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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. draft	The Clinton Presidency: Strengthening America's Families; RE: personal info [partial] (1 page)	11/28/2000	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Anna Richter
OA/Box Number: 23737

FOLDER TITLE:

Overall/American Families

2011-0638-S
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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REVISED DRAFT 11-28

11/29 welfare team

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 ~~and~~ or become trapped in a broken welfare system trying to cover health costs.

Moving Families from Welfare to Work

[general note: to cover the fatherhood and transportation stories that follow, we've broadened the "NOW" section a bit. We're also suggesting putting it in bullets like the "Helping Families Succeed on the Job and at Home" section that follows, and reordering it to flow better]

✓ 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, ~~a small fraction of the more than $17 billion owed~~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~~moves Americans from welfare to work~~, while protecting ~~the health and safety of~~ children.

- Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the welfare rolls have been cut in half to the lowest level since 1968, dropping ~~by 6.6~~to 6.3 million people ~~to the lowest level since 1968~~or 2.3 percent of the population [changed to make more parallel with the "THEN" statement]. Today, most recipients are ~~encouraged~~ 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 more than in 1992).
- ~~To help move families from welfare to work, t~~The President launched ~~the~~ The Welfare-to-Work Partnership [capitalize The, no hyphens] to lead the private sector~~national~~ effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. Now over 20,000 businesses strong, the Partnership has ~~fostered partnerships between employers and community and faith-based organizations that help families move from welfare to work and~~ helped an estimated 1.1 million welfare recipients move to employment.
- Under Vice President Gore's leadership, t~~T~~he 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.~~welfare reform law signed by President Clinton significantly increased child support efforts~~ [NOTE: these were not all part of 96 law], 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 has provided nearly 200,000 new housing vouchers, helped families meet their nutritional needs, improved transportation options through grants to communities and making it easier for families to own a reliable car without losing food stamps, and investing 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 I'm living proof that it can be done." -- **Rhonda Costa, Employee at 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~~, Lakiyah,~~ [better to drop kid's name] 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 she was recently promoted to office manager and has an assistant of her own – a Wildcat graduate. 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 tides were turned once welfare reform was initiated in Howard County in October of 1996. . . . [and] other financial incentives were available that made the big difference, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the collection of child support. Both of these have been a tremendous boost in helping me to keep gainful employment. . . . The past two years have been a series of giant leaps toward self- sufficiency, and I finally feel that I am getting ahead." – **Amy Hillen** works as a job counselor with people making the transition from welfare to work for a non-profit group called Grassroots in Maryland. She was on welfare until the end of 1996, and is now working part-time and working toward a master's degree. [NOTE: same story is included under targeted tax cuts – I prefer it here and think this edited version is much better. AR/KK – we'd never seen this one before – it's good, but where did it come from? Who has vetted?]

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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~~ and expects to reach their goal of hiring 2,000 former welfare recipients before the end of the year~~ [NOTE: superceded by later information above – have now exceeded goal]. ~~United has used the Partnership as a tool to enhance morale and a better working environment for all United employees, which has resulted in nearly doubling their retention rate.~~ One innovative step this company has taken to help former welfare recipients transition into their new job at United is through a volunteer mentoring program with current United employees. The mentors are there to be a friend, help with workplace questions, and to offer encouragement. This ~~foundation~~ strategy has contributed ~~in~~ to the company's success in hiring ~~and retaining~~ welfare to work employees, nearly doubling retention rates, and enhancing morale and creating a better working environment for all United employees. [Anna/Karin – sorry I didn't pick up these change in what Karin had shared earlier; the way this got condensed from longer version in Partnership's report didn't quite work]

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, of St. Paul, Minnesota, January 25, 1999.** Carlos Rosas is a 33 year old who 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 13 years old. At that time, Ricardo's mother was receiving welfare. 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 after balancing a two-year Electronics Technology/Computer Sciences program with his job responsibilities as a full time head maintenance worker. In July 2000, Carlos was recommended to and hired by Check Technology Corporation as a Systems Technician; he received a significant raise and great benefits.

