivity high.
 - Because of these efforts, jobs supported by American exports grew by 1.4 million between 1994 and 1998, with jobs supported by exports paying about 13 percent to 16 percent above the U.S. national average. Lower foreign trade barriers contributed to the 36 percent growth in U.S. exports over the last five years.

Trade Expands Opportunity for American Workers

"Kodak and its employees have experienced significant gains because of NAFTA. The NAFTA has enabled Kodak to realize considerable tariff savings and to make production decisions based on rational economic grounds rather than on tariff considerations. For example, the agreement has enabled Kodak to transfer a high-cost sensitizing operation for color negative film from Mexico to Rochester, New York. In all, NAFTA has been a win-win-win for Kodak's operations in Canada, Mexico and the United States."

-- **Dan Carp, President and CEO of the Eastman Kodak company**, credits NAFTA with Kodak's rapid growth in export sales. The Eastman Kodak company manufactures a wide array of high technology imaging products for sale in 160 countries. Under NAFTA, Mexican duties on film and photo paper have been reduced from 15-30 percent to 6-9 percent, and they will be eliminated by 2004. Kodak's exports to Mexico have more than doubled since 1993, creating greater stability and more job opportunities for Kodak's 54,000 employees.

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"Harley-Davidson is growing rapidly, and sales to other countries is one reason why. President Clinton's efforts to open foreign markets have made a difference and helped create jobs at Harley-Davidson."

-- **Bobby Ramsey, Harley-Davidson Employee**. Bobby Ramsey began working at the Harley-Davidson York plant in 1972 as a Production Helper. He is now an Inspector, responsible for inspecting all incoming motorcycle parts prior to the assembly process. U.S. exports of motorcycles and parts have grown by 15 percent a year from 1987 to 1998, reaching one-third of industry sales. Harley-Davidson will export 22 percent of the motorcycles produced in Mr. Ramsey's plant. By 2003, Harley-Davidson expects to double production from 1996 levels largely because of exports, creating new jobs for American workers.

Building the New Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, America was on the brink of a new information age. Yet the U.S. edge in technology was beginning to erode in some of our prominent industries. Although the Cold War had ended, only 42 percent of the federal government's research and development investments went to civilian research. Computers were becoming more important to success, yet only three percent of America's classrooms had Internet connections.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore understood that to capitalize on the new technology revolution, we needed to support the development of new technologies and expand access to those technologies. Over the past eight years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made smart investments in technology that have helped build the New Economy, expand access to new technologies, and fuel our nation's remarkable economic progress.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration increased funding in civilian research and development by 43 percent, without significantly reducing the investment in defense research.
 - The President signed a 3-year moratorium on Internet access taxes and taxes that discriminate against e-commerce, won an agreement in the World Trade Organization to place a temporary moratorium on duties on electronic transmissions, and worked with Congress to extend the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore also increased education technology investments by over 3,000 percent, which has helped increase the number of classrooms connected to the Internet to 63 percent in 1999.
- The Administration has worked to eliminate the digital divide so that all Americans can benefit from the new economy. Since 1992, the President and Vice President have tripled funding for Community Technology Centers, which provide computer and Internet access in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods. President Clinton also challenged the private sector to develop new business models for low-cost computers and Internet access -- to make universal access at home affordable for all Americans. He mobilized major public and private efforts to bridge the digital divide during his third New Markets Tour, securing commitments from over 400 companies and non-profit organizations to help bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and opportunities.

Expanding Economic Opportunity by Closing the Digital Divide

"Bridging the technology gap in Indian Country is a major challenge, and I am grateful for the attention that the Clinton Administration has given to this critical issue. The National Congress of American Indians is building on the initiatives announced during the President's Digital Divide tour stop at the Navajo Nation in April 2000 through its Tribal Leaders Digital Divide Task Force, funded through the AOL Foundation. Through the Task Force, we are actively working with industry, federal officials, and others to forge a new tribal-based partnerships and policy recommendations to close the technology gap."

-- Susan Masten, President, National Congress of American Indians, and Chairwoman, Yurok Tribe. Susan Masten has served as a strong advocate for the betterment of Native communities on a local, state and national level for 22 years.

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"Community technology centers provide low-income individuals with skills training and the ability to produce their dreams. They are also an important entryway to the technology industry. We think of President Clinton as our first angel investor; his Administration's work has been fundamental to Plugged In and to the community technology center movement."

-- Magda Escobar, Executive Director, Plugged In, East Palo Alto, California. East Palo Alto, a low-income community, is located in Silicon Valley, the epicenter of the technological revolution. Plugged In trains teenagers and employs them in a web design business; provides a creative arts and technology studio and after-school program; and provides community members with access to computers and telecommunications equipment to increase their employment opportunities.

* * *

"I've seen teen-agers use technology as hope, hope of reaching a better standard of living, or as a tool of opportunity. By giving teen-agers access to technology, they do better in school and stay out of trouble."

-- Julian Lacey, 29, is a Silicon Valley Web designer who grew up in East Palo Alto, California. As a student at San Jose State University in 1995, Lacey started volunteering at Plugged In, an East Palo Alto community technology center that was supported by the Department of Commerce and a model for a new Department of Education initiative.

Longest Economic Expansion in History

- ✓ **Largest Surplus Ever:** The deficit was \$290 billion in 1993 and expected to grow to \$455 billion in FY 2000. Instead, the surplus in FY 2000 is \$237 billion — the third consecutive surplus and the largest surplus ever.
- ✓ **Largest Three-Year Debt Pay-Down in American History:** Between 1998-2000, the publicly held debt was reduced by \$363 billion — the largest three-year debt pay-down in American history. During the 12-year tenure of Presidents Reagan and Bush, the debt held by the public quadrupled. Under Clinton-Gore budget, we are on track to pay off the entire publicly held debt on a net basis by 2012.
- ✓ **Reduced Interest Payments on the Debt:** Interest payments on the debt were \$125 billion lower than projected. In 1993, the net interest payments on the debt held by the public were projected to grow to \$348 billion in 2000. Instead, Clinton-Gore economic plan slashed this figure by \$125 billion to just \$225 billion.
- ✓ **Americans Benefit From Reduced Debt:** Because of fiscal discipline and deficit and debt reduction, it is estimated that a family with a home mortgage of \$100,000 might expect to save roughly \$2,000 per year in mortgage payments -- effectively a large tax cut.
- ✓ **Double Digit Growth in Private Investment in Equipment and Software:** Lower debt will help maintain strong economic growth and fuel private investments. With government no longer draining resources out of capital markets, private investment in equipment and software averaged 12 percent annually since 1993 — the seventh year in a row of double-digit growth. This compares to 4.5 percent annual growth during the 1981-92 period.
- ✓ **Most New Jobs Ever Created Under a Single Administration:** The economy has created more than 22 million jobs in less than eight years — the most jobs ever created under a single administration, and more than were created in the previous twelve years. Of the total new jobs, 20.6 million, or 92 percent, are private sector jobs.
- ✓ **Strong Economic Growth:** Since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office, economic growth has averaged 4.0 percent per year compared to average growth of 2.8 percent during the Reagan-Bush years.
- ✓ **Lowest Inflation Since the 1960s:** Inflation is at the lowest rate since the Kennedy Administration, averaging 2.5 percent -- down from 4.7 percent during the last administration.
- ✓ **Highest Homeownership Rate on Record:** The homeownership rate reached 67.7 percent for the third quarter of 2000 -- the highest rate on record. In contrast, the homeownership rate fell from 65.6 percent in the first quarter of 1981 to 63.7 percent in the first quarter of 1993.
- ✓ **Family Incomes Up for All Americans:** Economic gains have been made across the spectrum as family incomes increased for all Americans. Since 1993, real median family income has increased by \$6,338 from \$42,612 in 1993 to \$48,950 in 1999.
- ✓ **Unemployment At Lowest Level in More Than 30 Years:** Overall unemployment has dropped to the lowest level in more than 30 years, down from more than 7 percent in 1993 to just 3.9 percent in October 2000. The unemployment rate for African Americans has fallen from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 7.3 percent in October 2000 -- the lowest rate on record. Unemployment for Hispanics has fallen from 11.8 percent in October of 1992 to 5.0 percent in October of 2000 -- also the lowest rate on record.
- ✓ **Lowest Poverty Rates on Record:** The poverty rates for African Americans, Asian Americans and single mothers are the lowest ever recorded. The poverty rate for Hispanics is the lowest since 1979.

- ✓ **Smallest Welfare Rolls in 32 Years:** Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the welfare rolls have dropped dramatically, by 7.8 million or 56 percent, and are now the lowest since 1968. Millions of parents have left welfare for jobs and a record 33 percent of current welfare recipients are now working. In comparison, between 1981-1992, the number of welfare recipients increased by 2.5 million (a 22 percent increase) to 13.6 million people, and less than 7 percent of welfare recipients were working in 1992.
- ✓ **Lowest Federal Income Tax Burden in 35 Years:** The EITC now lifts 4.1 million working families out of poverty. And thanks in part to the expanded EITC and targeted tax cuts -- such as the child tax credit and the HOPE scholarship and Lifetime learning tax credit -- lower and middle class families bear the lowest income tax burden in 35 years.
- ✓ **Reduced Federal Government Spending:** After increasing under the previous two administrations, federal government spending as a share of the economy has been cut from 22.2 percent in 1992 to 18 percent in 2000 -- the lowest level since 1966.

The Clinton Presidency: Expanding Education Opportunity

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have made improving education a cornerstone of their Administration, working to ensure that all Americans have the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in today's global information economy. Through their leadership, the President and Vice President have helped raise expectations for all students, supported states in developing and putting in place rigorous standards and systems of assessment and accountability, and invested in proven strategies to improve the educational performance of all students. President Clinton and Vice President Gore's commitment to invest more in our schools while also demanding more from them more has led to remarkable progress in key areas such as implementing standards and accountability, improving student performance, closing the achievement gap, expanding access to technology, and making higher education more affordable.

Raising Standards and Holding Schools Accountable for Results

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, test scores were falling and only 14 states had standards in core subjects. In 1990, only 38 percent of graduating high schools seniors had taken a core curriculum of four years of English and three years each of Math, Science and Social Studies. Fewer than 80 percent of the nation's highest-poverty schools received Title I funds, which are intended to aid the most disadvantaged schools. And students in disadvantaged schools faced watered-down curricula and low expectations instead of high standards that challenged them to succeed.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore launched an era of education reform based on setting high standards for all schools and students and providing the support to meet them. Higher standards have begun to pay off for America's students. Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools. Math SAT scores are at a 30-year high.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted Goals 2000 which has helped States establish standards of excellence for all children, and implement steps to meet those standards and to raise educational achievement. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, 49 states have implemented standards in core subjects and the proportion of of graduating high schools seniors completing a core curriculum has risen to 55 percent.
 - The President enacted legislation targeting Title I funds to high-poverty schools and requiring States and school districts to turn around low-performing schools. Today, nearly all of the nation's highest-poverty schools receive Title I funds. In 1999, the President enacted a new \$134 million Accountability Fund, which is helping school districts improve low-performing schools by investing in proven reforms.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to expand public school choice and to support the growth of public charter schools. In 1993, there was one charter school in the nation; today, there are more than 2,000.

Clinton-Gore Reforms Are Improving America's Schools

"Over the last eight years, President Clinton has proven a friend to education. Increased funding for critical investments, such as teacher development, greater resources and reduced class sizes, are just several contributions. Because of new investments in teacher quality, the staff at my school received intensive professional development in reading instruction that led to more effective teaching and improved test scores in all subjects. Additionally, our children now have access to the Internet in all of our classrooms, and our class sizes are decreasing from 25 to 18, allowing teachers to spend more time on individualized instruction and encouragement."

-- Ruth Summerlin, Principal, Bascomb Elementary School, Woodstock, Georgia. Beaufort Elementary serves a predominantly low-income population of 573 students in grades Pre-K through 5, and six years ago was classified as one of the worst 200 schools in South Carolina. After implementing a five-year school improvement plan, Beaufort Elementary has now been named a Blue Ribbon School. Test scores for the 1998-99 academic year indicated that their students were above the district and state averages in both reading and math. Beaufort has both after-school and summer school programs for remediation in both reading and math.

Administration's Efforts Produce Dramatic Charter School Expansion

"The charter school movement is one of the Administration's most important legacies. Its support for charter schools as a desirable and effective form of public school choice has helped convince millions of people, from State legislators to civil rights legend Rosa Parks to Arizona's teacher of the year Karen Butterfield, that the charter movement has great value. . . . The dramatic expansion of charter schools from one State and one school to 36 States and 1,700 schools is a direct result of the Administration's vigorous efforts."

-- Joe Nathan, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Social Change, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Improving the Quality of Education with High Quality Teachers

- ✓ THEN: Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, the federal government cut and continuously underfunded assistance for teacher recruitment and training, setting the stage for anemic investments in this priority for years to come. Large class sizes made it difficult for teachers to maintain order or give students the personal attention they need to ensure they learn the basics. In 1992, fewer than 80 percent of English and Math teachers had a college major or minor in their teaching field, and only 282 teachers were certified as National Board Teachers as recently as 1995.
- ✓ NOW: The Clinton-Gore Administration has made the recruitment, preparation, and training of high-quality teachers a priority, and investments in these programs have increased more than ten-fold since the 1980s. President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and enacted the Class Size Reduction Initiative, which is helping communities hire 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. They created Troops to Teachers in 1994 to help improve public school education by introducing the skills and experience of military service members into high-poverty schools. Thanks in part to the Clinton-Gore Administration's support of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the number of National Board Teachers has climbed to 4,804 in

1999. And in 1999, 86 percent of English teachers and 82 percent of Math teachers had a major or minor in their teaching field.

Clinton-Gore Reforms Are Improving America's Schools

"I have seen many education initiatives come and go over my 20 years of teaching but I have only a strong opinion on one. Anyone who teaches or mentors a child wishes they had more time to impact their life. We however cannot alter the laws of the universe and create more hours in the day. The simple and doable solution for making this extra time is President Clinton's class-size reduction initiative. Because we have more teachers teaching reading we have more time with the students each years. I have taught grades 1-5 but because of President Clinton's vision, I am now a reading initiative teacher. I can now work with staff and students at a variety of ages and ability levels to meet the goals of our reading program. The President's initiative has made it possible to create classrooms of 15 students or less at our school to ensure success for every student. My students will learn better this year because I have more time to spend with them and I will have more time thanks to President Clinton."

-- **Robin Davis, Elementary School Teacher.** Robin Davis is a reading teacher at Brooke Grove Elementary Olney, Maryland. She was hired with funds from the President's class size reduction initiative.

Expanding Access to Technology in Schools

- ✓ **THEN:** A decade ago, computers were largely luxuries found only in the most affluent school districts. In 1993, only three percent of classrooms had computers that were connected to the Internet, and in 1994 only 35 percent of public schools had Internet access. Students had little opportunity to learn to use computers and to explore the Internet, and the government had not mobilized its resources to expand the use of technology in our schools.
- ✓ **NOW:** Understanding the critical importance of incorporating technology into the classroom and ensuring equal opportunity for students to benefit from technology, the Clinton-Gore Administration made increasing access to technology in our schools a top priority. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created the E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. In addition, with the Vice President's leadership the E-rate has secured low-cost connections to the Internet for libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, providing discounts worth over \$2 billion annually. The number of classrooms connected to the Internet increased to 65 percent in 1999, while the number of public schools connected rose to more than 95 percent. President Clinton increased investments in educational technology and training from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY 2000.

Education Technology Connects Students to New Opportunities

Victor Shen, Whittier, Alaska. Victor Shen, a 16-year-old high school junior, is one of more than 30 million American children who are online because of the Clinton-Gore Administration's E-rate. Victor lives in Whittier Alaska, which is isolated from the rest of the world for six months out of the year because of its remote location and severe weather. Victor was cut off from commerce, cut off from transportation, cut off from society, and cut off from pursuing his dream for the future. Victor wanted to grow up to be a mathematician, but his teachers didn't have the best resources to teach him; nor could they afford an Internet connection to connect Victor to his dream. Thanks to Vice President Gore's leadership in securing the E-rate, Victor's school is now connected to the Internet and Victor is connected to learning and connected to his dream.

