

State of the Union and Budget Summaries

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A NATION TRANSFORMED

Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments: 1993 - 2000

For the past seven years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been guided by three core values: building a *community* of all Americans; creating *opportunity* for all Americans; and demanding *responsibility* from all Americans. Pursuing policies based on these values has resulted in tremendous progress for our nation, and a strong America at the dawn of the 21st Century. The President and Vice President are committed to a "New Opportunity Agenda" to build on our progress and expand our prosperity until it reaches every corner of the nation.

Economy: the Strongest Economy in a Generation

Largest Economic Expansion in U.S. History. In February 2000, the United States entered the 107th consecutive month of economic expansion -- the longest economic expansion in history. [National Bureau of Economic Research and Council of Economic Advisors]

Moving From Record Deficits to Record Surplus. In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. In 1999, we had a budget surplus of \$124 billion -- the largest dollar surplus on record (even after adjusting for inflation) and the largest as a share of our economy since 1951. This is the first back-to-back surplus in more than 40 years. [Office of Management and Budget; Department of the Treasury]

Paying Off the National Debt. In 1999, public debt was reduced by \$88 billion, which follows the \$51 billion debt reduction in 1998, and brings the two-year total up to \$140 billion. Public debt is \$1.7 trillion lower in 1999 than was projected in 1993. Debt reduction brings real benefits for the American people -- a family with a home mortgage of \$100,000 might expect to save roughly \$2,000 per year in mortgage payments. Reduced debt also means lower interest rates and reduced payments on car loans and student loans. With the President's plan, we are now on track to eliminate the nation's publicly held debt by 2013. [National Economic Council, 10/27/99; Treasury Department, Office of Economic Policy, From Widening Deficits to Paying Down the Debt: Benefits for the American People, 8/4/99; White House Fact Sheet, 1/25/00]

More than 20 Million New Jobs. 20.8 million new jobs have been created since 1993, the most jobs ever created under a single Administration -- and more new jobs than Presidents Reagan and Bush created during their three terms. 92 percent (19.2 million) of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years. Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the economy has added an average of 248,000 jobs per month, the highest under any President. This compares to 52,000 per month under President Bush and 167,000 per month under President Reagan. [National Economic Council, 2/4/00]

Fastest and Longest Real Wage Growth in Over Three Decades. In the last 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased 3.7 percent -- faster than the rate of inflation. The United States has had five consecutive years of real wage growth -- the longest consecutive increase since the 1960s. Since 1993, real wages are up 6.6 percent, after declining 4.3 percent during the Reagan and Bush years. [National Economic Council, 2/4/00]

Unemployment Is the Lowest in Three Decades. Unemployment is down from 7.5 percent in 1992 to 4.0 percent in January. The unemployment rate has fallen for seven years in a row, and has remained below 5 percent for 31 months in a row. African-American unemployment has fallen from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 8.2 percent in January 2000, while the unemployment rate for Hispanics has fallen from 11.6 percent in 1992 to 5.6 percent -- both the lowest rates on record. [National Economic Council, 2/4/00]

Highest Homeownership Rate in History. In the third quarter of 1999, the homeownership rate was 67.0 -- the highest ever recorded. Minority homeownership rates were also the highest ever recorded. [Bureau of the Census, 9/28/99]

Lowest Poverty Rate in Two Decades. The poverty rate has fallen from 15.1 percent in 1993 to 12.7 percent in 1998. That's the lowest poverty rate since 1979 and the largest five-year drop in poverty in nearly 30 years (1965-1970). The African-American poverty rate has dropped from 33.1 percent in 1993 to 26.1 percent in 1998 -- the lowest level ever recorded and the largest five-year drop in African-American poverty in more than a quarter century (1967-1972). The poverty rate for Hispanics is at the lowest level since 1979, and dropped to 25.6 percent in 1998. [Poverty In the United States: 1998, Bureau of the Census, 9/30/99]