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 Brockton, NY, February 23, 2000. Michael Alexander is a 24-year-old single father of two children. Mr. Alexander resides in an area with very limited public transportation and since he did not own a car, it has been very difficult for him to maintain steady employment. He is currently receiving welfare, Medicaid, and food stamps. Through the help of a federally-funded, county run program, EARNA CAR, Mr. Alexander was able to purchase a used vehicle. He attended classes about car maintenance, helped repair a donated car, and with the help of a local bank worked out a manageable loan payment. Now he is working part-time at Dunn Tire and attending classes in computer repair at a local community college. Without this car, it would be

extremely difficult for him to balance his responsibilities at home with work and school, much less pursue the full-time employment that would make him completely self-sufficient.

~~Helped~~ 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 ~~over six years~~ 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.

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 [001]

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. Her husband, Tommy Cupp, has been working for B&J Insulators in Frederick, Maryland for three years. In September 1997, Jessica and Tommy quickly went from a 2 person, 2 income earner family to a 5 person, 1 income earner family. 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 ~~a~~ child tax credits that they would not have received had it not been for the 1993 EITC expansion and the new child tax credit promoted by the Clinton Administration. This money has ~~enabled~~ 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. [KK/AR – just want to qualify this a bit since this money alone probably didn't do all these things]

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"The tides were turned once welfare reform was initiated in Howard County in October of 1996. . . . [and] other financial incentives were available that made the big difference, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the collection of child support. Both of these have been a tremendous boost in helping me to keep gainful employment. . . . The past two years have been a series of giant leaps toward self-sufficiency, and I finally feel that I am getting ahead. . . . But most importantly are the rewards I have experienced -- are more emotional in nature, that I feel good about work and how my life is changing and how my children see what hard work is all about. . . . It's just been a great benefit for everyone who is transitioning off welfare to receive that tax credit, and I'd like to thank President Clinton for that – and it has made a big difference in our lives and my children's lives."
-- **Amy Hillen.** Amy Hillen works as a job counselor with people making the transition from welfare to work for a non-profit group called Grassroots. She is a single mother with two children, Alexandra Hilled and Maxwell Keepers. [redacted] P6/(b)(6) [redacted] P6/(b)(6) [redacted] P6/(b)(6) [redacted] This year, she is working part-time and working toward a master's degree. *[recommend deleting here and leaving under welfare to work section*

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**. Evelyn Alvarado, is a 30 year old woman who 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

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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. James is from a family of pilots and had planned to work as a mechanic, but his disability prevents that. James has done a lot of volunteer work to keep busy, including serving as chairman of the school board, volunteering at the high school, and serving on the New Hampshire Rehabilitation Council. 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.

REVISED DRAFT 11-28

Progress for Working Families

- ✓ The EITC now lifts 4.~~3~~1 million working families out of poverty [per 9/26/00 Fact Sheet], 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 number of welfare recipients moving to work has increased by 82 percent.~~ 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 ~~1993~~ 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.

[KK/AR: What happened to tobacco blurb?? – could add back to this document or in the health section – originally submitted:
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.]

Edith 11/14
welfare Team

The Clinton Presidency:
Better Lives for American Families

BEST AMERICAN ECONOMY IN A GENERATION:

In 1992, families were hurting from the effects of twelve years of failed economic policies. Parents were working longer hours and earning lower wages and discovering that they had been forgotten by a government that cut back on its help to families, while rewarding special interests. Record-high government deficits kept mortgage interest rates high, increasing the costs of buying a home, car or repaying credit cards or student loans. Inflation pushed prices higher and higher, while families' real wages dropped.

For the past eight years the Clinton-Gore Administration has followed a path of fiscal discipline, opening overseas markets for American goods, and making investments in the American people, and the outlook is considerably brighter.