"The Internet allowed my students to go to a place and learn about something they could never have done before. The Internet erases boundaries of age and class. Everyone can access it in an equal way. In Paradise, this is especially important because of the limitations some of these children face."

-- Beth Paterson, fourth-grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, California. Paradise Elementary is a part of the Paradise Unified School District, which serves Paradise and Magalia, an isolated and rural community in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains with a significant low-income population. The E-Rate has allowed Paradise to build \$300,000 of network infrastructure, network computers and install T-1 lines.

Keeping Young People on the Path to Success

- ✓ **THEN:** In 1992, achievement for low-income high school students was lower than that of the national norm. Just 62 percent of high school graduates – and only 44 percent of low-income high school graduates – went on to college.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have invested in our young people to keep them in school and on the path to a successful future. President Clinton created GEAR UP, a nationwide college preparation and mentoring initiative, to provide early, sustained intervention and extra financial help to disadvantaged students. To date, GEAR UP has helped 700,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college academically and financially. President Clinton has also increased investments in after school programs, which have provided enriching after school and summer school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities. In addition, the \$15 million Advanced Placement Incentive initiative encourages low-income students to take AP classes and tests by paying test fees and strengthening instruction. The AP Initiative has already helped over 100,000 students. In 1998, the number of high school graduates going on to college had increased to 67 percent; by 1997, the number of low-income high school graduates going to college was up to 51 percent.

GEAR UP Helps Students Aim High

"Now I know what it takes to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. I am more focused than ever and there's no stopping me now!"

-- **Toya Doe, 7th grade GEAR UP student** at Sulzberger Middle School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Through GEAR UP, Toya has focused on her studies, learned more about college, and has been introduced to mentors and role models who can guide her in reaching her goals.

After School Programs Provide Safe Learning Opportunities for Students

"Juvenile crime is down 70 percent in Carbon County, and we can thank the coordinated efforts of everyone. The afterschool program plays a major part in keeping our kids off the streets and out of trouble."

-- **Judge Johansen, Utah.** In Price, Utah, the 21st Century Community Learning Center program is serving 11 sites and benefiting over 1,000 students in the Carbon School District. The program's goal – to improve academic performance through afterschool activities – is being met through a wide range of activities including tutoring, access to computers, extended library hours, parenting skills, nutrition and health programs, and summer and weekend remedial catch-up programs offered in conjunction with recreation programs.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Improve Student Achievement

"I truly believe that these extra curricular activities, made possible through the 21st CCLC grant, result in increased student achievement, greater self-esteem in students, and improved self-discipline. Thank you for making these opportunities possible for our students."

-- **Alyce Wallace, Moulton Elementary Extended Learning Center, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Opening the Doors of Higher Education to All Americans

- ✓ **THEN:** With tuition costs skyrocketing and little help from the government, middle class families were struggling to put their children through college. In 1992, only 43 percent of students benefited from federal student grants and loans, and more than 22 percent of student loan borrowers defaulted within two years of entering repayment. The maximum Pell Grant award was \$2,300, and its value had not kept up with inflation.
- ✓ **NOW:** To open the doors of college to all Americans, the Clinton-Gore Administration enacted the largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created HOPE Scholarships and Lifetime Learning tax credits, which were claimed in 1999 by an estimated 10 million American families struggling to pay for college. Lower student loan interest rates and fees have saved students over \$9 billion; the average \$10,000 loan costs a student \$1,300 less now than it did in 1993. The student loan default rate has fallen for seven straight years and is now a record-low 8.8 percent. President Clinton expanded the Work-Study program and increased the Pell Grant maximum award to \$3,300 – the highest amount ever. In 1999, 59 percent of students benefited from federal student grants and loans.

Hope Scholarship Expands Family College Opportunity

"My son is studying for a master's degree in chemistry, my daughter is a freshman at the University of Virginia, and I hope to return to school to finish my college degree in art history. It's hard to afford that much tuition, but the Hope Scholarship has made a real difference for my family. In combination with Virginia's public colleges and other financial aid, it's really a good picture."

-- **Catheryn Moore, Virginia.** In 1997, Catherine was attending Northern Virginia Community College, her son was a sophomore at the University of Virginia, and her daughter was a sophomore in high school. The Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credit won by President Clinton helped make her continuing education -- as well as the college education of her children -- more affordable for her family.

Direct Student Loans Make College Affordable for Students

"I never regret taking out student loans. I am a teacher. I affect young minds every single day. But the reality is that I still have almost \$40,000 in student loans. As a teacher, I don't make a lot of money. And I also need to help take care of my mother, who has had numerous surgeries and will undergo another this week, and support my brother. I appreciate the help I've gotten meeting my responsibility to repay loans, such as flexible payment plans and the economic hardship forbearance for temporary tough situations in repaying your student loans. President Clinton has also reduced student loan interest rates and made interest payments tax-deductible."

-- **Raquel Talley, 28-year-old substitute teacher in Prince George's County, Maryland** credits student loans with allowing her to earn a college degree and enter a profession she loves. To earn her B.A. and M.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University, she borrowed a total of \$45,000 in direct student loans and still owes about \$38,000. Because she helps support her mother and 30-year-old brother (who has diabetes) on her modest teacher's salary, she has twice enrolled in forbearance and is now enrolled in the extended flexible repayment plan.

"I need to graduate from college to pursue my dream of a career in information technology. That simply wouldn't be possible without student loans."

-- **Heather Ely, Junior at DePaul University.** Heather is majoring in computer information systems and hopes to pursue a career in the field of information technology. Heather is financing her college education largely on her own through both federal and private loans and a part time job at a local restaurant.

Improving Education for All of America's Children

- ✓ **More States Have Set High Standards:** In 1992, only 14 states had standards in core subjects; today, 49 states have them and 48 have assessments to measure student progress.
- ✓ **Reading and Math Scores Have Increased:** Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools.

- ✓ **Federal Funds are Targeted to Areas of Greatest Need:** The percentage of high-poverty schools receiving Title I funds rose from 79 percent in 1994 to 96 percent in 1998.
- ✓ **More Schools are Connected to the Internet:** The percentage of classrooms with Internet access increased from three percent in 1993 to 65 percent in 1999. In addition, 95 percent of schools are connected to the Internet, keeping us on track to reach our goal of connecting every school to the information superhighway.
- ✓ **Math SAT Scores are at a Thirty-Year High:** The average SAT math score has gone from 501 in 1992 to 514 in 2000, and the average verbal score has gone from 500 to 505 while more students from diverse backgrounds are taking the test than ever before.
- ✓ **More High School Graduates Going to College:** More high school graduates than ever are going directly to college. Especially notable are the increases in the college-going rate for low-income high school graduates, from 44 percent in 1992 to 51 percent in 1997, and for African American high school graduates, from 50 percent going directly to college in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1997.
- ✓ **Doubled Student Financial Aid:** Since 1993, student aid has doubled to nearly \$60 billion, and more students are benefiting from federal student grants and loans – 43 percent in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1999. The maximum Pell Grant has increased from \$2,300 in 1992 to \$3,300 in 2000.
- ✓ **Reduced Costs on Student Loans:** Lower student loan interest rates and fees have saved students over \$9 billion; the average \$10,000 loan costs a student \$1,300 less now than it did in 1993. New direct student loans have saved taxpayers over \$4 billion so far by eliminating lender subsidies.

The Clinton Presidency: Protecting Our Environment and Public Health

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office committed to demonstrating that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand-in-hand. Over the past eight years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has proven it: we now have the strongest economy and the cleanest environment in a generation. This Administration has invested in a common sense and cost-effective approach of new technologies, tougher enforcement of environmental laws, strengthening public health standards, and protecting our irreplaceable national treasures. President Clinton's environmental strategy has given our nation the cleanest air and water in a generation and the strongest economy in our nation's history – proving that you can both protect the environment and grow the economy.

Producing Cleaner, Healthier Communities

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, America's communities faced serious environmental problems. Lethargic federal clean-up efforts left 88 percent of the worst 1,200 toxic waste sites and their communities polluted after 12 years of federal efforts. Nearly 40,000 urban industrial sites sat abandoned with no federal strategy to redevelop them. Sixty-two million people lived in areas with drinking water below federal standards; nearly 157 million people – 62 percent of the country – breathed air that failed to meet federal standards.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore brought a renewed commitment to protecting and preserving the environment and today, more families live in cleaner, healthier communities.
 - They strengthened the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration adopted the toughest standards ever on soot and smog, which could prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths each year. They have announced significant reductions in tailpipe emissions from cars, light trucks and SUVs as well as reducing the level of sulfur in gasoline by 90 percent. Over the coming decade, these measures will cut smog-causing pollution from new vehicles by 77 to 95 percent, preventing 4,300 premature deaths, 260,000 asthma attacks among children, and 173,000 cases of childhood respiratory illness each year.
 - The Administration also launched a long-term effort to restore pristine skies and unspoiled views at the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Acadia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks and other natural treasures that draw 290 million visitors a year. And they announced a strategy to reduce harmful emissions of smog-causing nitrogen oxides and particulate matter from heavy-duty trucks and diesel fuels by over 90 percent.
 - The Clinton Administration accelerated the cleanup of the nation's worst toxic waste sites, freeing scores of communities from environmental threats and economic blight, completing clean-up of more than three times as many Superfund sites in the past eight years as were cleaned in the past eight. The President also launched initiatives to accelerate the cleanup of brownfields and remove barriers to their redevelopment.

- The Administration also expanded Americans' Right to Know about environmental hazards in their communities by doubling the number of chemicals that companies must report.

Critical Leadership for Clean Air

"Cleaning up big, dirty diesel trucks is critical to meet our nation's air quality goals and to protect the public health... We commend EPA Administrator Browner and President Clinton for proposing this forward-thinking effort."

– **John M. Coruthers, Jr., President, American Lung Association** on the Administration proposal to clean up all heavy-duty trucks and buses and dramatically reduce sulfur in diesel fuel starting in the 2007 model year.

"A lot can be done by nurses like myself to educate children and parents on how to live with asthma. It also takes strong leadership in government to reduce the pollution that has often been linked to asthma. [President Clinton is] a man who has used his high office to make cleaning the air and protecting children's health a priority." – **Gloria Hackman, School Nurse, Maury Elementary School, Alexandria, Virginia**, Ms. Hackman administers the Open Airways For Schools class – a program to teach asthmatic children how to cope with asthma – and spoke at an event with the President to announce the final standards of the Tier II/Low Sulfur Gasoline Rule, which will improve air quality by reducing pollution from vehicles by up to 95 percent by 2009.

Brownfields and Superfund Initiatives Revitalize America's Communities

"This is what urban revitalization is all about. This very site, which used to be the scourge of Fairfield County, is now the region's most exciting new entertainment venue... I'd be genuinely surprised if there's a more dramatic example of success with brownfields reclamation than right here at our ball park."

– **Mickey Herbert, majority owner, the Bridgeport Bluefish Baseball team, Bridgeport, Connecticut**, on the state of the art Harbor Yard sports complex – a former Brownfield.

"This allows us to participate in a program that is national in scope and touches just about every state... There are going to be many, many more fields where kids can play on that wouldn't be there except for EPA working with the United States Soccer Foundation."

– **Herb Giobbi, Executive Director, U.S. Soccer Foundation** on the EPA/USSF partnership to help communities build soccer fields on former Superfund sites.

Clinton-Gore Administration Empowers Communities by Expanding the Right-to-Know

"I have seen firsthand how important it is for communities to know what chemicals are being dumped into the environment. I applaud the Clinton Administration for working to make sure that all communities can know – after all, this affects our health, our children's health and our future."

– **Lorraine Ross, Clean Water Community Activist, San Francisco, California.** Lorraine Ross, fearing for the health of her family, started a campaign 18 years ago that led to the discovery that toxic chemicals had leaked from underground tanks at a local corporation into a nearby drinking-water well.

"The President has been such an extraordinary leader in fighting for the environment and protecting public health. Before "right to know," people didn't know what chemicals were being released into the environment. Now, times are changing, people and companies are more aware and our communities are better for it."

– **Doris McGuigan, Environmental Activist, Baltimore, Maryland.**

Preserving America's Treasures for Future Generations

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, many of America's natural treasures were at risk of development. A massive gold mine proposed not far from Yellowstone National Park threatened the world's first national park with toxic runoff and other environmental harm. Many were calling for more oil drilling in sensitive coastal areas and in areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. More than half of the historic wetlands in the continental United States had been lost.
- ✓ NOW: From the Red Rock Canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have preserved millions of acres in national parks, national monuments and wilderness areas. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also launched major reforms to reverse the loss of precious wetlands, setting a goal of a net increase of 100,000 acres of wetlands a year by 2005. The President defended Yellowstone National Park from potential toxic runoff from a proposed gold mine near the Park's boundary, and acquired land near the Park to expand critical habitat for bison. The Administration has also strongly opposed efforts to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the President vetoed legislation that would have opened the Refuge to new exploration. President Clinton worked with Congress to provide dedicated and protected funding for conservation and preservation programs, including his Lands Legacy initiative. The agreement will nearly double our investment in these programs, making it the largest annual investment in protecting our green and open spaces since President Roosevelt set our nation on the path of conservation nearly a century ago. The Administration is now working to provide long-term protection for more than 40 million acres of roadless areas within national forests. In addition, President Clinton and Vice President Gore protected America's oceans and coasts by extending the moratorium on new oil leasing off most of the U.S. coast through 2012, and permanently barred new leasing in national marine sanctuaries. The U.S. was also the first nuclear power to advocate a global ban on ocean dumping of low-level radioactive waste.

Leadership to Preserve National Treasures for Future Generations

"If my grandfather were here today, he would be overjoyed with what the Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the President are about to do. Perhaps the greatest challenge in conservation in our generation is to develop the political will to set aside enough of nature to sustain the diversity of plants and animals we ultimately depend on."

– **Peter Pinchot, Conservationist.** Peter Pinchot is the grandson of Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service under President Teddy Roosevelt and one of American history's most constructive land conservation leaders.

"To save these last, vast pieces of wild country from haphazard development means that my sons' children will have room as we do, to get lost or find their bearings, to meet in themselves some long forgotten ancestor's resourcefulness and grit, to take heart...Mr. President thank you for protecting this magnificent place for our future generations."

– **Ann Walka, Conservationist, Flagstaff, Arizona,** on the proclamation of the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument.

Managing and Using the Oceans Wisely

"If we are to protect, manage and use the oceans wisely, we must understand how they work. We are pleased to see that research is an important component of the Administration's agenda and applaud their efforts."

– **Robert B. Gagosian, Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.**

Protecting the Environment and Growing the Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, special interests and polluters defeated progress by saying that America could not protect the environment and grow the economy. As a result, America did neither. The false choice between the economy and the environment resulted in weak standards and lax enforcement that failed to hold polluters responsible. Meanwhile, the country had just begun to take steps to reward conservation and tap the economic potential of environmental technology and business.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore were determined to prove that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand-in-hand. They worked to grow green businesses by encouraging and rewarding new environmental technologies and significantly increased efforts to hold polluters accountable.
 - The Administration launched initiatives such as the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV) – an innovative research partnership with the Big Three automakers to develop cars with up to triple the fuel efficiency of today's models. The Clinton Administration also launched the Climate Change Technology Initiative to spur the development of clean energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global warming while saving money and creating jobs. The Administration also launched the National Environmental Technology Strategy to strengthen partnerships with the environmental business community and expand the federal government's role in

spurring innovation and growth in the industry. The Administration has also worked to promote the export of U.S. technology and expertise overseas. Since 1993, exports based on environmental technology and industry have more than doubled.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have significantly increased enforcement of environmental laws. Last year, EPA assessed a total of \$228.3 million in civil and criminal penalties, the most ever assessed and \$87 million more than in 1992. In addition, the EPA referred 241 criminal cases to the Justice Department, 322 defendants were charged and 2,500 total months of sentences were handed down, more than doubling enforcement activity in each category over 1992 levels.

Climate Change Technology Task Force is Moving America Toward Reducing Green House Gases While Growing the Economy

"The Clinton Administration deserves credit for seeing energy efficiency for what it is - an energy source that is essential for the economic health of our nation. The Climate Change Technology Initiative in particular is spurring new clean energy technologies that are paying off like a gusher for the American people. The important choices on energy and climate must be made with a clear eye on the contribution to the environment, the economy, national security, and international competitiveness delivered in the past and promised for the future by energy-efficiency."