Largest Five-Year Drop in Child Poverty Rate Since the '60s. Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, child poverty has declined from 22.7 percent in 1993 to 18.9 percent in 1998 -- the biggest five-year drop in nearly 30 years. The poverty rate for African-American children has fallen from 46.1 percent in 1993 to 36.7 percent in 1998 -- a level that is still too high, but is the lowest level in 20 years and the biggest five-year drop on record. The rate also fell for Hispanic children, from 36.8 percent to 34.4 percent -- and is now 6.5 percentage points lower than it was in 1993. [Poverty In the United States: 1998, Census Bureau, 9/30/99]

Families and Communities: Strengthening America's Working Families

Tax Cuts for Working Families. 15 million additional working families received additional tax relief because of the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. In 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people out of poverty -- double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. This year, the President proposed expanding the EITC to provide tax relief to an additional 6.4 million hard-pressed working families [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98; Treasury Department]

Helping Parents Balance Work and Family. The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for seriously ill family members, new born or adoptive children, or their own serious health problems without fear of losing their jobs. Nearly 91 million workers (71% of the labor force) are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act and millions of workers have benefited from FMLA since its enactment. President Clinton has proposed expanding FMLA to allow workers to take up to 24 unpaid hours off each year for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical care, and caring for an elderly relative. [Five Years of Success: Report on FMLA, Department of Labor, 8/98 (updated number provided 7/99)]

Increased the Minimum Wage. The minimum wage has risen from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour, increasing wages for 10 million workers. The President and Vice President have called for an additional increase to \$6.15. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

Enacted the Workforce Investment Act. The Workforce Investment Act reformed the nation's employment and training system so that it works better for today's workers. The WIA empowered individuals by giving adults more control and choice over their training or retraining and providing universal access to core labor market services; streamlined job training services by consolidating a tangle of individual programs into a simple system and creating a nationwide network of One-Stop Career Centers; enhanced accountability through tough performance standards for states, localities, and training providers; and increased flexibility so that states can innovate and experiment with new ways to train America's workers better. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 8/7/98]

Signed the Landmark Work Incentives Improvement Act. Americans with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work, forcing a choice between health care and employment. The Work Incentives Improvement Act keeps people with disabilities from losing their Medicare or Medicaid health coverage when they go to work. It also includes a \$250 million demonstration, which the President insisted on fully funding, that allows people with disabilities who are still working and are not yet sufficiently disabled to qualify for Medicaid to buy into the program. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/17/99]

Signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. The Adoption and Safe Families Act, which was based in large part on the recommendations of the Clinton-Gore Administration's Adoption 2002 report, made sweeping changes in adoption law so that thousands of children in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes. In FY98, 36,000 children in foster care were adopted, up from 28,000 in 1996. This is the first significant increase in adoption since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/19/97]

Enacted the Foster Care Independence Act. The Foster Care Independence Act will ensure that young people leaving foster care 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. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 12/14/99]

Putting Families First. The President and Vice President developed and implemented first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco and end tobacco marketing targeted to young people. They also required the installation of V-chips in all new televisions, and encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to deter school violence and promote discipline. [Presidential Statement, 8/23/96; FCC Report No. GN 98-3, 3/12/98; Presidential Memorandum, 2/23/96]

Supporting Community Service. In just five years, AmeriCorps has allowed 150,000 young people to serve in their communities while earning money for college or skills training. [Corporation for National Service Press Release, 10/16/99]

President's One America Initiative. President Clinton has led the nation in an effort to become One America: a place where we respect others' differences and embrace the common values that unite us. The President has been actively involved in public outreach efforts to engage Americans in this historic effort, and followed up on the work of the Initiative on Race by appointing Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the new White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America. The office is working to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country, and build the One America we want for all of our nation's children. President Clinton has appointed the most diverse Cabinet and White House staff in history, presiding over an Administration that looks like America. [White House Fact Sheet, 6/12/97; The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 2/5/99]

Welcoming New Americans. Since 1993, the United States has welcomed 4.4 million new American citizens. Faced with this unprecedented number of applications, the Administration undertook an initiative that has significantly reduced the backlog of citizenship applications and is restoring timely processing. Furthermore, the Administration's *English as a Second Language/Civics Education Initiative* will provide limited English speaking adults with instruction in both English literacy and critical life skills necessary for effective citizenship and civic participation.