- **Federal Deficits Eliminated:** The deficit was $290 billion in 1993 and expected to grow to $455 billion by this year. Instead, we have a projected surplus of $211 billion and we are on track to pay off the entire debt by 2012.
- **Lower Interest Rates:** Fiscal discipline and deficit reduction policies of the Clinton-Gore Administration have lowered interest rates by 2 points providing a family with a $100,000 mortgage an effective $2,000 annual tax cut.
- **Higher Real Wages:** Between 1981-1992 real average hourly earnings fell 4.3 percent under Presidents Reagan and Bush. Under President Clinton, real wages have grown 6.6 percent. Real wages have grown for five consecutive years – for the first time since the 1960s.
- **Lowest Inflation Since the 1960s:** Between 1981-92, the underlying core rate of inflation averaged 4.7 percent annually. Under President Clinton the core rate of inflation has averaged 2.5 percent annually – the lowest of any Administration since Kennedy.

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR FAMILIES:

In 1992, families were increasingly anxious about the future, with good reason. In 1992, unemployment reached the highest level in 8 years, with record layoffs doubling or tripling unemployment rates in many communities. If one or both of the family's parents had not lost their job, a neighbor probably had, and the consequences were serious. New jobs were being created at the slowest rate in decades and, because losing a job usually meant losing the family's health insurance, middle class families could watch their savings evaporate, lose their home, and become trapped in a broken welfare system. That year, a major poll found that by a two-to-one margin, Americans believed that their children would be the first generation to do worse than their parents – and those in the middle class were the most pessimistic.

Today, a strong economy has made Americans optimistic about their future and that of their children.

- **Lowest Unemployment in Three Decades:** During the Reagan and Bush Administrations, The unemployment rate averaged 7.1 percent and rose to more than 10 percent in 1982 and 1983. In 2000, the unemployment rate has averaged 5.0 percent –the lowest rate in over 30 years. The unemployment rate has been below 5 percent for 36 consecutive months. African American and Hispanic unemployment rates are now the lowest on record.

- **22.4 ~~M~~million New Jobs:** Since January 1993, the economy has created 22 million jobs -- more than were created in the previous twelve years. ~~There has been an~~ An average of 248,000 jobs have been created per month under President Clinton – a faster rate than under any other President. And 20.6 million of the new jobs were created in the private sector, the highest share since the ~~Harry~~ Truman Administration ~~was President~~.
- **Highest Homeownership In History:** The homeownership rate dropped from 65.6 percent in 1981 to 64.2 percent in 1992. Today the homeownership rate is at 67.7 percent today, the highest in history.4
- **Lowest Poverty Rate in Decades:** In 1993, the poverty rate reached 14.8 percent. Today it has dropped to 11.8 percent, the lowest level since 1979. Poverty rates for African Americans and Hispanics ~~is~~ are the lowest in history.
- **Trade Supports Record Number of Jobs:** Opening trade has created stable, better-paying jobs for parents as exports have made up one-fifth of our economic growth over the past eight years.
- **Greater Health Security:** Because of health care reform legislation signed by President Clinton, a middle class family does not have to worry about losing their health care coverage if a parent loses or changes jobs.
- **Fewer Business Failures:** The number of business failures grew by 19.2 percent between 1981-92. Between 1992 and 1998, the number of business failures dropped by 26 percent.

SAFER COMMUNITIES:

In 1992, violent crime threatened families and communities. An epidemic of crime meant that their neighborhood was likely to be growing more dangerous. Violent crime reached levels unheard of in many communities, and a growing share of violent crime was committed by armed juveniles. More teenagers were using drugs and dropping out of school. And parents, fighting a daily battle to keep their children away from drugs, gangs and violence, found little support from the federal government, which did nothing to get guns out of the hands of juveniles, failed to back communities with strong prevention measures, and repeatedly denied responsibility for the growing crime epidemic.