– David M. Nemtzw, President, Alliance to Save Energy

Protecting the Environment and Improving Public Health

- ✓ **More Americans Have Safe Drinking Water:** The number of Americans with safe drinking water has increased by 23.2 million since 1993. In 1993, 79 percent of Americans lived in areas with tap water that meets all federal standards. Today, more than 90 percent live in areas served by systems that meet all federal standards.
- ✓ **More Americans Breathe Clean Air:** The number of Americans living in communities meeting clean air standards has increased by 44 million since 1992. New strong standards on smog and soot could prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year, and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses
- ✓ **More Than Three Times as Many Toxic Waste Sites Cleaned:** Since 1993, the Administration has completed more than 620 cleanups of Superfund sites – more than three times as many as were completed in the previous 12 years. Cleanup is completed or underway at 92 percent of all Superfund sites.
- ✓ **Redeveloping Brownfields Sites:** The Clinton-Gore Administration has leveraged more than \$2.3 billion in private sector investment, and generated 6,400 jobs through the brownfields redevelopment initiative.
- ✓ **Protected More Land than Any Administration in History:** The Clinton-Gore Administration has protected more land as national monuments in the lower 48 states – more than 4.6 million acres – than any Administration. President Clinton has created 11 national monuments – including Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah; Grand Canyon-Parashant in Arizona; Agua Fria in Arizona; Giant Sequoia in California; and the California Coastal monument – and has expanded two others.

- ✓ **Doubled the Number of Chemicals Reported:** President Clinton has doubled the number of chemicals subject to reporting in the nation's Toxic Release Inventory. The number of facilities subject to reporting has increased by 10 percent. Since 1992, emissions of the toxic chemicals from manufacturers have decreased by more than 20 percent.
- ✓ **New Jobs in the Environmental Industry:** Since 1993, 130,000 new jobs have been created in environmental industries such as recycling, renewable energy, waste management and environmental clean-ups.
- ✓ **More Than Doubled Exports Based on Environmental Technology:** Since 1993, exports based on environmental technology and industry have more than doubled, increasing from \$9.4 million in 1993 to \$20 million in 1999.
- ✓ **Record Penalties for Polluters:** Record civil and criminal penalties were assessed against polluters by the EPA last year. In FY 1992, the EPA referred 107 criminal cases to the Department of Justice, 150 defendants were charged and a total of 1,135 months of criminal sentences were handed down. In FY 1999, the EPA referred 241 criminal cases to the Justice Department, 322 defendants were charged and 2,500 total months of sentences were handed down. In addition, \$228.3 million worth of civil penalties were assessed in FY 1999, the highest amount ever. In FY 1992, combined civil and criminal penalties totaled just \$141.4 million.

The Clinton Presidency: Improving the Nation's Health Care

From the first days of his Administration, President Clinton has worked to expand access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. The President has strengthened the Medicare program, increased access and improved the quality of our nation's health care system. President Clinton's balanced approach to increasing access to quality health care has paid off for America, with the number of uninsured Americans declining for the first time in 12 years in 1999.

Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare

- ✓ THEN: Eight years ago, the Medicare Trust Fund was expected to run out of money in 1999. Health care fraud was contributing to rising costs and a shaky financial future for the Medicare program. The President and Vice President succeeded in passing measures to strengthen and modernize Medicare, crack down on fraud, and protect the benefits of today's beneficiaries.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the most comprehensive Medicare reforms in history. They insisted on provisions in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to protect, modernize and extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund, while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care. The Balanced Budget Act also provided an array of new weapons in our fight to keep scam artists and fly-by-night health care out of Medicare and Medicaid. President Clinton has assigned more federal prosecutors and FBI agents to fight health care fraud than ever before. The Clinton-Gore Administration's work has extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund until 2025.

Reforming the Insurance Market

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, there were no Federal protections to ensure the portability of health benefits for workers in between jobs or to prevent discrimination based on health status. Every year, an estimated 25 million Americans had breaks in their health care coverage because they changed jobs, or were self employed, or had preexisting conditions that could lead an insurance company to deny coverage. A technological revolution presented new challenges in safeguarding the privacy of Americans' medical records.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore took on these new challenges and enacted critical reforms to the insurance market that have helped millions of Americans keep their health insurance.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which helps people keep health insurance when they change jobs, guarantees renewability of coverage, and ensures access to health insurance for small businesses.
 - The President enacted mental health parity provisions to help eliminate discrimination against Americans with mental illnesses, and instituted new protections for mothers and their newborns and women recovering from mastectomies.
 - President Clinton also issued landmark Federal regulations protecting the privacy of electronic medical records and issued an executive memorandum preventing genetic discrimination in Federal hiring and promotion actions.
 - Because Congress failed to pass a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights, President Clinton directed the federal government to ensure that the important new benefits and rights that health care

consumers receive under the Administration's proposed Patients Bill of Rights are guaranteed to federal employees, veterans, Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and individuals covered by the Indian Health Service and the Military Health System, including choice of providers and plans, access to emergency services, participation in treatment decisions, confidentiality of health information and a fair complaint and appeals process.

Executive Action Guarantees Medical Privacy

"The Administration has made significant headway where Congress could not [on medical privacy] to restore public trust and confidence in our nation's health care system."

-- **Janlori Goldman**, October 29, 1999. Janlori Goldman, considered to be one of the leading medical privacy experts nationwide, directs the Health Privacy Project at Georgetown University's Institute for Health Care Research and Policy. The Project is dedicated to ensuring that people's privacy is safeguarded in the health care environment.

Improving and Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

- ✓ THEN: The number of uninsured – especially uninsured children – was growing. People with disabilities who wanted to work could not for fear of losing their health insurance, and young people leaving foster care could not retain the critical health insurance they needed to make a healthy start as adults. Unlike many other American workers, self-employed Americans received absolutely no tax assistance in purchasing health care insurance.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton came into office determined to expand access to health care for all Americans. His work has led to the first decrease in the number of uninsured Americans in twelve years.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the largest investment in health care for children since 1965, providing health care for up to five million children with the State Children's Health Insurance Program. They also led aggressive outreach efforts to enroll eligible children.
 - President Clinton enacted landmark legislation providing new health insurance opportunities for working people with disabilities and enacted new legislation to help young people leaving foster care keep their health insurance, as well as legislation to assure that self-employed Americans receive the same tax benefits as workers who have job-based health coverage.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has improved quality and access of long term care. The Clinton Administration has made ensuring the health and safety of nursing home residents a top priority and has issued the toughest nursing home regulations in the history of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, requiring states to crack down on nursing homes that repeatedly violate health and safety requirements and changing the inspection process to increase the focus on preventing bedsores, malnutrition and resident abuse. They also enacted legislation simplifying state options to expand eligibility and design community based long term care programs, allowing seniors and people with disabilities to receive care in their homes rather than in institutional settings. And the Administration enacted legislation allowing the Federal government to serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees.
 - In October 2000, President Clinton enacted the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, which provides new treatment options to low-income, uninsured women with breast cancer who are diagnosed through federally sponsored screening programs.

Children's Health Insurance Program Provides Security for Families

"When we found the Healthy Families program, it was like a miracle. Now my kids have a regular doctor who knows our family. I don't have to worry about taking them in for their school physicals or for their vaccinations. They can run around and climb on things and jump off things and the only thing I really need to worry about is if they get their clothes dirty. Because of the Healthy Families program, my husband and I can make sure that our kids grow up healthy."

-- **Evelyn Alvarado, California.** Evelyn Alvarado, enrolled her children in California's CHIP program (Healthy Families) in June 1999. Before they enrolled in Healthy Families, Evelyn's children – Daniel (aged 13), Mary (aged 11), and Samuel (aged 8) –were uninsured for eight years and only saw the doctor in the case of emergencies.

Ensuring that All Americans Have Access to Cancer Prevention and Treatment

The National Breast Cancer Coalition applauds this Administration for its dedication and commitment to furthering substantive breast cancer policies that move us closer to eradicating this disease. From enhancing access to quality clinical trials, to enacting an optional Medicaid bill that would ensure treatment for low-income women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer through federal programs – the Clinton Administration leaves a legacy of unprecedented progress for women with breast cancer, their families and friends.

-- **Fran Visco, President, National Breast Cancer Coalition**

Improving Public Health

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, America's public health delivery system was badly in need of repair: half of two year olds did not receive their immunizations, infant mortality rates were too high, and funding for biomedical research was inadequate.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore have improved our public health system and made investments that have given us a healthier America. They have increased child immunizations, implemented new food safety protections, increased research funding and became the first Administration to take on the tobacco industry to reduce teen smoking.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore raised childhood immunization rates to record levels by investing in the Childhood Immunization Initiative in 1993. More than 90 percent of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and again in 1998. The infant mortality is at an all-time low, and has declined by 15.2 percent since 1992.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration improved the safety of food for all Americans by seeking substantial funding for such initiatives as a nationwide early-warning system for foodborne illness, increased inspections, and the expansion of food-safety research, risk assessment and education. The Administration has also put into place improved science-based standards for meat, poultry, and seafood products and enacted strict new standards for pesticide residues in food, including the first pesticide standards aimed specifically at protecting children.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore have increased funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$7.3 billion (58 percent), and they have strongly supported the efforts of the National

Human Genome Research Institute to map the entire human genome, which will revolutionize health care in the future.

- The Clinton-Gore Administration took on the tobacco industry by developing the first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco, and calling on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also made our nation's health a priority by establishing smoke-free federal workplaces, raising the federal tobacco tax, and by giving the American people their day in court against the tobacco manufacturers who engaged in decades of deception about the dangers of tobacco.

Raising Immunization Rates To an All Time High Ensures A Healthy Future for All Children

"President Clinton and those in his administration have made immunizations a priority since day one. ... By launching the Children's Vaccine Initiative seven years ago, the Clinton Administration has increased vaccination rates to an all-time high. As a result, many infants and children will not suffer from such preventable diseases as polio and measles."

-- Joe M. Sanders, Jr., M.D., Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics.

Improving the Nation's Health Care

- ✓ **Strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund:** Medicare is in the soundest shape since 1975, with the life of the Trust Fund extended until 2025. In 1992, Medicare was expected to run out of money in 1999.
- ✓ **Number of Uninsured Declines:** From 1998 to 1999, the number of Americans with health insurance rose by 1.7 million -- two-thirds of them children. This is the first decline in the number of uninsured in 12 years.
- ✓ **More Children Have Health Insurance:** 2.5 million additional children have access to health care because they have enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- ✓ **Immunizations at All-Time High:** Childhood immunization rates are at an all-time high with more than 90 percent of America's toddlers receiving the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and 1998.
- ✓ **Infant Mortality at All-Time Low:** Infant mortality has declined by 15.2 percent since 1992.
- ✓ **Cancer Deaths Have Stopped Rising:** For the first time, cancer death rates have stopped rising, despite a growing and aging population.
- ✓ **New AIDS Infections Declined:** For the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, new AIDS infections declined, and the latest data available indicates a decrease in HIV/AIDS mortality of 42 percent.
- ✓ **Improved Food Safety:** From 1997 to 1999, illness from the most common foodborne pathogens declined by 20 percent -- which means nearly a million fewer Americans are suffering from foodborne illnesses each year. In addition, infections from *E. coli* O157:H7 are down 22 percent due to improved sanitation in slaughter and processing plants; and infections from *Salmonella enteritidis* are down 50 percent due, in part, to Administration efforts to decrease contamination in eggs.
- ✓ **Lowest Teen Birth Rate on Record:** The teen birth rate is the lowest ever recorded, falling in each year of the Clinton-Gore Administration, for an overall decline of 18 percent from 1992 to 1999. The teen pregnancy rate is also at a record low.
- ✓ **Extended Protections to People in HMOs:** Protections included in the Patients' Bill of Rights have been extended to 85 million people covered by Federal health plans, and Medicare and Medicaid.

- ✓ **Extended Insurance Coverage of Contraceptives:** Insurance coverage of contraceptives has been extended to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age covered by federal health plans.
- ✓ **Record High Levels of Biomedical Research:** NIH supports the highest levels of research ever on nearly all types of disease and health conditions, making new breakthroughs possible in vaccine development and use, the treatment of chronic disease, and prevention and treatment of diseases such as diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, cancer, and neurological diseases like Alzheimers and Parkinsons.

The Clinton Presidency: A Foreign Policy for the Global Age

President Clinton understood from the beginning of his presidency that the most pervasive force in our world is globalization. He also understood that while globalization is inexorable, its benefits are not – although it does have qualities we can harness to advance our objectives of democracy, shared prosperity and peace. The way for America to exercise its influence today is to build with our democratic partners an international system of strong alliances and institutions attuned to the challenges of a globalized world, to ensure this system is genuinely open to all who adhere to clearly defined standards, and to be ready to stand up for those standards when they are threatened. The broad outlines of a foreign policy for the global age can't be summed up on a bumper sticker, but they are reflected in the principles that have guided the Clinton foreign policy over the past eight years.

Our Alliances with Europe and Asia are the Cornerstone of Our National Security, but They Must be Constantly Adapted to Meet Emerging Challenges.

These core alliances are today stronger and arguably more durable because they are organized to advance an enduring set of shared interests, rather than to defeat a single threat. President Clinton broke new ground in 1993 by welcoming our European and Asian allies' desire to play a more responsible role while maintaining our troops and adapting our alliances in both regions.

Working for a Peaceful, Democratic, Undivided Europe

- **Revitalized, adapted and expanded NATO** from a static Cold War alliance to a magnet for new democracies, with new partners, members and missions; adapted its command structure; admitted Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic; created Partnership for Peace.
- **Led NATO in its first military engagement** and stopped the killing in Bosnia. The peace we brokered in Dayton has been sustained, a civil society complete with active opposition parties and non-governmental organizations is taking root, and national and local elections have taken place throughout the country.
- **Took military action in Kosovo to stop ethnic cleansing and regional instability.** Forced withdrawal of Serb forces and deployed an international presence in Kosovo – with a 47,000 strong NATO-led force providing security for the province. Achieved the safe and unconditional return of over 900,000 refugees, disbanded the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Adapting and Upholding our Alliance with Asia

- **Updated our strategic alliance with Japan** through adoption of the Defense Guidelines and Joint Security Declaration to define how to respond together to post-Cold War threats.
- **Reduced the North Korean threat** through deterrence, diplomacy. Negotiated the October 1994 Framework Agreement to freeze and dismantle North Korea's dangerous nuclear weapons fuel production and a moratorium on long-range missile testing in 1999.
- **Strengthened cooperation with South Korea** to move forward to engage North Korea. Jointly engaged in Four Party Talks and established Trilateral Group (the United States, Japan and South Korea) to coordinate North Korea policy which helped create the conditions for an eventual North-South dialogue.

Peace and Security for the United States Depends on Building Principled, Constructive, Clear-Eyed Relations with Our Former Adversaries.

We must continue to be mindful of threats to the peace – whether it is a Russian move against Georgia or a Chinese move against Taiwan – while maximizing the chances that both nations evolve internally toward greater democracy, stability and prosperity. To achieve both goals, we must continue to seize on the desire of both Russia and China to participate in the global economy and global institutions, insisting they accept the obligations as well as the benefits of integration.

Building on Our Relationship with Russia

- **Negotiated the exit of Russian troops** from the Baltics, brought Russian troops into NATO missions in the Balkans and won Russia's active support for a just end to the Kosovo war.
- **Brought Russia into the G-8, APEC, and into relationships with NATO and international financial institutions.**
- **Reduced the nuclear danger.** Deactivated/dismantled over 1,700 nuclear warheads, 300 missile launchers, 425 ICBM and SLBMs; strengthened security and accounting of nuclear materials; purchased 500 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium; reached agreement for the safe, transparent and irreversible destruction of 68 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium.
- **Supported economic reform and the creation of a market economy.** More than 250,000 Russian entrepreneurs have received U.S. training, consulting services or loans. Today 70 percent of the Russian economy is in private hands.