Providing Fairness for Legal Immigrants. The President believes that legal immigrants should have the

same economic opportunity and bear the same responsibility as other members of society. In 1997 and 1998, the President fought for and succeeded in restoring disability, health and nutritional benefits for certain legal immigrants, and he will continue to press for additional restorations.

Education: Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years

Opening the Doors of College to All Americans. The President proposed and passed the \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship credits, making the first two years of college universally available for six million students. He also proposed and passed the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit to make additional college, graduate school, or job training more available. Together, the HOPE Scholarship and the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit helped 4.8 million Americans afford higher education in 1998. [Education Department, 4/2/99; Treasury Department]

Expanding Work Study and Pell Grants. This year, one million students will be able to work their way through college because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program. And in 2000, nearly four million students will receive Pell Grants of up to \$3,300, the largest maximum award ever. Work Study funding has increased 51 percent under the Clinton-Gore Administration, while the maximum Pell Grant award has increased 43 percent. This year, the President proposed a \$77 million increase in Work Study, and an increase in the maximum Pell Grant to \$3,500. [Education Department, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Interim Performance Objectives, Final Report FY99; FY 2001 Budget, p. 50]

Making College More Affordable. The Clinton-Gore Administration has cut student fees and interest rates on all loans, expanded repayment options including income contingent repayment, and improved service through the Direct Loan Program. Students have saved \$8.7 billion since 1993 through the reduction in loan fees and interest rates. [Department of Education, Statement by Secretary Riley, 10/5/99]

More High-Quality Teachers with Smaller Class Sizes. The Clinton-Gore Administration won a second installment of \$1.3 billion for the President's plan to hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, when children learn to read and master the basic skills. Already, 29,000 teachers have been hired through this initiative. After vetoing a Congressional budget that did not guarantee funding for teachers, the President won \$1.3 billion for the Class Size Reduction Initiative, keeping schools on track to hiring 100,000 new teachers over the next six years. This year's budget provides \$1.75 billion, a \$450 million increase -- enough to fund about 49,000 teachers. [Education Department, Local Success Stories - Reducing Class Size, 11/99; FY 2001 Budget, p. 44]

Turning Around Failing Schools. 11 million low-income students now benefit from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards through Title I-Aid to Disadvantaged Students. The FY00 budget provides a \$134 million accountability fund to help turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results. This year, the President is proposing to double funding to turn around the nation's failing schools to ensure all children receive a quality education. [Statement of the Secretary of Education before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 2/9/99; FY 2001 budget, p. 42]

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for 850,000 Each Year. The Clinton-Gore Administration has doubled funding for after-school programs. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program keeps public schools open longer and provides safe and educational after-school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public Schools. The Clinton-Gore Administration supported growth of public charter schools, which have increased from one public charter school in the nation in 1993 to

more than 1,600 as of September 1999. More than 250,000 students nationwide are now enrolled in charter schools in 30 states and the District of Columbia. The President won \$145 million in FY00 to continue working toward his goal of establishing 3,000 quality charter schools by 2002. [Education Department Press Release, 8/28/99; The White House at Work, 2/11/00]

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. The President challenged Americans to unite to be sure that every child can read well and independently by the third grade. In response to his America Reads challenge, more than 1100 colleges have committed Work Study students to tutor children in reading, and more than 2 million children have been taught, tutored or mentored by national service programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Foster Grandparents. [Department of Education, America Reads Challenge, "About Us"]

Raising Academic Standards with Goals 2000. Communities in every state receive Goals 2000 funds and are using these funds to upgrade the curriculum, improve teaching, increase parental involvement in schools, make better use of computers in the classroom, and set higher academic standards for public schools. [Education Department, Goals 2000 Education and Related Items, 9/8/99]