Today, tough and smart policies have made America safer: The Clinton-Gore Administration implemented tough and smart anti crime policies that included tough penalties, increased prosecution and smart prevention. They have provided funding for more than 100,000 community police in ~~TK~~ communities. The Administration has increased prosecutions and penalties for gun crimes, banned assault weapons and enacted common sense measures like the Brady Bill, which has kept dangerous firearms out of the hands of more than 500,000 criminals, fugitives and domestic abusers.

- **Crime Rate Drops Every Year:** Under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, the nation's overall crime rate remained at historically high levels, with the crime rate increasing steadily starting in the mid-1980's. The overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 25 year-low.
- **Violent Crime Down Every Year:** The violent crime rate is at its lowest level in over two decades and is down 30% since 1992. In 1999, the homicide rate dropped to its lowest point since 1966. The murder rate has dropped over 38% since 1992.
- **Gun Crime Rate Drops Dramatically:** Since 1993, gun crime has declined by more than 35% and the number of juvenile gun homicide offenders has dropped by 57%.
- **Juvenile Gun Crimes Decrease:** 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 – has decreased from 155 per 1,000 students in 1993 to 102 per 1,000 students in 1997, a drop of more than 35 percent.
- **Drug Use Down and Treatment Up:** Rates of drug use among teenagers has turned the corner, dropping for three consecutive years. Assistance provided by the Administration have created more than 400 Drug Courts, which provide supervised treatment for non-violent drug offenders in more than 400 communities and have enrolled more 140,000 offenders to receive the treatment they need to stop abusing drugs and committing crimes.
- **More Help for Communities Successfully Fighting Crime:** The Clinton Administration has directed more federal resources than ever before to state and local law enforcement to help fight crime -- more than 300% since 1993 -- due in large part to the 1994 Crime Bill.

EXPANDED COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY:

College opportunity declined during the 1980s. Students who worked hard, stayed out of trouble and graduated ready for college still faced skyrocketing tuition costs and a federal government unwilling to help. Students were increasingly being priced out of college at the same time a changing economy demanded college-level skills to succeed. Rather than helping our universities turn out talented graduates to fuel America's economic recovery, the federal government stood by as motivated students were turned away. For 12 years the Reagan and Bush Administrations undertook no major initiatives to increase college opportunity while the cost of college tuition and fees rose by 172%.

Largest expansion of college opportunity since the G.I. Bill. Today, students willing to work hard and graduate prepared for college know that they can receive help paying for college. Families can claim up to $1,500 tax credit for tuition and fees for the first two years because of President Clinton's HOPE Scholarship, and help for additional education, graduate and professional school through the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit. Student loan reform is making college more affordable by saving students money through lower interest rates and administration costs, and students have an option of earning money for college by working and serving their communities in AmeriCorps.

- **More Students Graduating from High School:** The percentage of students who drop out of high school fell from 5.3 percent in 1994 to 4.6 percent in 1997. [CAN'T USE 92-99/00?]
- **More College Students Receive Federal Aid:** In 1992, 6.2 million students received federal grants or loans for college – 43 percent of all college students. Today, 8.8 million students receive federal grants or loans – 59 percent of all college students. In addition, 10 million students are benefiting from new HOPE Scholarships or Lifetime Learning Tax Credits.
- **More High School Graduates Going Directly to College:** In 1992, 62 percent of high school graduates enrolled directly in college. Today 67 percent go directly to college, the highest rate ever. This translates into about 300,000 more high school graduates going directly to college than eight years ago. The percentage of African-American, Hispanic and low-income high school graduates going to college has also increased to the highest level ever.

A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT AND A STRONGER ECONOMY

In 1992, families faced serious environmental threats to their community. Neighborhoods throughout the country were blighted with toxic waste dumps because of lethargic federal clean-up efforts. Too many families lived in areas with poor air and water quality. And citizens seeking a right to know about hazards in their communities found the federal government an obstacle rather than an ally. Time and again, the federal government bowed to special interests and polluters who defeated progress with the argument that America could not protect the environment and grow the economy. As a result, America did neither.