Building on Our Relationship with China

- **Helped maintain peace in the Taiwan Straits** and worked with China to maintain **stability on Korean Peninsula.**
- **Brought China into global non-proliferation regimes** – Chemical Weapons Convention, CTBT and Biological Weapons Convention.
- **Negotiated terms for China's entry into the World Trade Organization, with Permanent Normal Trade Relations.** Most constructive breakthrough in U.S.-China relations since normalization in 1979 – will entangle China more deeply in a rules-based international system and change China internally.

Local Conflicts can have Global Consequences. The Purpose of Peacemaking, Whether by Diplomacy or Force, Must be to Resolve Conflicts Before They Escalate and Harm Our Vital Interests.

In a global age, arguments for peacemaking are even stronger: to defuse conflicts before they escalate and harm our interests. America's dominant power is more likely to be accepted if it is harnessed to the cause of peace.

- **Middle East:** Brought parties together at Camp David for first high level discussions of all permanent status issues. Helped forge agreements that led to the Declaration of Principles in September 1993 and the Interim Agreement on Palestinian self-rule in September 1995. Brokered the Wye agreement in October 1998, revitalizing the peace process after years of stagnation. Helped broker the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum against terrorism in September 1999, and the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel in October 1994.
- **Balkans:** Stabilizing Southeast Europe by ending a decade of repression and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Led NATO alliance to victory in air campaign and ushering in international

peacekeepers. Launched the Stability Pact to strengthen democracy, economic development and security throughout the region, and accelerating its integration with the rest of Europe and freeing Europe from a permanent refugee crisis and source of conflict.

- **Greece and Turkey:** Encouraged Greek-Turkish *rapprochement*. Strongly supported Turkey's European Union candidacy. Restarted talks toward a comprehensive settlement on Cyprus.
- **India and Pakistan:** Helped them move from the brink of what might have been a catastrophic war in July 1999.
- **Northern Ireland:** Helped broker the Good Friday Peace Accord, ending decades of bloodshed and empowering the people of Northern Ireland to determine their future.
- **Peru and Ecuador:** Worked with other regional governments to halt the 1995 border war between Peru and Ecuador.
- **Eritrea and Ethiopia:** Worked with Organization of African Unity to broker a cease fire and continue working for a comprehensive peace agreement.

Not All Old Threats have Disappeared, but New Dangers, Accentuated by Technological Advances and the Permeability of Borders, Require New National Security Priorities.

One of the biggest changes we have brought about in the way America relates to the world has been the change in what we consider important. The Clinton Administration has defined a new security agenda that addresses contemporary threats – nonproliferation, terrorism, international crime, infectious disease, environmental damage.

- **Nonproliferation:** Permanently eliminated nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles from Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and achieved the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Terrorism:** Developed a national counter-terrorism strategy, led by a national coordinator. Brought perpetrators of World Trade Center bombing and CIA killings to justice. Prevented planned attacks against Millennium celebrations.
- **Cyber Security:** Developed first national strategy to protect critical infrastructure, bringing together private sector and government. Increased funding on critical infrastructure protection by over 40 percent since 1998.
- **Chemical and Biological Weapons:** Strengthened international support for and adherence to CWC/BWC. Equipped and trained first responders in 120 largest metro areas.
- **Environment:** Brought climate change issues into the mainstream of our foreign policy. Negotiated Kyoto protocol in 1997 to establish a strong, realistic framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in environmentally strong and economically sound way.
- **Infectious Disease:** Made the international fight against deadly infectious diseases a national security priority. Introduced the issue to the U.S.-EU Summit, the United Nations Millennium Assembly, and the G-8 Summit in Okinawa and mobilized billions from our international partners. More than doubled foreign assistance for HIV/AIDS. Working to accelerate the development of vaccines for AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other major disease threats through the President's Millennium Vaccine Initiative.
- **International Crime:** Intensified interdiction efforts, cracking down on drug lords and providing \$1.6 billion in assistance for Colombia. Combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with an integrated strategy that focuses on prevention, prosecution of traffickers and protection of and assistance to victims.

Economic Integration Advances Both Our Interests and Our Values, but Also Accentuates the Need to Alleviate Economic Disparity.

As the first president who has understood the connections of the global economy and its connection to our prosperity, President Clinton has led the United States toward its greatest expansion in world trade in history – from \$4 to \$6.6 trillion a year. President Clinton has opened markets for U.S. exports abroad and created American jobs through nearly 300 other free and fair trade agreements, contributing to the longest economic expansion in our history.

- **Completed the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations** and created the WTO to reduce tariffs, settle trade disputes and enforce rules.
- **Ratified the North America Free Trade Association**, cementing strategic trade relationships with our immediate neighbors. U.S. exports to Mexico grew 109 percent from 1993 to 1999, compared with growth to the rest of the world of 49 percent.
- **Strong U.S. growth and maintenance of open markets** was in no small measure responsible for the recovery of the Asian economy which again is fueling global growth.
- **Helped rescue Mexico's economy** with \$20 billion in emergency support loans that were repaid in full with interest.
- **Supported the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative** at the G-7 Summit in Cologne in June 1999, to provide deeper multilateral debt reduction for poor countries with unsustainable debt burdens.
- **Won approval of Permanent Normal Trade Relations** with China that will integrate it into the world economy through entry into the WTO, open Chinese market to U.S. exports, slash Chinese tariffs and protect American workers and companies against dumping.
- **Won approval of the Caribbean Basin Initiative** enhancement legislation to promote economic prosperity in Central America and the Caribbean.
- **Launched and won approval for African Growth and Opportunity Act** to support increased trade and investment between the United States and Africa, strengthen African economies and democratic governments, increase partnerships to counter terrorism, crime, environmental degradation and disease.

The Clinton Presidency: Strengthening American Families

In 1992, the economy was stagnant. Middle class families were working harder for less money. Unemployment reached 7.5 percent, the highest level in 8 years, with record layoffs doubling or tripling unemployment rates in many communities. Family wages lost ground to inflation between 1988-92, yet the federal government failed to move to create jobs, raise wages, and put America back to work. New jobs were being created at the slowest rate in decades. Because losing a job meant losing the family's health insurance, middle class families could lose their savings, their homes or become trapped in a broken welfare system trying to cover health costs.

Moving Families from Welfare to Work

- ✓ THEN: In 1992 a broken welfare system made it virtually impossible to move from welfare back to work, trapping families in a cycle of dependency. There were 13.6 million people on welfare when President Clinton came to office – 5.5 percent of the population. Just seven percent of those on welfare were working. And the federal government was doing little to encourage parental responsibility. For example, only \$8 billion in child support was collected through federal and state efforts, and teen birth rates were increasing dramatically.
- ✓ NOW: The landmark welfare reform signed by President Clinton in 1996 has transformed the welfare system to one that promotes work and responsibility, while protecting children.
 - Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the welfare rolls have been cut in half to the lowest level since 1968, dropping to 6.3 million people or 2.3 percent of the population. Today, most recipients are expected to work, millions of parents have left welfare for jobs, and a record 33 percent of current welfare recipients are now working -- five times as many as in 1992.
 - The President launched The Welfare to Work Partnership to lead the private sector effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. Now over 20,000 businesses strong, the Partnership has helped an estimated 1.1 million welfare recipients move to employment.
 - Under Vice President Gore's leadership, the Administration has also done its fair share, hiring nearly 50,000 welfare recipients since March 1997 and fostering partnerships with community and faith-based organizations that help families move from welfare to work and succeed on the job.
 - The Administration has put in place tough child support enforcement measures to hold absent parents accountable, while helping low income fathers go to work and meet their responsibilities and federal and state child support collections doubled to nearly \$16 billion in 1999.
 - To help families make the transition from welfare to work and support low-income working families, the Clinton-Gore Administration provided nearly 200,000 new housing vouchers, helped families meet their nutritional needs, improved transportation options through grants to communities and made it easier for families to own a reliable car without losing food stamps, and invested in child care.

Welfare to Work is Helping Americans Build Better Lives

"I have made a better life for my girls and myself. Just because a person was on welfare, doesn't mean that they can't get out and work. They just need a chance and because of the President's leadership on this issue, I'm living proof that it can be done."

-- **Rhonda Costa, Salomon Smith Barney.** Rhonda Costa didn't dream much when she was on welfare. She spent her days trying to pay her bills with a \$280 a month welfare check and her nights shielding her two daughters from stray gunfire in a one-bedroom apartment. Rhonda decided to change her life after her oldest daughter told Rhonda to get up and do something with her life. She enrolled with Wildcat Service Corporation, a New York service provider that trains welfare recipients for jobs. After a 16-week training course, Rhonda was hired by Salomon Smith Barney, and through a promotion has been an office manager for two years and has an assistant of her own. Through Salomon Smith Barney's tuition reimbursement program, Rhonda is taking a class at Borough of Manhattan Community College for her business management degree.

The Welfare to Work Partnership is Mobilizing the Private Sector to Provide Job Opportunities for Welfare Recipients

"As one of the founding members of the Welfare to Work Partnership, I knew welfare reform was not going to work unless there were jobs in the private sector open to people leaving welfare. I also knew that United needed to set an example, so we set a goal of hiring 2,000 people from welfare by 2000. Our company has now exceeded that goal, because the President understood how to encourage, cajole, and continually challenge the private sector to step up to the plate and do their part. Through the Welfare to Work Partnership, I believe the President achieved the single most comprehensive mobilization of the private sector in peacetime – over 20,000 companies have now hired over 1 million people who are leaving welfare and taking the first step toward the American dream."

-- **Gerald Greenwald, Chairman Emeritus, United Airlines and Chairman of the Board, The Welfare to Work Partnership.** United Airlines is one of the five founding companies of the Welfare to Work Partnership. United has implemented a volunteer mentoring program with current United employees that help with workplace questions and offer encouragement. This strategy has contributed to the company's success in hiring welfare to work employees, nearly doubling retention rates, and enhancing morale and creating a better working environment for all United employees.

Promoting Responsible Fatherhood

"With the help of this [fatherhood] program I am proud to say that I am on my way to a rewarding career in electronics technology and computer science, and am again paying my child support regularly. I know that Ricardo is proud of me, and I am glad that I can be a good role model for him... I want to thank the President for supporting fathers and programs for fathers like the one I am involved in."

-- **Carlos Rosas, St. Paul, Minnesota.** Carlos Rosas enrolled in a fathers' employment and training program in October 1996 when he was not earning enough money to keep up with his child support obligation for his son, Ricardo, who is now 14 years old. During his time with the program operated by the Ramsey County Child Support office, Carlos worked hard to upgrade his skills and increase his earning power so he could meet his child support responsibilities, save money to send Ricardo to college, and improve his own future. In May 1999, Carlos graduated from St. Paul Technical College and immediately landed a job as an electronics technician. In July 2000, Carlos was hired by Check Technology Corporation as a Systems Technician.

Helping American Workers with Transportation

"Because of my new, reliable car, I now will be able to get to and maintain a full-time job...I know that this car will be very helpful in reaching my goal of leaving public assistance and supporting my family on my own... I am glad the President understands how important it is for people like me to have reliable transportation as they are working to support their families."

-- **Michael Alexander, of Westfield, New York.** Michael is a 25-year-old single father of two. He lives in an area with very limited public transportation and since he did not own a car, it had been very difficult for him to maintain steady employment. Through the help of a federally-funded, county run program, EARNA CAR, he attended classes about car maintenance, helped repair a donated car, worked out a manageable loan payment with the help of a local bank, and was able to purchase a used vehicle. Since he bought the car, Mr. Alexander has been able to secure full-time employment and moved from welfare to work.

Helping Families Succeed on the Job And At Home

- ✓ THEN: Working families faced special problems in attempting to succeed at home and on the job. The Family and Medical Leave Act had been vetoed twice, denying parents 12 weeks of leave to care for a newborn child or sick family member. Paychecks of working families continued to lose pace to inflation, dropping 4.3 percent in real value. Quality child care for working families was increasingly difficult to find and afford, and federal assistance served a small fraction of those who needed help.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton has kept his promise to make it easier for families that work hard and play by the rules to make ends meet and care for their children.
 - President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993 – the first law he signed as President. Today, more than 20 million Americans have taken unpaid leave to care for a newborn child or sick family member.
 - To help hard-pressed working families, President Clinton passed a \$500 per child tax credit, a \$1 per hour increase in the minimum wage, and provided tax cuts for 15 million working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides the average family receiving the EITC with \$1,000 per year.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has significantly expanded child care opportunities for working families. They have more than doubled funding for federal child care, which now provides assistance to 1.5 million families. The welfare reform law signed by President Clinton provided an additional \$4 billion over six years, more than had ever been spent before, in child care assistance to families moving from welfare to work and other low-income families. The Administration has also provided after-school opportunities to approximately 850,000 children so that more parents know that their children are in safe learning environment during the after-school hours. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have nearly doubled funding for the Head Start program, expanded the program to more than 160,000 additional children, enacted critical quality improvements, and created the Early Start program targeted to development of younger children.
 - The President fought for and signed new legislation giving parents new tools to protect their children from media violence by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips (V-chips) in all new televisions. The President also worked with the entertainment industry to create a new ratings system for television programs and the computer industry to establish ratings for video games.

- The Clinton-Gore Administration also took on the tobacco industry by developing the first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco, and calling on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan.
- President Clinton signed the Foster Care Independence Act. This law is designed to help the 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. It ensures that these young people will get the tools they need to make the most of their lives by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other services.

Enabling People to Spend Time with Loved Ones Through The Family And Medical Leave Act

"There are no precise words to describe what the FMLA meant to our family . . . Without this law, our family could never have made the precious memories that we now hold so dear."

-- **Kenny Weaver, Father.** Kenneth Weaver works as a technician at a petroleum plant. In 1993, Mr. Weaver learned that a rare, incurable cancer afflicting his 11-year-old daughter, Melissa, was worsening. At Melissa's doctor's urging, he immediately asked his supervisors for 12 weeks of family leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act. For the next seven weeks, Mr. Weaver and his wife spent every moment they could with Melissa and her two younger sisters. They traveled to Chicago to see relatives. They visited the Museum of Science and Industry. And, through the efforts of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, they toured the White House and met with President Clinton. Melissa died six days later, on Oct. 2, 1993. Kenny Weaver says that without the Family and Medical Leave Act, he would have had to choose between the emotional needs of his oldest daughter and the economic needs of his two younger girls. But the law gave him the job security he needed to share in the last weeks of his daughter's life.

Targeted Tax Cuts Helping Hard-Pressed Working Families

"With the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit we were able to pay off our debts, so we could afford the mortgage payments to buy a home and we bought a used van that we fixed up. The EITC was worth a mortgage payment for a month. That was a boost that my husband and I really appreciated. It kind of rewarded the hard work he put in, just when we really needed it."

-- **Jessica Cupp of Thurmont, Maryland,** is a married mother of 2-year-old triplet girls. The Cupp triplets were born 26 weeks into Jessica's pregnancy at very low birth weights and with several medical problems. Jessica was forced to give up her work at a childcare center in order to care for her own three children. For 1998 and 1999, the Cupp family applied for and received Earned Income Tax Credit refunds as well as child tax credits that they would not have received had it not been for the 1993 EITC expansion and the new child tax credit. This money has helped the family to pay off debt accrued when the triplets were born, to move into a home more suited for raising 3 children, to trade in their 2-door vehicle for a van, and has allowed Jessica to stay home and care for their three growing daughters.

Providing Opportunities to Foster Care Children

"I have several younger foster siblings still at home... I have lots of hope for their future – and even more now with the passage of this bill. I have no doubt that this action will have a positive effect on the thousands of foster youth who leave care each year – unable to return to their families...I really hope that this bill will make the training and experience that I had, possible for all youth in foster care around the United States...[President Clinton's] work in passing this bill has made these things more possible. You did the right thing!"

-- **Kristi Jo Frazier, Cincinnati, Ohio.** Kristi Jo is a former foster child who is studying education at Cincinnati State and Technical College. She now lives on her own after successfully transitioning from foster care in July 1998 into independent living.

Expanding Access to Quality Health Care

- ✓ THEN: Millions of children could not access affordable and meaningful health insurance, people with disabilities who wanted to work could not for fear of losing their health insurance, and young people leaving foster care could not retain the critical health insurance they needed to

make a healthy start as adults. Unlike many other American workers, self-employed Americans received absolutely no tax assistance in purchasing health care insurance. Every year, an estimated 25 million Americans had breaks in their health care coverage because they changed jobs, or were self employed, or had preexisting conditions that could lead an insurance company to deny coverage.