Preparing for the 21st Century by Expanding Access to Technology. With the Vice President's leadership, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made increasing access to technology a top priority. The President and Vice President created 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. They increased overall investments in educational technology from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY00, and tripled funding for Community Technology Centers to reach at least 120 low-income communities. They secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals (the E-rate), which has benefited more than 80 percent of America's public schools. They also increased investment in education research to ensure all children benefit from educational technology. In the fall of 1998, 89 percent of public schools were connected to the Internet. In 1994, just 35 percent were connected. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 67; National Center for Education Statistics, Issue Brief NCES 99-017, 2/99]

Supporting Local Education Reform Efforts. The President signed the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex) into law in April 1999, giving all states greater flexibility in the use of federal education funds in exchange for greater accountability for helping all students reach high academic standards. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 4/27/99]

Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created and expanded GEAR-UP, a mentoring initiative, to help over 750,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college. [Education Department; White House Fact Sheet 1/20/00]

Providing Early Education to Nearly 900,000 Children with Head Start. The President and Vice President have expanded Head Start funding by 90 percent since 1993. Head Start will reach approximately 880,000 low-income children in FY 2000 and, with the President's proposed increase for the program, will be on the way to reaching the President's goal of serving 1 million children and their families by the year 2002. The Administration also created Early Head Start, bringing Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three, and set high quality standards for both programs. [HHS, Administration of Children and Families; National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Crime and Drugs: Lowest Crime Rates in 25 Years

Lowest Overall Crime Rate in 25 Years. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, America has experienced

the longest continuous drop in crime on record. Violent crime rate fell 7 percent in 1998 and 27 percent since 1993. The murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point since 1967. The overall crime rate is the lowest in 25 years. [Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports for the United States 1998]

Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration met its commitment to fund an additional 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase community policing in high-crime and underserved neighborhoods. To help keep crime at record lows, the President won funding for the first installment toward his goal to hire up to 50,000 more officers by 2005. This year, the FY01 budget includes \$650 million to continue this work and hire, train and equip more community police officers. [Justice Department, COPS Program, 5/12/99; National Economic Council, 11/18/99; FY 2001 Budget, p. 109]

More than 470,000 Felons, Fugitives and Domestic Abusers Denied Guns. Since the President signed the Brady Bill into law, more than 470,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers have been prevented from purchasing guns. And the historic 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, keeping assault weapons off our streets. The homicide rate dropped 7 percent in 1998 – almost entirely due to a decrease in homicides committed with guns. Since 1993, there has been a more than 35 percent drop in gun-related crime and a 57 percent decrease in juvenile gun homicide offenders. [Department of Justice, 11/30/99; White House Fact Sheet, 1/18/00]

Giving Police the Tools They Need to Fight Crime. President Clinton won \$230 million in FY00 to provide law enforcement with the latest crime-fighting and crime-solving technology. This funding will help make crime mapping technology -- which enables police agencies to track crime hot spots and target their resources to where they are most needed -- more widely available, to improve compatibility among law enforcement communications systems, and aid development and expansion of innovative tools to help law enforcement fight crime. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99; Justice Department Press Conference, 2/1/99]

Developed Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy Including a \$195 Million National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. The President appointed Barry McCaffrey, a four-star general, to lead the Clinton-Gore Administration's anti-drug strategy as the nation's Drug Czar. Illicit drug use among young people age 12-17 declined from 1997 to 1998, and the average age of first-time use went up. Overall drug use is down since its peak in the 1970's, drug-related murders have fallen by 40 percent since 1992, and youth drug use is on the decline for the third straight year. [Department of Health and Human Services Press Release 12/17/99; White House at Work, 2/8/99]

National Campaign Against Youth Violence. In August 1999, President Clinton announced the formation of an independent, national campaign to address the problem of youth violence. The Campaign plans to launch anti-violence activities including a major media campaign, concerts, town hall meetings, in- and after-school programs. The Campaign will also highlight effective youth violence initiatives in cities across the country. [White House At Work, 10/15/99]

Fighting Hate Crimes. The President enacted the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act in 1994. He held the historic White House Conference on Hate Crimes, where he called for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act -- bipartisan legislation which would strengthen hate crimes laws and make it clear that America will not tolerate acts of violence based on race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 11/10/97]

Protecting Children from Sex Offenders. President Clinton signed Megan's Law and the Jacob Wetterling

Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, requiring states to set up sex offender registration systems and require community notification when sex offenders are released from prison.