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- **Polluters Must Report More Toxic Chemicals:** The Clinton-Gore Administration has more than doubled the number of chemicals subject to reporting in the nation's Toxic Release Inventory and the number of facilities subject to reporting has been increased by 30 percent. Emissions of the core set of chemicals have decreased by nearly 20 percent.
- **Creating Jobs Cleaning The Environment:** Over the past eight years, 130,000 new jobs have been created in environmental industries such as recycling, renewable energy, waste management and environmental clean-ups. Exports based on environmental technology and industry have more than doubled, increasing from $9.4 million in 1993 to $20 million in 1999.
- **Increasing Environmental Enforcement:** Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the number of environmental crimes prosecuted and the number of convictions won have increased steadily. And the Administration has collected over $400 million in civil penalties since 1993.

[HEALTH SECTION?]

PUTTING GOVERNMENT BACK ON THE SIDE OF WORKING FAMILIES:

Middle class parents trying to raise a family received little help from a government that talked family values but didn't value families. At a time when many parents were being forced to work two or more jobs to make ends meet, the Republican Administration said 'no' to common sense proposals like the Family and Medical Leave Act, unnecessarily forcing parents to choose between their job and family. Meanwhile, the middle class family paid a greater share of their income in taxes to a bloated federal government that failed to provide safe streets, a world-class education, or good jobs in a growing economy.

Families today are getting a more efficient government for their money. The United States has a better government, not a bigger one. Fiscal discipline has cut government spending as a share of the economy to the lowest level since 1966. During the past eight years the number of civilian employees working for the federal government has decreased by more than 300,000. And the Clinton-Gore Administration has worked for targeted middle-class tax cuts, including a child tax credit and tax cuts for college opportunity. During the past eight years, the total Federal tax rate for middle-income families has dropped to the lowest rate since 1978. [MENTION NPR?]

- **Lower Federal Spending as a Share of GDP:** Under Presidents Reagan and Bush, Federal government spending as a share of the economy increased from 21.6 percent in 1980 to 22.2 percent in 1992. Under President Clinton, Federal government spending as a share of the economy has been cut from 22.2 percent in 1992 to a projected 18.5 percent in 2000 – its lowest level since 1966.
- **Typical Families Pay Lower Federal Taxes:** The total Federal tax rate for middle-income families rose from 23.7 percent in 1980 to 24.5 percent in 1992. Under President Clinton, the total Federal tax rate for middle-income families has dropped to 22.8 percent in 1999 – that's the lowest tax rate since 1978.
- **Lowest Federal Civilian Employment in more than 30 Years:** Between 1981 and 1992, the federal workforce increased by nearly 84,000 workers. In May 2000, the federal civilian workforce had 399,133 fewer workers, the smallest federal workforce since the Kennedy Administration.

Government expects parental responsibility and supports working families. With welfare reform, tougher child support laws and efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, this Administration has made it clear that parents, not the government, must take responsibility for their children. At the same time, the Clinton-Gore Administration increased opportunities and supports for those low-income families who are working hard to meet this responsibility.

- **Supporting working families:** The Clinton Administration expanded critical supports for working families, including roughly doubling funding for Head Start and child care, funding nearly 200,000 new housing vouchers for low-income families, helping families meet their nutritional needs, and improving access to jobs through funding to help communities develop innovative transportation solutions for low-income workers and allowing those on Food Stamps to own a reliable car.

- **Stronger emphasis on parental responsibility:** In contrast to the escalating welfare rolls of the prior Republican Administrations, the Clinton-Gore Administration granted waivers to allow a record 43 states to begin reforming their welfare systems, and in August 1996, signed into law national bi-partisan welfare reform legislation that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance. As a result, welfare rolls have been cut in half and millions of welfare recipients have moved into employment. Tough enforcement measures now hold noncustodial parents responsible for their obligations, with child support collections doubling from 1992 to 1999. And the Clinton Administration reversed a dramatic rise in teen birth rates during the late 1980s, cutting teen birth rates by 18 percent since 1992.