- ✓ NOW: More than 2.5 million children have received health insurance as a result of the enactment of the historic Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997 – the largest expansion of health insurance for children since the creation of the Medicaid program. The President has also enacted coverage expansions for millions of people with disabilities who wish to return to work and for the 20,000 foster care children aging out of Medicaid eligibility every year. The President's enactment of the bipartisan Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act gave Americans insurance portability protections when they switch or lose jobs. The President has also enacted legislation that assures that: annual and lifetime coverage limits can be no different for mental health coverage than other benefits; new mothers can stay in the hospital; drive-through mastectomies are eliminated; and genetic discrimination against many Americans purchasing health insurance is prohibited.

More Children Have Access to Health Care Thanks to the Children's Health Insurance Program

"When we found the Healthy Families program, it was like a miracle. Now my kids have a regular doctor who knows our family. I don't have to worry about taking them in for their school physicals or for their vaccinations. They can run around and climb on things and jump off things and the only thing I really need to worry about is if they get their clothes dirty. Because of the Healthy Families program, my husband and I can make sure that our kids grow up healthy." – **Evelyn Alvarado, California.** Before Evelyn's children – Daniel (aged 13), Mary (aged 11), and Samuel (aged 8) – enrolled her children in California's CHIP program (Healthy Families) in June 1999, they were uninsured for eight years and only saw the doctor in the case of emergencies

Allowing Americans with Disabilities to Return to Work Without Fear of Losing Insurance Coverage

"We have been waiting for so long to see this bill signed – to watch as this Administration... opens the door to employment for individuals with disabilities all over America." – **James Sullivan, New Hampshire, December 16, 1999.** James is a C6 quadriplegic (partial use of his arms) who is in his mid thirties. Two days before he turned 18, he broke his back diving into a wave. He is willing to give up his SSDI check if he could go back to work and keep his personal attendant services. If his state takes the Medicaid buy in option, Jeffords-Kennedy will allow him to do just that. He would like to get a job in the telecommunications industry.

Progress for Working Families

- ✓ The EITC now lifts 4.1 million working families out of poverty, which is nearly double the number of people lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. Among children, the EITC reduced poverty by 17 percent in 1999 – moving 2.3 million children out of poverty.
- ✓ The total tax burden dropped from 24.5 percent in 1992 to 22.8 percent and is now at the lowest rate since 1978. The total Federal tax rate for middle-income families increased under the previous two administrations, rising from 23.7 percent in 1980 to 24.5 percent in 1992.
- ✓ Teen birth rates have dropped to the lowest rate in 60 years. The number of births to teens declined from 60.7 per 1000 in 1992 to 49.6 in 1999 – an 18 percent drop.
- ✓ Welfare rolls have been more than cut in half – from 14.1 million people in 1993 to 6.3 million today – to the lowest level since 1968. The percent of people on welfare in 1999 who were working in 2000 increased to almost 40 percent – nearly double the level in 1992. [NOTE: just got updated numbers; also, needed to make more clear what this figure represents]
- ✓ Child support collections have broken new records, doubling federal and state collections from \$8 billion in 1992 to nearly \$16 billion last year.
- ✓ The child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 16.9 percent, a reduction of 25.6 percent – the biggest six-year drop in nearly 30 years (1964-1970). Child poverty is now at its lowest rate since 1979.
- ✓ Federal investments in child care have doubled and now help parents provide care for 1.5 million children.
- ✓ Head Start will serve approximately 880,000 children this year – up from just over 700,000 in 1992.
- ✓ Adoptions have increased – in 1999 alone, 46,000 foster care children were adopted, an increase of nearly 65 percent since 1996.

The Clinton Presidency Building One America

In 1992, Americans were struggling to maintain the sense of community and respect for diversity that makes our nation strong. The economic gap between haves and have-nots was increasing. Between 1980 through 1992, the bottom 60 percent of Americans saw little if any increase in income, unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics reached record highs, and the poverty rate for African Americans remained at or above 30 percent. Over the last eight years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to bridge the divisions and ease the tensions. They have appointed the most diverse and inclusive administration in history, launched initiatives to close economic and social gaps, and established the One America office in the White House to build a strategy of closing opportunity gaps and to promote understanding and reconciliation.

Appointed the Most Diverse Administration in History

- ✓ THEN: The impressive strides made by women and minorities had not been fully reflected in the top levels of government. When President Clinton came to office, there were just two women and two minorities in the cabinet. Between 1976 and 1992, there were just 57 African Americans appointed to federal judgeships, and in 1992, just 10 percent of the federal bench were minorities and only 11 percent were women. Comparatively, in 1990, women made up 51.3 percent of the population while minorities made up 25.1 percent of the U.S. population.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton appointed the most diverse Cabinet in history. Over the past eight years, he has appointed seven African American Cabinet Secretaries, and women make up 44 percent of Clinton Administration appointees, including the first woman to serve as Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, and the first to serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno. The President also appointed the first Asian American to serve in a Cabinet, Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta. The President has appointed more African Americans to federal judgeships than were appointed during the last sixteen years combined and 14 percent of all Clinton Administration appointees are African American, twice as many as in any previous Administration. President Clinton appointed three times as many female judges as the two previous administrations and the most Hispanic judicial nominees of any President. Record numbers of people with disabilities are also serving in the White House and throughout the Clinton Administration.

Closing Economic and Social Gaps

- ✓ THEN: The economic gap between haves and have-nots was increasing. Between 1980 through 1992, the bottom 60 percent of Americans saw little if any increase in income, unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics reached record highs, and the poverty rate for African Americans remained at or above 30 percent.
- ✓ NOW: Under President Clinton, unemployment and poverty rates have declined for all groups, while family incomes have increased. The Clinton Administration has worked to increase opportunity by expanding access to higher education and job training, expanding loans to minority small businesses, and launching efforts to close the digital divide and expand new markets in underserved communities. Examples of progress under the Clinton-Gore Administration include:

- Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the unemployment rate for African Americans fell from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 7.3 percent today and the African-American poverty rate has dropped from 33.1 percent to 26.1 percent in 1998 – the lowest level recorded, and the largest five-year drop in African-American poverty since 1967-1972. At the same time, the typical African-American household's income is up \$3,317.
- Unemployment for Hispanics fell from 11.8 percent in October of 1992 to 5.0 percent today. The Hispanic poverty rate has dropped from 29.6 percent to 25.6 percent — the lowest since 1979. And over the past three years, the income of the typical Hispanic household has risen \$3,880 – or 15.9 percent – the largest three-year increase in Hispanic income on record.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration launched an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities, setting a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration has fought hate crimes and racial profiling by fighting for the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which increased penalties for hate crimes as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. As a result of Presidential leadership, the number of law enforcement agencies across the country reporting hate crimes to the Justice Department has risen from 2,771 in 1991 to 12,122 in 1999 – giving authorities a more accurate picture of the problem. President Clinton is also working to end racial profiling, by directing Cabinet agencies to collect data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of individuals subject to certain stops by federal law enforcement to help determine where and when racial profiling occurs.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration has fought to protect the rights of all Americans, increasing funding for civil rights enforcement from \$47.6 million in 1992 to \$82.2 million in 2000. The President also ordered a comprehensive review of federal affirmative action programs, which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. And President Clinton focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, creating the National Church Arson Task Force in 1995 to investigate these crimes, prosecute those responsible, and speed the rebuilding process.
- President Clinton has taken action to ensure fairness and equal participation in our society for legal immigrants. In 1997 and 1998 the President succeeded in restoring disability, health and nutritional benefits for certain legal immigrants. The Administration's English as a Second Language/Civics Education Initiative provides limited English speaking adults with instruction in both English literacy and critical life skills necessary for effective citizenship and civic participation and the Administration has significantly reduced the backlog of citizenship applications.
- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have improved relations between the federal government and Native American tribes. In July 1999, the President visited the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to encourage investment in Indian Country, making him the first sitting President to visit a reservation since Franklin D. Roosevelt. The President also issued executive orders promoting tribal sovereignty, protecting sacred Indian sites, improving the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students and supporting the nation's tribal colleges.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to ensure equal pay for women and close the wage gap. They addressed the wage gap by winning \$20 million in his FY2001 budget initiative for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide grants to post-secondary institutions and partner organizations to promote the full participation of women in science and technology fields. The Equal Opportunity Employment Commission initiated an Equal

Pay Task Force to provide assistance to field enforcement staff in their development of cases involving equal pay and employment discrimination in compensation.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to assure equality of opportunity and full participation by persons with disabilities. The Clinton-Gore Administration has vigorously defended the Americans with Disabilities Act, worked with states to implement the *Olmstead* decision to prohibit unjustified isolation of institutionalized persons with disabilities, and fought for accessibility in public transportation, housing, and technology. As part of the Administration's work to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities, the President created the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities and signed the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

Addressing the Wage Gap by Supporting Enforcement

"I am grateful that the EEOC is there to assist people like me who have gone through so much in the workplace. It is never easy to confront difficult or painful situations, but I hope that I can serve as an example to women across the country who work hard to build their professional career but still do not receive salaries equal to their male counterparts. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership on this issue."

-- Karen Simmons-Beathea, of Washington, DC, May 11, 2000. Karen Simmons-Beathea was hired as the first Executive Director of Baltimore Cable Access Corporation in 1993. Though she was continually promised salary increases, she was kept at her starting salary throughout her three years of employment at BCAC. In 1996, Ms. Simmons-Beathea presented the board of directors with a study, which she alleged demonstrated that she was significantly underpaid compared to male executive directors in other markets, which operate community-based cable television. A month after this presentation, the company terminated her and replaced her with a less qualified male at a salary higher than what she had been receiving. Ms. Simmons-Beathea filed a complaint with the EEOC, was assigned an EEOC attorney, and settled her case this year.

Launched the One America Initiative

- ✓ THEN: America was struggling to maintain the sense of community that makes our nation strong. Even though the country was becoming more diverse, serious economic and social gaps were prevalent, particularly among minority groups. And too often political rhetoric expanded these divisions rather than working to close them. Despite these problems, there was no coordinated strategy to promote reconciliation and address the economic and social divide in this country.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton launched the One America initiative, and created a new office in the White House to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country. As part of these efforts, President Clinton challenged corporate America and the legal and faith communities to action. The President's call to action resulted in separate commitments from the legal, corporate, and religious communities to increase diversity, close the opportunity gap, and promote racial reconciliation.

Increased Opportunity for All Americans

- ✓ Lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record, with the unemployment rate for African Americans falling from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 7.3 percent today. Unemployment for Hispanics has fallen from 11.8 percent in October of 1992 to 5.0 percent today.
- ✓ All groups of Americans, from richest to poorest, have seen their incomes rise for three years in a row. The average income for the lowest 20 percent increased by 5.4 percent compared to an increase of 3.9 percent for the highest 20 percent.
- ✓ Median household income increased for African Americans by almost 15 percent between 1993 and 1999. The median household income for Hispanics is \$30,735, the highest ever recorded, while the median household income for Asian Americans is higher than the national average.
- ✓ Poverty rates are at record lows, with the African American poverty rate down to the lowest level on record, the Hispanic American poverty rate down to the lowest level since 1979, and the Asian American poverty rate as low as it's ever been. Poverty among African American children has also dropped to the lowest level on record.
- ✓ Highest homeownership rate on record, reaching 67.2 percent in the second quarter of 2000 – the highest ever recorded. Minority homeownership rates were also the highest ever recorded.
- ✓ Filed more cases to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration.
- ✓ Higher education achievement, with reading and math scores of 9-year-olds in the highest-poverty schools rising by nearly one grade level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress between 1992 and 1996.
- ✓ Highest number of African American high school graduates enrolling in college ever, increasing from 48 percent in 1992 to 59 percent in 1997. Over the last 10 years, SAT test scores for college-bound African American students have increased by a total of 13 points.

The Clinton Presidency: Increasing Technology Access and Innovation

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office with an agenda to use the revolution in information technology to improve Americans' quality of life and reinvigorate the economy. Since 1993, they have made smart investments in science and technology that have helped build the New Economy. The Clinton-Gore Administration's work has created a strong economy spurred by new technologies, increased access to computers and the Internet to share the benefits of the new economy, and put in place a strong research and development strategy that will continue to pay off in the years to come.

Investing in Science, Technology and Biomedical Research

- ✓ THEN: America was on the cusp of a new Information Age. The U.S. edge in technology was beginning to erode in some of our prominent industries, in part due to the lack of a coherent plan on how to effectively tap information technology's potential. The Cold War had ended, but the government continued to invest most of the federal research dollars into defense, rather than into civilian research that directly contributes to long-term economic growth, creates jobs, improves education and protects the environment. In 1993, only 42 percent of the federal government's research and development investments went to civilian research.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore wanted to use information technology to improve Americans' quality of life and reinvigorate the economy. They increased funding in civilian research and development by 43 percent, without significantly reducing the investment in defense research, and increased R&D support to universities by 53 percent. President Clinton also made investments to spur private sector innovation, help improve our environment, and improve the nation's health.
 - Between 1993 and 2000, President Clinton invested an additional \$10 billion in a range of science and technology programs included in the 21st Century Research Fund. This includes the largest increase ever for the National Science Foundation, which supports much of the research that trains the next generation of America's scientists and engineers. President Clinton also fought for the Next Generation Internet, which is connecting universities and national labs at speeds that are 1,000 times faster than today's Internet.
 - The President worked with Congress to extend the Research and Experimentation tax credit for another five years, through 2004, the longest expansion of this policy ever. Extending the tax credit will encourage companies to undertake new multi-year research activities, secure in the knowledge that the 20 percent tax credit will continue to be available.
 - The Clinton Administration has invested in programs such as the Climate Change Technology Initiative to develop clean energy to reduce the pollution that can lead to global warming. This Initiative is a comprehensive program of research investments and targeted tax incentives to spur the development of clean energy technologies. The President has also increased the investment in nanotechnology research, which is the new frontier of technology innovation and has the potential for improving the environment, creating lighter and stronger metals, and fighting disease.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore have made unprecedented investments in biomedical research, increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health by 58 percent since 1993. As a result, NIH supports the highest levels of research ever on nearly all types of disease and health conditions, making new breakthroughs possible in vaccine development

and use, the treatment of chronic disease, and prevention and treatment of disease. The President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission issued recommendations on ethical standards for the conduct of stem cell research. Stem cells may one day be used to replace cardiac muscle cells for people with heart disease, nerve cells for hundreds of thousands of Parkinson's patients, or insulin-producing cells for children who suffer from diabetes.

- As a part of overall NIH funding, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have strongly supported the efforts of the National Human Genome Research Institute to map the entire human genome. The completed map will dramatically change medical care, opening new doors in the effort to learn more about detection, treatment, and prevention of serious diseases. On March 14, 2000, President Clinton announced that he and British Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed on a statement of principle to ensure that discoveries from the human genome are used to advance human health. Their joint statement applauds researchers who have made their raw human genome sequence data freely available to the global scientific community and calls upon others to follow their lead.

Building the New Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, only 10 million people worldwide were connected to the Internet, and as recently as 1994, just 24 percent of American households had a computer. The United States exported \$24.9 billion in computer equipment in 1992, and the nation had not yet experienced the benefits of the coming technology revolution. When President Clinton was elected, 10 million Americans were unemployed, new job creation was slow, and wages were stagnant.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore have fostered the tremendous growth in technology in the past eight years and helped to ensure that the New Economy has flourished, turning around the stagnant economic growth of the 1980s. By 1998, the number of American households with a computers had grown to 42 percent, and over 200 million people worldwide are connected to the Internet – opening a world of possibilities to Americans. Exports of computer equipment had grown to \$41.4 billion in 1997, and the number of patent applications increased by 40 percent since 1992. The increasing prevalence of the Internet led to a growth in electronic commerce, which has expanded the reach of small businesses by allowing them to reach hundreds of millions of customers around the world.
 - President Clinton signed the Internet Tax Freedom Act, a 3-year moratorium on Internet access taxes and taxes that discriminate against e-commerce.
 - The Clinton Administration won an agreement in the World Trade Organization to place a temporary moratorium on duties on electronic transmissions, making cyberspace a “duty-free zone.”
 - In October 1998, the President signed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, helping to protect America's intellectual property in cyberspace.
 - On June 30, 2000, the President signed the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, which gives online contracts the same force of law as paper contracts. Customers can finalize mortgages, sign insurance contracts, or open brokerage accounts online.
 - The President and Vice President have encouraged the private sector to protect individual privacy through self-regulation, third-party audits and enforcement mechanisms. In just over a year, the number of commercial Internet sites with privacy policies has increased from 15 percent to 66 percent.

- President Clinton signed the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, which requires commercial Web sites to get a parent's permission before collecting personal information from minors. In May 1999, Vice President Gore announced the Parents' Protection Page, an important new commitment by Internet companies to give parents the resources to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet and the knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities.
- President Clinton signed the first comprehensive telecommunications reform legislation in over sixty years, which lowered prices, increased customer choice, and sped the deployment of new technology.

Encouraging the Growth of the Internet and Electronic Commerce

"I want to acknowledge the contributions of President Clinton and Vice President Gore in shaping the administration policy, and in legislation supporting research and development that's needed to make Internet a global reality, and to continue its astonishing evolution."

-- Dr. Vint Cerf,

Bridging the Digital Divide

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, the technology revolution was just about to hit. Home computers were rare, and only three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, more homes and schools are connected but a divide still exists – households with incomes of \$75,000 and higher are twenty times more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to bridging the digital divide and creating new opportunity for all Americans.
- ✓ NOW: As the first Administration of the Internet Age, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to make technology available for all Americans. Since 1992, the President and Vice President have tripled funding for Community Technology Centers, which provide computer and Internet access in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods. The President and Vice President are supporting innovative applications of information technology for low-income families through the Department of Commerce, such as telemedicine for prenatal care and distance learning for people who have lost their jobs. The Administration has challenged the private sector to develop new business models for low-cost computers and Internet access -- to make universal access at home affordable for all Americans. President Clinton mobilized major public and private efforts to bridge the digital divide during his third New Markets Tour, when over 400 companies and non-profit organizations signed a "National Call to Action" to bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and opportunities. The Call to Action sets goals such as ensuring that every child is technologically literate, and making home access to the Internet as common as the telephone.

Expanding Access to Computers and Technology Training

"Community technology centers provide low-income individuals with skills training and the ability to produce their dreams. They are also an important entryway to the technology industry. We think of President Clinton as our first angel investor: his Administration's work has been fundamental to Plugged In and to the community technology center movement."

-- **Magda Escobar, Executive Director, Plugged In, East Palo Alto, California.** Magda Escobar's community technology center shares the opportunities created by the information revolution with residents of East Palo Alto, a low-income community located in Silicon Valley, the epicenter of the technological revolution. Plugged In trains teenagers in web development to ensure that the opportunities of the technology revolution are shared with the entire community.

"As we enter the Internet Century, nothing is more important than providing our young people - all our young people - with the skills and resources to thrive in this new age. We're grateful for the support that we've received from across the industry, the non-profit world and government. Something exciting is happening here and the momentum is just beginning."

-- **Steve Case, Chairman of PowerUP and Chairman of AOL Time Warner.** PowerUP is a national initiative to provide underserved youth access to technology and guidance on how to use it. In conjunction with President Clinton's "digital divide" trip in April 2000, PowerUP committed to establishing 250 sites in 43 states at after-school locations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and K-12 schools.

Increasing Technology Access in Schools

- ✓ THEN: A decade ago, computers were largely luxuries in the most affluent school districts. In 1993, only three percent of classrooms had computers that were connected to the Internet, and in 1994 only 35 percent of public schools had Internet access. Students had little opportunity to learn to use computers and to explore the Internet, and the government had not mobilized its resources to expand the use of technology in our schools.
- ✓ NOW: Understanding the critical importance of incorporating technology into the classroom, the Clinton-Gore Administration made increasing access to technology in our schools a top priority. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created the E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. President Clinton increased investments in educational technology and training from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY 2000. In addition, with the Vice President's leadership the E-rate has secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, providing discounts worth over \$2 billion annually. The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased to 65 percent in 1999, and the number of public schools connected rose to more than 95 percent.

The E-Rate is Opening New Doors for American Students

Victor Shen, Whittier, Alaska. Victor Shen, a 16-year-old high school junior, is one of more than 30 million American children who are online because of the Clinton-Gore Administration's E-rate. Victor lives in Whittier Alaska, which is isolated from the rest of the world for six months out of the year because of its remote location and severe weather. Victor was cut off from commerce, cut off from transportation, cut off from society, and cut off from pursuing his dream for the future. Victor wanted to grow up to be a mathematician, but his teachers didn't have the best resources to teach him; nor could they afford an Internet connection to connect Victor to his dream. Thanks to Vice President Gore's leadership in securing the E-rate, Victor's school is now connected to the Internet and Victor is now connected to learning and connected to his dream. The Whittier Community School is online because of the 90 percent discount they received from the E-rate.

* * *

"The Internet allowed my students to go to a place and learn about something they could never have done before. The Internet erases boundaries of age and class. Everyone can access it in an equal way. In Paradise, this is especially important because of the limitations some of these children face."

-- Beth Paterson, fourth-grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, California. Paradise Elementary is a part of the Paradise Unified School District, which serves Paradise and Magalia, an isolated and rural community in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains with a significant low-income population. The E-Rate has allowed Paradise to build \$300,000 of network infrastructure, network computers and install T-1 lines.

Expanding Electronic Government

- ✓ **THEN:** In the early 1990s, the Internet was not widely available, but by the end of the decade millions of Americans were online. In 1992, neither the White House nor any Cabinet agency had a web page, and citizens were unable to access government information online. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that the U.S. government used information technology to bring government closer to the American people.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have used the power of the Internet to make government work better for people. They moved the government online, and in October 1994 they unveiled the first White House Internet page, which provides a road map to the federal government. Today, every Cabinet department has a web site to make information and services available to the American people at the touch of a button. In September 2000, the Clinton Administration launched FirstGov.gov, making all of the government's online resources available and searchable at a single website.

Expanding Access to Technology

- ✓ **Increased Education Technology Funding:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore increased our investment in educational technology by over 3,000 percent -- from \$23 million in FY 1994 to \$769 million in FY 2000.
- ✓ **Training Teachers to Use Technology:** Grants supported by the Department of Education are training over 600,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in their classrooms.
- ✓ **Connecting Schools to the Internet:** The number of public schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999. In addition, 63 percent of all public school classrooms were connected to the Internet in 1999, up from 3 percent in 1994.
- ✓ **Created the E-Rate:** More than 80 percent of America's public schools have benefited from the E-rate, which has helped connect 30 million children and up to 47,000 schools and libraries to the Internet.
- ✓ **Tripled Funding for Community Technology Centers:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore tripled funding for Community Technology Centers to reach at least 120 low-income communities, helping to close the digital divide by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults unable to afford them at home.
- ✓ **Increased Funding for National Institutes of Health:** NIH supports the highest levels of research ever on nearly all types of disease and health conditions, thanks to a funding increase of \$7.3 billion, or 58 percent, since 1993.
- ✓ **Presidential Online Firsts:** On June 30, 2000, President Clinton signed the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act with a "smart card," marking the first electronic bill signing in history. He also moved the tradition of the Saturday Presidential Radio Address online when he held the first Saturday Web Address on June 24, 2000. President Clinton was the first president to participate in an online chat, which was moderated by the Democratic Leadership Council and held November 9, 1999. On February 14, 2000, President Clinton participated in the first online chat with a news organization in history, hosted by CNN.com. President Clinton also became the first president to shop online in December 1999, when he went Christmas shopping from his desk in the Oval Office.

The Clinton Presidency: National Service and Philanthropy

Through the 1980s, America's sense of community and shared purpose began to disintegrate. Between 1989 and 1993, charitable giving as a portion of our economy declined and the number of people volunteering fell by more than 9 million. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to create new opportunities for community service, and provided leadership to develop innovative partnerships between federal agencies and private nonprofits. They have also worked to involve the private sector, challenging business leaders to work with community groups, religious leaders and faith-based partnerships to tackle problems like putting welfare recipients to work, teaching children to read and closing the digital divide.

Restoring Community Service: AmeriCorps

- ✓ THEN: Previous generations of Americans had answered the call to service of their country through programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Peace Corps and VISTA. However, it had been more than a decade since the federal government challenged the energy of Americans by putting significant resources behind a meaningful effort to expand community service opportunities. The Peace Corps and VISTA combined provided just 10,000 service opportunities in 1993.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton created the AmeriCorps National Service Program in 1993, his first year in office. Since then, AmeriCorps has brought together nearly 200,000 people of all ages, racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds to solve community problems and improve the lives of Americans. And after a year of full-time public service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans. The President defended AmeriCorps from numerous Congressional efforts to eliminate the initiative, and built it into a successful program supported by Democratic, Republican and Independent Governors across the country.

AmeriCorps Members Investing in their Community

"It is an honor to for me and my peers to serve our country as AmeriCorps members. When I started tutoring first graders, I was scared—scared of the responsibility, because it is so important for a child to get a good foundation in education. One of the first students I tutored didn't know the alphabet. He was so nervous about trying but he wanted desperately to learn. I worked with him for about 20 minutes every day in the classroom and twice a week after school. Within a month, he wrote beautiful sentences. Now he's reading above grade level. I am proud to say that my experience as an AmeriCorps member has given me the skills and confidence to enter the classroom as a first grade teacher. Mr. President – thank you for giving young adults the opportunity to improve American communities through national service. I just want to let you know that thousands of AmeriCorps members are getting things done throughout the country but especially right here in Philadelphia."

--Ardelia Norwood-Ross, October 11, 2000. Ardelia Norwood-Ross, a committed member of the President's national service effort, graduated from Grinnell College in 1999 and returned to

her hometown of Philadelphia to serve in the National School and Community Corps (NSCC). In her first year as a corps member, Ardelia served at an elementary in South Philadelphia running three literacy programs for students in first through third grades, two of which she developed herself. This hard work led Ardelia to the position of AmeriCorps team leader, a position in which she supervises 5 AmeriCorps members who work with over 600 children in grades K-8 as in-class assistants and one-on-one tutors helping the children to improve their reading. Ardelia is currently enrolled in a Master's program in elementary education and uses her AmeriCorps awards from her two years of service to pay back her college loans and pay for her graduate school study.

Teaching Children to Read: America Reads

- ✓ THEN: Reading scores among young students dropped significantly during the 1980s. Despite research demonstrating that reading to young children was the best way to increase reading skills, in 1991, just 35 percent of young children were read to at home every day.
- ✓ NOW: In 1997, President Clinton challenged Americans to unite to be sure that every child can read well and independently by the end of the third grade. So far, more than 1,400 colleges have committed more than 26,000 Work Study students to tutor children in reading, and nearly one million children have been taught, tutored or mentored through national service programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Foster Grandparents. President Clinton's America Reads challenge also sought to involve businesses, communities, pediatricians and child care providers in helping recruit volunteers, organize book drives and tutor young children in reading. President Clinton launched America Reads as a volunteer partnership, then worked with Congress to pass the Reading Excellence Act in 1998 to provide \$260 million and serve 1.1 million children annually. This national effort to improve reading has made a great difference for children learning to read. Today, more families are spending time each day reading to their children. In 1999, 53 percent of children ages 3-5 were read to daily by a family member. Reading scores are also going up, especially in our highest poverty communities. From 1992 to 1996, reading scores of nine-year-olds in highest poverty schools improved by nearly one grade level, reversing a downward trend.

College Students Contributing to Their Communities through America Reads

"At California State University, Los Angeles, tutors participating in the America Reads Challenge are part of a long-standing institutional commitment to community service. Documented outcomes of the America Reads project illustrate significant improvement in the literacy skills of the children with whom we are tutoring. Our students and our neighbors are benefiting from this relationship. Cal State, LA is proud to be a part of the America Reads Challenge."

-- Dr. James Rosser, California State University, Los Angeles

Increasing Charitable Giving:

- ✓ THEN: Charitable giving as a portion of Gross Domestic Product declined from 1989 to 1993. The number of people volunteering fell from 98.4 million in 1989 to 89.2 in 1993, and the total number of volunteer hours dropped by one billion over the same period.
- ✓ NOW: The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to promote charitable giving and philanthropy, hosting the White House Conference on Philanthropy in October 1999, creating an Interagency Task Force on Nonprofits and Government and working to build partnerships between government, business and non-profit organizations. The strong economy has driven a large share of the increase in philanthropy – as individual wealth has increased, the value of the stock in foundations has soared. Charitable giving reached a record high in 1999, surging to more than \$190 billion, an increase of 43 percent since 1993; as a percentage of GDP, charitable giving soared to 2.1 percent, the highest level in almost three decades.

Drawing on the Private Sector:

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, America faced high poverty rates; record numbers of people unemployed or on welfare; serious environmental problems; and record-high deficits. Government alone could not solve all of these problems.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton challenged corporate, religious and community leaders to join together to solve major problems facing the country. The Clinton-Gore Administration has provided important leadership to develop vital partnerships with the private sector, including:
 - Through the President's New Markets and Digital Divide initiatives, corporations have pledged millions of dollars in assistance and development commitments to bring economic development and high-tech training to underserved urban, rural, and tribal communities.
 - The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private nonprofit organization, was launched in response to the President's 1995 State of the Union in which he challenged parents and leaders across the country to come together in a national effort to reduce teen pregnancy. The Campaign has raised the visibility of this issue nationwide by enlisting the help of the media and private advertising experts. The Campaign has also created a more effective grassroots movement that brings together public, private, nonprofit partners in states and local communities. Both teen pregnancy and teen birth rates are now at record low levels.
 - The Administration's efforts also resulted in the creation of the Fair Labor Association, which includes apparel makers who have adopted a code of conduct to eliminate child labor and sweatshop working conditions in manufacturing plants throughout the world.
 - The President's work with the entertainment industry led to the voluntary adoption of a ratings system for television shows so parents can be informed about the content of the programs their children are watching.

Service and Volunteerism Producing Progress for Communities

- ✓ **Almost 200,000 AmeriCorps Volunteers:** Since 1993, nearly 200,000 AmeriCorps members have served our nation by building homes, responding to natural disasters, helping to make our streets safer, and tutoring in schools. More Americans have served in AmeriCorps in its first five years than have served in the Peace Corps throughout its history. In addition, nearly 500,000 senior citizens provide community service through Senior Corps.
- ✓ **America Reads volunteers teaching children to read:** National Service Participants have tutored nearly one million children, helping them learn to read. Independent studies found that children involved in the program improved their reading abilities more than the gain expected for children at their grade level. Additionally, many students closed the gap and were reading at or near the grade-level expectation.
- ✓ **Charitable giving and volunteering have rebounded:** Charitable giving reached a record \$190 billion in 1999, increasing 43 percent over 1993. As a percentage of GDP, charitable giving reached 2.1 percent in 1999, the highest level in nearly three decades. In addition, the number of Americans volunteering reached an all time high in 1998, as an estimated 20 million more Americans volunteered than in 1993.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore

Leading Legislative Accomplishments

103rd Congress 1993-94

February 5, 1993

Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family & Medical Leave Act -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- has enabled millions of workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. The previous administration vetoed the bill twice. (PL 103-3, signed 2/5/93)

August 10, 1993

Clinton-Gore Deficit Reduction Plan

Passed without a single Republican vote, the Clinton-Gore Administration's economic plan established fiscal discipline by slashing the deficit in half -- the largest deficit reduction plan in history -- while making important investments in our economic future, including education, health care, and science and technology research. This legislation also extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by three years. Fiscal discipline established by the Clinton-Gore Administration has turned the largest deficits in our country's history into the largest surplus. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93) The plan included:

- **Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion/Working Family Tax Cut**
President Clinton succeeded in passing an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, giving a tax cut to 15 million of the hardest-pressed American workers. In 1999, the EITC lifted 4.1 million people out of poverty -- nearly double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993.
- **Student Loan Reform**
The Clinton-Gore Administration created the Direct Student Loan Program, which cut red tape and administrative costs by eliminating subsidies and bureaucracy in the Student Loan Program. The program has saved taxpayers \$4 billion since 1993 and allowed interest rate reductions for students.
- **Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities Program**
Created nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities with tax incentives and \$100 million per EZ in discretionary investment dollars to spur local community planning and economic growth in distressed communities. At the President's request, Congress expanded the program in 1994 and again in 1997. To date, the EZ program has leveraged over \$10 million in additional private investment into EZs. The EZ program represents the most ambitious incentives program ever offered by the federal government to promote private sector investment in distressed areas in America.
- **Childhood Immunization Initiative**
In 1992, less than 60 percent of two-year-olds were fully immunized -- the third lowest rate in the Western Hemisphere. The Clinton-Gore Economic Plan contained investments to guarantee the health of children and prevent the easily avoidable costs of preventable childhood diseases. Today, the nation's overall immunization rate for preschool children is the highest ever recorded.