- **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. A $1 increase in the minimum wage also helped make work pay for low-income families. In addition, low-income families are now encouraged to save for the future through Individual Development Accounts, created under this Administration.

Helped families succeed on the job and at home by enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act -- the first law President Clinton signed in 1993. President Clinton won other important victories for children and families including signing a $500 child tax credit, a $1 per hour increase in the minimum wage, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, enacting the largest investment in health insurance for children since 1965, and creating incentives for families to adopt children from the foster care system

Crime Team Edits
11/14

The Clinton Presidency:
Better Lives for American Families

BEST AMERICAN ECONOMY IN A GENERATION:

In 1992, families were hurting from the effects of twelve years of failed economic policies. Parents were working longer hours and earning lower wages and discovering that they had been forgotten by a government that cut back on its help to families, while rewarding special interests. Record-high government deficits kept mortgage interest rates high, increasing the costs of buying a home, car or repaying credit cards or student loans. Inflation pushed prices higher and higher, while families' real wages dropped.

For the past eight years the Clinton-Gore Administration has followed a path of fiscal discipline, opening overseas markets for American goods, and making investments in the American people, and the outlook is considerably brighter.

- **Federal Deficits Eliminated:** The deficit was $290 billion in 1993 and expected to grow to $455 billion by this year. Instead, we have a projected surplus of $211 billion and we are on track to pay off the entire debt by 2012.
- **Lower Interest Rates:** Fiscal discipline and deficit reduction policies of the Clinton-Gore Administration have lowered interest rates by 2 points providing a family with a $100,000 mortgage an effective $2,000 annual tax cut.
- **Higher Real Wages:** Between 1981-1992 real average hourly earnings fell 4.3 percent under Presidents Reagan and Bush. Under President Clinton, real wages have grown 6.6 percent. Real wages have grown for five consecutive years – for the first time since the 1960s.
- **Lowest Inflation Since the 1960s:** Between 1981-92, the underlying core rate of inflation averaged 4.7 percent annually. Under President Clinton the core rate of inflation has averaged 2.5 percent annually – the lowest of any Administration since Kennedy.

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR FAMILIES:

In 1992, families were increasingly anxious about the future, with good reason. In 1992, unemployment reached the highest level in 8 years, with record layoffs doubling or tripling unemployment rates in many communities. If one or both of the family's parents had not lost their job, a neighbor probably had, and the consequences were serious. New jobs were being created at the slowest rate in decades and, because losing a job usually meant losing the family's health insurance, middle class families could watch their savings evaporate, lose their home, and become trapped in a broken welfare system. That year, a major poll found that by a two-to-one margin, Americans believed that their children would be the first generation to do worse than their parents – and those in the middle class were the most pessimistic.

Today, a strong economy has made Americans optimistic about their future and that of their children.

- **Lowest Unemployment in Three Decades:** During the Reagan and Bush Administrations, The unemployment rate averaged 7.1 percent and rose to more than 10 percent in 1982 and 1983. In 2000, the unemployment rate has averaged 5.0 percent –the lowest rate in over 30 years. The unemployment rate has been below 5 percent for 36 consecutive months. African American and Hispanic unemployment rates are now the lowest on record.