September 21, 1993

AmeriCorps Community Service Initiative

AmeriCorps allows individuals to serve communities across the country while earning money for college or skills training programs. Since its inception, 150,000 volunteers have participated in AmeriCorps; that means that more people have enrolled in this

Clinton Administration initiative in its first five years than did in the Peace Corps' first 20 years. (PL 103-82, signed 9/21/93)

November 30, 1993

Brady Act Signed

After seven years of debate under previous administrations, the President signed legislation requiring a background check before the purchase of a handgun and establishing a National Instant Check System. Since its enactment, the Brady Law has helped to prevent a total of more than 600,000 felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns. Since 1992, the gun-related crime rate has declined by 40 percent. (PL 103-159, signed 11/30/93)

December 8, 1993

NAFTA Ratified

President Clinton worked to pass bipartisan legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement, creating the world's largest free trade zone. Since passage of NAFTA, the U.S. manufacturing sector has created 400,000 jobs, and exports to Canada and Mexico support 600,000 more jobs today than in 1993.

September 13, 1994

Crime Bill

Enacted the Clinton-Gore Administration's tough and smart crime fighting strategy. The Bill contained tougher penalties, including "three strikes and you're out" legislation, helped states build more prisons and increased prevention and victims rights. As a result, the overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 26 year low. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94) This legislation included:

- **Assault Weapons Ban**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore overcame intense opposition by the gun lobby to ban 19 of the most dangerous assault weapons.

- **100,000 Community Police Officers**

The Clinton-Gore Administration succeeded in passing a bill authorizing local governments funding to hire and redeploy 100,000 community police officers. COPS helped contribute to a decline that brought the overall crime rate to the lowest level in 26 years. In 1999, crime fell for the eighth consecutive year nationwide.

- **Violence Against Women Act**

The Clinton-Gore Administration fought for and signed this bill, which contains new penalties, resources to prosecute more domestic violence offenders, and

? funding to triple domestic violence shelters. The Administration also established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline. This initiative represents the first federal effort to address domestic violence and violence against women. Today, the number of victims of domestic violence has fallen from 1.1 million in 1993 to 876,340 in 1998.

December 8, 1994

GATT Ratified

The Clinton-Gore Administration worked with a bipartisan majority in the Senate to pass legislation implementing the General Agreement on Tariffs and trade (GATT). This agreement allows American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system. (PL 103-465, signed 12/8/94)

February 8, 1996

Telecommunications Reform Signed

President Clinton and Vice President Gore achieved the first major overhaul of the telecommunications laws in 60 years. Reforms of the 1934 Telecommunications Act opened up competition between local telephone companies, long distance providers and cable companies; and required the use of new V-chip technology to enable families to exercise greater control over the television programming that comes into their homes. The act also contained the Vice President's E-Rate proposal, which provides low-cost Internet connections for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals. (PL 104-104, signed 2/8/96)

August 6, 1996

Safe Drinking Water Act

Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act required the strongest standards of safety and purity in America's drinking water while establishing a revolving loan fund to help communities upgrade their water treatment facilities. (PL 104-182, signed 8/6/96)

August 20, 1996

Minimum Wage Increased

President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for and won a 90-cent per hour increase in the minimum wage – increasing wages for 10 million workers. This increase was the first in 6 years and in 1996 it was the largest single-year increase ever. (PL 104-134, signed 8/20/96)

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other doc.*

August 21, 1996

Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Reform (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

This bipartisan health insurance reform bill prevents individuals from being denied coverage because they have a preexisting medical condition. It requires insurance companies to sell coverage to small employer groups and to individuals who lose group coverage without regard to their health risk status. It also prohibits discrimination in enrollment and premiums against employees and their dependents based on health status. Finally, it requires insurers to renew the policies they sell to groups and individuals. As many as 25 million people have benefited from the greater flexibility that this law ensures. (PL 104-191, signed 8/21/96) The Act also included:

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- **Requiring Mental Health Parity for Annual and Lifetime Insurance Limits**

To help eliminate discrimination against individuals with mental illnesses, the President enacted legislation containing provisions prohibiting health plans from establishing separate lifetime and annual limits for mental health coverage.

- **New Protections for Mothers and Newborns**

The President signed into law common sense legislation that requires health plans to allow new mothers to remain in the hospital for at least 48 hours following most normal deliveries and 96 hours after a Cesarean section.

- **Eliminating the Discriminatory Tax Treatment of the Self-Employed**

HIPAA increased the tax deduction from 30 percent to 80 percent for the approximately 10 million Americans who are self-employed. The President also signed a law phasing it in to 100 percent in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

- **Fighting Fraud and Waste in Medicare**

The Kennedy-Kassenbaum legislation created a new stable source of funding to fight fraud and abuse that is coordinated by the HHS Office of the Inspector General and the Department of Justice. Since its passage, nearly \$1.6 billion in fraud and abuse savings has been returned to the Medicare Trust Fund. Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has assigned more federal prosecutors and FBI agents to

fight health care fraud than ever before. As a result, convictions have gone up a full 410% saving more than \$50 billion in health care claims.

August 22, 1996

Welfare Reform Enacted

President Clinton kept his promise to end welfare as we know it by requiring welfare recipients to work, limits the time they can stay on welfare, and provides child care and health care to help them make the move from welfare to work. It also enacted tough new child support enforcement measures proposed by the President. Since January 1993, the number of people on welfare has fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.3 million and has resulted in the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years. (PL 104-193, signed 8/22/96)

105th Congress 1997-98

August 5, 1997

Balanced Budget Agreement

In February, the President submitted the first plan to finish the job of eliminating the deficit and the balanced budget in 27 years. On August 5th, he signed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which finished the job of eliminating the \$290 billion budget deficit. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97). This legislation included:

- **\$500 per Child Tax Credit**
As part of the Balanced Budget Agreement, the President secured a \$500 per child tax credit for approximately 27 million families with children under 17, including thirteen million children from families with incomes below \$30,000.
- **Children's Health Insurance Program**
At the urging of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress invested \$48 billion for the State Children's Health Insurance Program – the single largest investment in health care for children since the enactment of Medicaid in 1965. This new program, together with Medicaid, will provide meaningful health care coverage for up to five million previously uninsured children – including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, and mental health services. Within three years of enactment, all 50 states have implemented S-CHIP programs, and over 2 million children have been covered. In addition, the number of states covering children up to 200 percent of poverty increased by more than 7 fold – to 30 states – during that time.
- **Strengthening the Medicare Trust Fund**
When the President came into office, Medicare was projected to become insolvent in 1999. The Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Trust Fund by another 10 years, resulting in the longest Medicare Trust Fund solvency in a quarter century, extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by a total of 26 years and offering premiums that are nearly 20 percent lower today than projected in 1993.
- **Modernizing the Medicare Benefit Package**
The BBA included a series of structural reforms which modernize the program, bringing it in line with the private sector and preparing it for the baby boom generation. These reforms: waived cost-sharing for mammography services and provided annual screening mammograms for beneficiaries age 40 and older to help detect breast cancer; established a diabetes self-management benefit; ensured Medicare coverage of colorectal screening and cervical cancer screening; ensured coverage of bone mass measurement tests to help women detect osteoporosis, and increased reimbursement rates for certain immunizations to protect seniors from pneumonia, influenza, and hepatitis.
- **HOPE Scholarships/Lifetime Learning Tax Credits**
President Clinton proposed and passed the largest increase in college opportunity since the GI bill. The HOPE Scholarship provides a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for

tuition and fees for the first two years of college. When fully phased-in, the Lifetime Learning tax credit will provide a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 of tuition and fees for students beyond the first two years of college, or taking classes part-time.

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- **Welfare-to-Work Grants**

Due to President Clinton's leadership, the Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion over two years for Welfare-to-Work grants to help states and local communities move long-term welfare recipients and certain non-custodial parent in lasting, unsubsidized jobs. This funding, used for job creation, placement and retention efforts, has helped the hardest-to-serve welfare recipients and promotes parental responsibility among noncustodial parents who need to find work to honor their responsibilities to their children.

- **Landmark Education Investments: America Reads, Charter Schools, Education Technology**

The President succeeded in doubling investments in education technology, increasing charter school funding, expanding Head Start to reach more than 800,000 children, and increasing the maximum Pell Grant by the largest amount in two decades. The Budget also provided \$300 million for the President's America Reads Challenge. Together, these programs are the most significant increase in education funding at the national level in 30 years.

- **Created 20 more Empowerment Zones and 20 more rural Enterprise Communities**

Following Congress' 1994 designation of Cleveland and Los Angeles as EZs, the President requested a Round 2 of 20 new EZs and 20 new rural Enterprise Communities. The Round 2 EZs received expanded tax-exempt bonding authority to increase their ability to stimulate private-sector job creation for low-income residents.

November 21, 1997

FDA Reform Legislation Signed

The President supported and signed the FDA Modernization Act of 1997, the first major food and medical products reform in 35 years. The Act cut approval times of new drugs in half, simplified the review process for medical devices, expanded participation in experimental treatments for AIDS, Alzheimer's and cancer patients, and protected consumers by ensuring accurate food labeling. (PL 105-115, signed 11/21/97)

October 21, 1998

Class Size Reduction Initiative Launched

After initially refusing to provide any funding at all, Congress agreed to provide \$1.2 billion for the first year of the President's new initiative to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades to a national average of 18. This initiative is the first comprehensive effort to reduce class size across the nation. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)

October 27

Head Start Expansion and Reauthorization (Human Services Reauthorization Act)

The reauthorization of Head Start paved the way for further quality improvements, doubled participation in the Early Head Start program and moved toward the President's goal of providing quality Head Start opportunities for one million children. (PL 105-285, 10/27/98)

Individual Development Accounts

In addition to reauthorizing Head Start, the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 also created the Individual Development Account Demonstration Program to encourage low-income families to save for a first home, post-secondary education or to start a new business. (PL 105-285, 10/27/98)

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106th Congress 1999-2000

November 12, 1999

Financial Modernization Legislation Enacted

President Clinton signed the Financial Modernization Act into law, finally revamping a banking system that had been in place since the Great Depression. The new law will increase innovation and competition in the financial services industry, including traditional banking, insurance and securities industries, giving consumers greater choice and lower prices. The President insisted that the new regulatory structure permit banking institutions to expand into these newly authorized lines of business only if they satisfactorily serve the credit needs of their communities, and that the law include many of the consumer privacy provisions he proposed. (PL 106-102, signed 11/12/99)

November 29, 1999

Work Incentives Improvement Act Signed

After months of congressional inaction, President Clinton insisted that Congress pass the Work Incentives Improvement Act as a condition of the budget agreement. This bipartisan Act allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work. This law represents one of the most important legislative advances for people with disabilities since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

Leveraged \$90 Billion in International Debt Relief

President Clinton has been an international leader in recognizing and solving the debt problems of developing countries. To meet the commitments he made at the G-7 Economic Summit in Cologne in June and at his address to the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in September, President Clinton secured funds from Congress as part of the FY2000 Budget to leverage over \$90 billion of debt relief for developing nations. Along with funds from other creditor nations, this plan tripled the amount of debt relief available to the world's poorest nations. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

April 7, 2000

Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act Passed

In his January 1999 State of the Union Address the President stated that "we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on Social Security can earn." In 2000, the House

and Senate unanimously voted to eliminate the retirement earnings test for people above the normal retirement age. (PL 106-182, signed 4/7/00)

October 10, 2000

China-PNTR Enacted

This act was a crucial step to complete a major trade goal of the Clinton-Gore Administration, opening China's markets to American manufactured goods, farm products and services by allowing China to become part of the WTO, forcing it to slash import barriers against American goods and services. The United States agreed to maintain market access policies we currently apply to China. (PL 106-286, signed 10/10/00)

October 27

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000

The President signed this landmark legislation, which expands and strengthens the Violence Against Women Act, passed as part of the Crime Bill in 1994. The legislation also provides new tools and resources to combat the worldwide scourge of trafficking in persons and helps American victims of terrorism abroad to collect court-awarded compensation. (PL 106-386, 10/27/00)

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President Clinton and Vice President Gore

Eight Years of Peace, Progress and Prosperity

1993

January 22

Abolished Restrictions on Medical Research and the Right to Choose

As his first executive actions, President Clinton revoked the Gag Rule, which prohibited abortion counseling in clinics that receive federal funding to serve low-income patients. He also revoked restrictions on a woman's legal right to privately funded abortion services in military hospitals, restrictions on the import of RU-486, and the award of family planning grants. The President also lifted the moratorium on federal funding for research involving fetal tissue, allowing progress on research into treatments for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and leukemia. (Executive Memoranda, 1/22/93)

February 5

Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. The previous administration vetoed the bill twice. (PL 103-3, signed 2/5/93)

May 20

"Motor Voter" Registration

The Clinton Administration made it easier for millions of Americans to register to vote by allowing registration at the same time they get a driver's license. The Motor Voter law led to the registration of more than 28 million new voters, more registered voters than the passage of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18 years. (PL 103-31, signed 5/20/93).

August 10

Clinton-Gore Deficit Reduction Plan

Passed without a single Republican vote, the Clinton-Gore Administration's economic plan established fiscal discipline by slashing the deficit in half -- the largest deficit reduction plan in history -- while making important investment in our economic future, including education, health care, and science and technology research. Fiscal discipline established by the Clinton-Gore Administration has turned the largest deficits in our country's history into the largest surplus. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion/Working Family Tax Cut

President Clinton succeeded in passing an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, giving a tax cut to 15 million of the hardest-pressed American workers. In 1999, the EITC lifted 4.1 million people out of poverty -- nearly double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93).

Student Loan Reform

Created the Direct Student Loan Program, which cut red tape and administrative costs by eliminating subsidies and bureaucracy in the Student Loan Program. The program has saved taxpayers \$4 billion since 1993 and allowed interest rate reductions for students. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities Program

Created nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities with tax incentives and \$100 million per EZ in discretionary investment dollars to spur local community planning and economic growth in distressed communities. At the President's request, Congress expanded the program in 1994 and again in 1997. To date, the EZ program has leveraged over \$10 million in additional private investment into EZs. The EZ program represents the most ambitious incentives program ever offered by the federal government to promote private sector investment in distressed areas in America.

Childhood Immunization Initiative

In 1992, less than 60 percent of two-year-olds were fully immunized – the third lowest rate in the Western Hemisphere. The Clinton-Gore Economic Plan contained investments to guarantee the health of children and prevent the easily avoidable costs of preventable childhood diseases. Today, the nation's overall immunization rate for preschool children is at the highest rate ever recorded.

September 21

AmeriCorps Community Service Initiative

AmeriCorps allows Americans to serve communities across the country while earning money for college or skills training. Since its inception, 150,000 volunteers have participated in Americorps; that means that more people have enrolled this Clinton Administration initiative in its first 5 years than did in the Peace Corps' first 20 years. (PL 103-82, signed 9/21/93)

November 30

Brady Act Signed

After seven years of debate under previous administrations, the President signed legislation creating a five-day waiting period and background check before the purchase of a handgun. The Brady Law has helped to prevent a total of more than 536,000 felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns. Since 1993, the gun-related crime rate has declined by more than 35%. (PL 103-159, signed 11/30/93)

December 8

NAFTA Ratified

President Clinton worked to pass bipartisan legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement, creating the world's largest free trade zone. Since passage of NAFTA, the U.S. manufacturing sector has created 400,000 jobs, and exports to Canada and Mexico support 600,000 more jobs today than in 1993. (Signed 12/8/93)

March 31

Goals 2000 Education Standards

✱ This legislation provided assistance to states to implement high standards and challenging curricula to help all children succeed. Today, 49 states have used Goals 2000 to adopt strong new academic standards. (PL 103-227, signed 3/31/94)

May 18

Head Start Expansion and Reform

✱ President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and passed legislation increasing Head Start participation and quality. The new bill established minimum performance standards, strong accountability and created the Early Head Start program for early childhood development. The Administration has increased funding for Head Start by more than 90% since 1993. (PL 103-252, signed 5/18/94)

September 13

Crime Bill

Enacted the Clinton-Gore Administration's tough and smart crime fighting strategy. The Bill contained tougher penalties, including "three strikes and you're out" legislation, helped states build more prisons and increased prevention and victims rights. As a result, the overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 26 year low. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

Assault Weapons Ban

President Clinton and Vice President Gore overcame intense opposition by the gun lobby to ban 19 of the most dangerous assault weapons. Thanks in part to the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to take these dangerous guns off the streets, gun violence has declined by more than 35 percent since 1993. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

100,000 Community Police Officers

The Clinton-Gore Administration succeeded in passing a bill providing local governments funding to hire and redeploy 100,000 community police officers. COPS helped contribute to a decline that brought the overall crime rate to the lowest level in 25 years. In 1999, crime fell for the eighth consecutive year nationwide. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

Violence Against Women Act

The Clinton-Gore Administration fought for and signed this bill, which contains new penalties, resources to prosecute more domestic violence offenders, and funding to triple domestic violence shelters. The Administration also established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline. This initiative represents the first federal effort to address domestic violence and violence against women. Today, the number of victims of domestic violence has fallen from 1.1 million in 1993 to 876,340 in 1998. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

September 23

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund Created

Meeting an early campaign commitment, the President signs legislation creating the CDFI Fund to support both specialized financial institutions and traditional banks that serve lower-income communities. As of late 2000, the CDFI Fund had certified over 400 community development banks, community development credit unions, housing and business loan funds and venture capital firms as CDFIs. The CDFI Fund has provided over \$427 million in funding to institutions that provide capital and financial services to underserved markets.

✂

October 31

California Desert Protection Act

The largest land protection bill since 1980 protected nearly 8 million acres of wilderness and created three new national parks. (PL 103-433, signed 10/31/94)

December 8

GATT Ratified

The Clinton-Gore Administration worked with a bipartisan majority in the Senate to pass legislation implementing the General Agreement on Tariffs and trade (GATT). This agreement allows American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system. (PL 103-465, signed 12/8/94)

1995

January 31

President Clinton Issues Loans Preventing Economic Collapse in Mexico

After Congress refused to act, President Clinton issues \$20 billion in emergency loans to Mexico to stabilize the country's financial markets. Loans from the United States and the International Monetary Fund stopped the collapse of the peso, prevented economic crisis, and helped the country return to solid economic growth. Mexico repaid the loans with interest three years ahead of schedule. U.S. taxpayers made a net gain of nearly \$580 million from the loan. (1/31/95)

March 8

Executive Order Preventing Permanent Striker Replacement Issued

In order to maintain fairness and balance between workers and management, President Clinton issued an executive order preventing the federal government from contracting with businesses that hire permanent replacements for employees engaging in lawful strikes. (E.O. 12954)

December 14

Dayton Peace Accords Signed

Leaders of the rival factions in the Bosnian civil war signed a treaty to end the nearly four-year-old conflict, formally approving the pact they had initialed in November in Dayton, Ohio after three weeks of U.S.-sponsored talks.

February 8

Telecommunications Reform Signed

President Clinton and Vice President Gore achieved the first major overhaul of the telecommunications laws in 60 years. Reforms of the 1934

Telecommunications Act finally achieved by the Clinton-Gore Administration opened up competition between local telephone companies, long distance providers and cable companies; and requires the use of new V-chip technology to enable families to exercise greater control over the television programming that comes into their homes. The act also contained the Vice President's E-Rate proposal, which provides low-cost Internet connections for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals. (PL 104-104, signed 2/8/96)

✱

April 26

Minimum Wage Increased

President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for and won a 90-cent per hour increase in the minimum wage – increasing wages for 10 million workers. This increase was the first in 6 years and in 1996 it was the largest single-year increase ever. (PL 104-134, signed 4/26/96)

August 3

Food Quality Protection Act Signed

This Act established toughest standards for pesticide residues in food ever, and for the first times required that the standards take into account special risks to children. (PL 104-170, signed 8/3/96)

August 6

Safe Drinking Water Act

Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act required the strongest standards of safety and purity in America's drinking water while establishing a revolving loan fund to help communities upgrade their water treatment facilities. (PL 104-182, signed 8/6/96)

August 21

Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Reform

This bipartisan health insurance reform bill guarantees that workers can keep their insurance if they lose or leave their jobs and expands coverage for small businesses and self-employed individuals. Roughly 25 million people have benefited from the greater flexibility that this law ensures. (PL 104-191, signed 8/21/96)

August 22

Welfare Reform Enacted

President Clinton kept his promise to end welfare as we know it by requiring welfare recipients to work, limits the time they can stay on welfare, and provides child care and health care to help them make the move from welfare to work. It also enacted tough new child support enforcement measures proposed by the President. Since January 1993, the number of people on welfare has fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.3 million and has resulted in the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years. (PL 104-193, signed 8/22/96)

September 18

Created Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The creation of this National Monument preserved unspoiled remote canyons and extensive geologic and world-class paleontological sites. President Clinton was the first President to designate a National Monument since 1978 and throughout his term the President has protected more land as national monuments in the lower 48 states — over 4.6 million acres — than any president in history. (Presidential Proclamation, 9/18/96)

1997

April 24

Chemical Weapons Convention Ratified

In April, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, which makes the production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons illegal. (Ratified 4/24/97)

June 4

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act Reauthorized

The expanded IDEA ensures that children with disabilities can be in the classroom and be included in school activities like work experience, science clubs and field outings. It also applies the same high standards and ensures that children with disabilities learn the same things with the same curricula and the same assessments as all other children. (Signed 6/4/97)

July 16

Stronger Air Quality Regulations

On July 16, 1997, the President approved the strongest air quality standards in history to control pollution from smog and soot. The standards could prevent 15,000 premature deaths every year and will improve the lives of millions of Americans suffering from respiratory illness. Enforcement of the new standards has been delayed by court action. (7/16/97)

August 5

Balanced Budget Agreement

In February, the President submitted the first plan to finish the job of eliminating the deficit and the balanced budget in 27 years. On August 5th, he signed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which finished the job of eliminating the \$290 billion budget deficit. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

\$500 per Child Tax Credit

As part of the Balanced Budget Agreement, the President secured a \$500 per child tax credit for approximately 27 million families with children under 17, including thirteen million children from families with incomes below \$30,000. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Children's Health Insurance Program Created

At the urging of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the largest increase in children's health coverage since the creation of Medicaid -- the five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), which will provide health care coverage for up to five million children. As of June 2000, approximately 2.5 million children were enrolled in S-CHIP. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

HOPE Scholarships/Lifetime Learning Tax Credits

President Clinton proposed and passed the largest increase in college opportunity since the GI bill. The Hope Scholarship provides a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for tuition and fees for the first two years of college. When fully phased-in, the Lifetime Learning tax credit will provide a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 of tuition and fees for students beyond the first two years of college, or taking classes part-time. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Landmark Education Investments: America Reads, Charter Schools, Head Start

The President succeeded in doubling investments in education technology, increasing charter school funding, expanding Head Start to reach more than 800,000 children, and increasing Pell Grant maximum grants by the largest amount in two decades. The Budget also provided \$300 million for the President's America Reads Challenge. Together, these programs are the most significant increase in education funding at the national level in 30 years. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Created 20 more Empowerment Zones and 20 more rural Enterprise Communities

Following Congress' 1994 designation of Cleveland and Los Angeles as EZs, the President requested a Round 2 of 20 new EZs and 20 new rural Enterprise Communities. The Round 2 EZs received expanded tax-exempt bonding authority to increase their ability to stimulate private-sector job creation for low-income residents.

November 19

Adoption and Safe Families Act

This bipartisan legislation enacted many of the recommendations of the President's Adoption 2002 report. In order to meet the President's challenge of doubling the number of adoptions by 2002, the Act provides incentives to states to permanently place children in foster care. In 1999, 46,000 foster care children were adopted -- more than a 64 percent increase since 1996 and the biggest increase in adoptions since the National Foster Care Program was created almost 20 years ago. (PL 105-89, signed 11/19/97)

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November 21

FDA Reform Legislation Signed

The President supported and signed the FDA Modernization Act of 1997, the first major food and medical products reform in 35 years. The act cut approval times of new drugs in half, simplified the review process for medical devices, expanded participation in experimental treatments for AIDS, Alzheimer's and cancer patients, and protected consumers by ensuring accurate food labeling. (PL 105-115, signed 11/21/97)

December 16

NATO Expanded to Eastern Europe

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright signed protocols for the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO. The expansion of NATO to include these three former Warsaw Pact nations was a historic step in ensuring peace and stability in Eastern Europe. NATO expansion was ratified in May 1998 after it was approved by a strong bipartisan Senate majority.

1998

April 11

Good Friday Peace Accords Signed

On April 11, President Clinton helped conclude the Good Friday Peace Accords, a historic peace agreement between all the major parties to the long conflict over Northern Ireland. The accord represents the best hope in a generation for a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. (4/11/98)

October 7

GEAR UP Initiative Created

In his 1998 State of the Union address, President Clinton urged Congress "to support our efforts to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children, starting in the 6th grade, so that they can get the guidance and hope they need so they can know that they, too, will be able to go on to college." Congress enacted GEAR UP without a single dissenting vote. GEAR UP provides intensive early intervention services that will help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)



October 21

Class Size Reduction Initiative Launched

After initially refusing to provide any funding at all, Congress agreed to provide \$1.2 billion for the first year of the President's new initiative to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades to a national average of 18. This initiative is the first comprehensive effort at reducing class size across the nation. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)

October 23

Wye Middle East Peace Agreement Signed

On October 23, 1998, after nine days of negotiations at the Wye Conference Center in Maryland, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat signed an agreement that will strengthen Israeli security, expand the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhance opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. (10/23/98)

- October 27** **Head Start Expansion and Reauthorization**
The Reauthorization of the Head Start paved the way for further quality improvements, doubled participation in the Early Head Start program and moved toward the President's goal of providing quality Head Start opportunities for 1 million children. (PL 105-285, 10/27/98)
- December 12** **Global Warming Protocol Signed in Kyoto, Japan**
With critical leadership from the Clinton-Gore Administration, 160 nations agreed on the basic architecture of a strategy to combat global warming on December 12, 1997. This agreement is the first time that major nations of the world ever committed themselves to a comprehensive plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- December 16** **Air Attacks on Saddam Hussein**
Beginning December 16, 1998, American forces attacked Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological programs, and its military capacity to threaten its neighbors. Saddam Hussein had announced that he would no longer cooperate with U.N. inspectors to conduct inspections that would guarantee that Iraq does not try and rebuild its capacity to create weapons of mass destruction.

1999

- June 16** **Leading the World in Eliminating Child Labor**
In June 1999, the President traveled to the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva, Switzerland to urge adoption of an historic international convention that would ban the worst forms of child labor. The next day, the Child Labor Convention was unanimously adopted by delegates at the conference. It represents the largest investment in American history to end abusive child labor around the globe.
- June 20** **Achieving Victory in Kosovo**
President Clinton led the NATO Alliance in a 79-day air war that expelled Serb forces from Kosovo and restored self-government to the province, ending a decade of repression and reversing Slobodan Milosovic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the face of Allied unity, American military superiority, and strong Presidential leadership, Milosovic withdrew his troops and permitted international peacekeepers to begin returning refugees. (3/24-6/20/99)
- November 12** **Financial Modernization Legislation Enacted**
President Clinton signed the Financial Modernization Act into law, finally revamping a banking system that had been in place since the Great Depression. The new law will increase innovation and competition in the financial services industry, including traditional banking, insurance and securities industries, giving consumers greater choice and lower prices. The President insisted that the new regulatory structure permit banking institutions to expand into these newly authorized lines of business only if they satisfactorily serve the credit needs of their communities, and that the law include many of the consumer privacy provisions he proposed. (PL 106-102, signed 11/12/99)

November 29

Work Incentives Improvement Act Signed

After months of congressional inaction, President Clinton insisted that Congress pass the Work Incentives Improvement Act as a condition of the budget agreement. This bipartisan Act allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work. This law represents one of the most important legislative advances for people with disabilities since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

21st Century Policing Initiative Launched

The President's successful community policing initiative funded 100,000 officers around the country and played a key role in producing the longest continuous drop in crime on record. In 1999, President Clinton secured funding for the first installment of the 21st Century Policing Initiative over Congressional opposition. The new initiative will fund up to 50,000 additional community police officers by 2005 and equip them with new, advanced tools to fight crime. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

Leveraged \$90 Billion in International Debt Relief

President Clinton has been an international leader in recognizing and solving the debt problems of developing countries. To meet the commitments he made at the G-7 Economic Summit in Cologne in June and at his address to the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in September, President Clinton secured funds from Congress to leverage over \$90 billion of debt relief for developing nations. Along with funds from other creditor nations, this plan tripled the amount of debt relief available to the world's poorest nations. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

2000

April 7

Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act Passed

In his January 1999 State of the Union Address the President stated that "we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on Social Security can earn." In 2000, the House and Senate unanimously voted to eliminate the retirement earnings test for people above the normal retirement age. (PL 106-182, signed 4/7/00)

April 15

A New National Monument To Preserve Ancient Sequoias

On April 15, President Clinton signed a proclamation creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument. This 328,000-acre monument will ensure lasting protection for 34 groves of ancient sequoias, the largest trees on Earth. (4/15/00)

- May 18** **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act**
Expands two-way trade and create incentives for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the Caribbean Basin to continue reforming their economies and participate more fully in the benefits of the global economy. This area forms the 6th largest export market for the United States. (PL 106-200, signed 5/18/00)
- June 9** **Preserving Four Unique and Irreplaceable National Monuments**
President Clinton signed proclamations creating four new national monuments to protect federal lands representing unique, irreplaceable pieces of America's natural and cultural heritage. The four are the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in southwest Colorado, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon, the Hanford Reach National Monument in south central Washington, and the Ironwood Forest National Monument in southern Arizona. (6/9/00)
- June 30** **Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act**
This act eliminated legal barriers to using electronic technology to form and sign contracts, collect and store documents, and send and receive notices and disclosures. It also contained important protections making sure that consumers shopping on-line are protected to the same extent as paper transactions. (PL 106-229, signed 6/30/00)
- July 1** **Campaign Finance Disclosure**
President Clinton signed the first new campaign finance reform legislation in 20 years, closing a loophole that allowed tax-exempt groups to use undisclosed donors to pay for political ad campaigns. (PL 106-230, signed 7/1/00)
- July 13** **Plan Colombia Enacted**
President Clinton proposed a new aid package to bolster democracy and combat drug trafficking in Colombia. The agreement will enhance alternative development, strengthen civil justice and democratic institutions, and provide assistance aimed at reducing the flow of cocaine and other narcotics to the United States. (PL 106-246, signed 7/13/00)
- October 10** **China-PNTR Enacted**
This act was a crucial step to complete a major trade goal of the Clinton-Gore Administration, opening China's markets to American manufactured goods, farm products and services by allowing China to become part of the WTO, forcing it to slash import barriers against American goods and services. The United States agreed to maintain market access policies we currently apply to China. (PL 106-286, signed 10/10/00)

November 13

New Worker Health And Safety Rules To Prevent Repetitive Stress Injuries

The new rule announced by the administration is aimed at reducing approximately 1.8 million repetitive stress injuries that affect workers. Based on extensive scientific research and public comment, the Administration's proposal would save 300,000 workers the pain and suffering associated with these injuries, and save American businesses \$9 billion a year in workers compensation and lost productivity. The final rules will take effect January 16, 2001. (11/13/00)