- **22.4 million New Jobs:** Since January 1993, the economy has created 22 million jobs -- more than were created in the previous twelve. There has been an average of 248,000 jobs created per month – a faster rate than under any President. And 20.6 million of the new jobs were created in the private sector, the highest share since Harry Truman was President.
- **Highest Homeownership In History:** The homeownership rate dropped from 65.6 percent in 1981 to 64.2 percent in 1992. The homeownership rate is at 67.7 percent today, the highest in history.4
- **Lowest Poverty Rate in Decades:** In 1993, the poverty rate reached 14.8 percent. Today it has dropped to 11.8 percent, the lowest level since 1979. Poverty for African Americans and Hispanics is the lowest in history.
- **Trade Supports Record Number of Jobs:** Opening trade has created stable, better-paying jobs for parents as exports have made up one-fifth of our economic growth over the past eight years.
- **Greater Health Security:** Because of health care reform legislation signed by President Clinton, a middle class family does not have to worry about losing their health care coverage if a parent loses or changes jobs.
- **Fewer Business Failures:** The number of business failures grew by 19.2 percent between 1981-92. Between 1992 and 1998, the number of business failures dropped by 26 percent.

LOWEST CRIME RATES IN A GENERATION~~SAFER COMMUNITIES~~:

In 1992, violent crime threatened families and communities. The violent crime rate had quadrupled in the previous three decades, and had reached alarming levels in many communities. ~~**An epidemic of crime meant that their neighborhood was likely to be growing more dangerous. Violent crime reached levels unheard of in many communities, and a**~~ **A** growing share of violent crime was committed by armed juveniles. ~~**and More more** teenagers were using drugs and dropping out of school.~~ ~~**And**~~ **As** parents ~~**fighting**~~ **fought** a daily battle to keep their children away from drugs, gangs and violence, **they found** ~~fund~~ little support from the ~~**federal government, which did nothing to get guns out of the hands of juveniles, failed to back communities with strong prevention measures, and repeatedly denied responsibility for the growing crime epidemic.**~~ **Reagan and Bush Administrations in helping to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles and criminals, and in providing law enforcement and their communities with the adequate resources to prevent crime from occurring in the first place.**

Today, tough and smart [ADD: anti-crime] policies have made America safer: The Clinton-Gore Administration**'s historic 1994 Crime Act established** ~~**tough and smart anti crime policies that included**~~ tough **new** penalties **against dangerous criminals** ~~**, increased prosecution**~~ and smart prevention **measures to prevent crimes from occurring in the first place.** ~~**They have**~~ **Under the Administration's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program,** ~~**provided**~~ **funding has been provided** ~~**for**~~ **to put** more than 100,000 community police **on the streets** in ~~**TK**~~ communities **of all sizes and regions across America.** The Administration has increased prosecutions and penalties for gun crimes, banned assault weapons and enacted common sense measures like the Brady Bill, which has kept ~~**dangerous firearms**~~ **guns** out of the hands of more than ~~**500,000**~~ **536,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers.** ~~**criminals, fugitives and domestic abusers.**~~

- **Crime Rate Drops Every Year:** Under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, the nation's overall crime rate remained at historically high levels, with the crime rate increasing steadily starting in the mid-1980's. The overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a ~~**25**~~ **26** year-low.

- **Violent Crime Down Every Year:** The violent crime rate is at its lowest level in over two decades and is down 30% since 1992. In 1999, the homicide rate dropped to its lowest point since 1966. The murder rate has dropped over 38% since 1992**, and is at a 33-year-low.**
- **Gun Crime Rate Drops Dramatically:** Since 1993, gun crime has declined by more than 35%. ~~**and the number of juvenile gun homicide offenders has dropped by 57%.**~~
- **Juvenile Gun Crimes Decrease:** The number of juvenile gun **homicide** 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 – has decreased from 155 per 1,000 students in 1993 to ~~**102**~~ **101** per 1,000 students in **1998** ~~**1997**~~, a drop of ~~**more than**~~ **nearly** 35 percent.
- **Drug Use Down and Treatment Up:** Rates of drug use among teenagers ~~**has**~~ **have** turned the corner, dropping for **the second year in a row and youth marijuana use has dropped over 25%** ~~three consecutive years~~. **Through the 1994 Crime Act, the Administration has reduce drug abuse and recidivism by expanding the number of drug courts from 12 in 1994 to over 400 in 1999, and to increase the number of federal inmates receiving residential substance abuse treatment from 1,135 in 1992 to 10,816 in 1999.** ~~**Assistance provided by the Administration have created more than 400 Drug Courts, which provide supervised treatment for non-violent drug offenders in more than 400 communities and have enrolled more 140,000 offenders to receive the treatment they need to stop abusing drugs and committing crimes.**~~
- **More Help for Communities Successfully Fighting Crime:** The Clinton Administration's **1994 Crime Act also helped to lead to an unprecedented increase in federal resources to state and local law enforcement – more than 300 percent since 1993.** ~~**has directed more federal resources than ever before to state and local law enforcement to help fight crime -- more than 300% since 1993 -- due in large part to the 1994 Crime Bill.**~~

EXPANDED COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY:

College opportunity declined during the 1980s. Students who worked hard, stayed out of trouble and graduated ready for college still faced skyrocketing tuition costs and a federal government unwilling to help. Students were increasingly being priced out of college at the same time a changing economy demanded college-level skills to succeed. Rather than helping our universities turn out talented graduates to fuel America's economic recovery, the federal government stood by as motivated students were turned away. For 12 years the Reagan and Bush Administrations undertook no major initiatives to increase college opportunity while the cost of college tuition and fees rose by 172%.

Largest expansion of college opportunity since the G.I. Bill. Today, students willing to work hard and graduate prepared for college know that they can receive help paying for college. Families can claim up to $1,500 tax credit for tuition and fees for the first two years because of President Clinton's HOPE Scholarship, and help for additional education, graduate and professional school through the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit. Student loan reform is making college more affordable by saving students money through lower interest rates and administration costs, and students have an option of earning money for college by working and serving their communities in AmeriCorps.

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EDTeamedits 11/14

The Clinton Presidency:
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[If appropriate, they may want to include something on the Child Care and Development Block Grant and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers since both programs are often cited as helping families find/afford child care. We could also include something on Even Start family literacy programs if that would be of interest. One edit below.]

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PUTTING GOVERNMENT BACK ON THE SIDE OF WORKING FAMILIES:

Middle class parents trying to raise a family received little help from a government that talked family values but didn't value families. At a time when many parents were being forced to work two or more jobs to make ends meet, the Republican Administration said 'no' to common sense proposals like the Family and Medical Leave Act, unnecessarily forcing parents to choose between their job and family. Meanwhile, the middle class family paid a greater share of their income in taxes to a bloated federal government that failed to provide safe streets, a world-class education, or good jobs in a growing economy.

Families today are getting a more efficient government for their money. The United States has a better government, not a bigger one. Fiscal discipline has cut government spending as a share of the economy to the lowest level since 1966. During the past eight years the number of civilian employees working for the federal government has decreased by more than 300,000. And the Clinton-Gore Administration has worked for targeted middle-class tax cuts, including a child tax credit and tax cuts for college opportunity. During the past eight years, the total Federal tax rate for middle-income families has dropped to the lowest rate since 1978.

- **Lower Federal Spending as a Share of GDP:** Under Presidents Reagan and Bush, Federal government spending as a share of the economy increased from 21.6 percent in 1980 to 22.2 percent in 1992. Under President Clinton, Federal government spending as a share of the economy has been cut from 22.2 percent in 1992 to a projected 18.5 percent in 2000 – its lowest level since 1966.
- **Typical Families Pay Lower Federal Taxes:** The total Federal tax rate for middle-income families rose from 23.7 percent in 1980 to 24.5 percent in 1992. Under President Clinton, the total Federal tax rate for middle-income families has dropped to 22.8 percent in 1999 – that's the lowest tax rate since 1978.
- **Lowest Federal Civilian Employment in more than 30 Years:** Between 1981 and 1992, the federal workforce increased by nearly 84,000 workers. In May 2000, the federal civilian workforce had 399,133 fewer workers, the smallest federal workforce since the Kennedy Administration.