Welfare Reform and Community Empowerment: Moving Millions of Americans from Welfare to Work

Lowest Number of People on Welfare Since 1969 as More Recipients Go to Work. President Clinton has kept his promise to reform the welfare system and move more Americans from welfare to work. The number of Americans on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 as record numbers of people move from welfare to work. Since January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.9 million. More than 1.3 million welfare recipients went to work in 1998 alone, and the percentage of adults still on welfare who were working reached 27 percent in 1998, compared to just 7 percent in 1992 -- nearly a fourfold increase. Through the Welfare to Work Partnership launched by the President, 12,000 businesses have hired 650,000 former welfare recipients since 1997. [HHS Administration for Children and Families, 12/4/99 and The Welfare to Work Partnership, 1/00]

Creating New Tools to Help Families Move from Welfare to Work. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act signed by President Clinton included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and low-income non-custodial fathers into jobs. The President's Access to Jobs initiative helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work. President Clinton succeeded in securing 50,000 new welfare to work housing vouchers in FY 1999, and 60,000 new vouchers in FY 2000 to help more hard-pressed working families move closer to job opportunities. And the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to hire long-term welfare recipients. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Nearly Doubled Child Support Collections. President Clinton signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history. Federal and state child support programs broke new records in child support collections -- nearly doubling the amount collected in 1992. The number of paternities established rose to nearly 1.5 million in 1998 -- more than triple the number from 516,000 in 1992. The number of child support cases with collections rose 59 percent, from 2.8 million 1992 to 4.5 million in 1998. [HHS Release, 1/27/00]

Lowered Teen Pregnancy Rate to All Time Low. The teen birth rate has fallen seven years in a row, by 18 percent from 1991 to 1998. The teen pregnancy rate is now the lowest rate on record. [National Vital Statistics Report, Centers for Disease Control, 10/99]

Expanded Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. The Clinton-Gore Administration created 31 rural and urban Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that have created new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Encouraging Investment in Underserved Communities with the New Markets Initiative. President Clinton's New Markets Initiative is helping to bring economic development and renewal to communities that have not benefited from the soaring economy. The President's New Markets Tour of underserved communities generated nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment commitments. On his second New Markets trip, the President highlighted the role that universities, professional sports franchises, and agricultural cooperatives can play in bringing jobs and economic development to underserved communities. During the trip the President announced partnerships worth a total of nearly \$200 million of dollars to underserved communities. [Presidential Statement, 8/5/99; White House Fact Sheet, 11/5/99]

Providing Incentives to Save. The President created Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low-income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, a key part of his 1992 community empowerment agenda. [White House Fact Sheet, 10/27/98]

Health Care: Increasing Access and Improving the Nation's Health

Enacted Most Comprehensive Medicare Reforms in History. In the 1997 Balanced Budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration protected, modernized and extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care. New preventive benefits passed include coverage of annual mammograms, coverage of screening tests for both colorectal and cervical cancer, and a diabetes self-management benefit. The President proposed a plan to reform and modernize Medicare's benefits, including an optional prescription drug benefit that is affordable and available to all beneficiaries. The President has also proposed a reserve fund to help Medicare beneficiaries with extremely high prescription drug costs. [White House at Work, 8/8/97; National Economic Council/Domestic Policy Committee, 7/2/99]

Extended the Solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund Until 2015. In March 1999, the Medicare Trustees reported that the life of the Medicare Trust Fund has been extended until 2015. In 1993, Medicare was expected to run out of money in 1999. [HHS Press Release, 3/30/99]

Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965. The five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) will provide health care coverage for up to five million children. Two million children have already been enrolled, and in October 1999 President Clinton announced new outreach initiatives to enroll millions more uninsured, eligible children. Last year, the President launched a nationwide "Insure Kids Now" campaign that will bring together major TV and radio networks, healthcare organizations, religious groups and other community-based organizations to help enroll more children in the Children's Health Insurance Program, with the goal of enrolling 5 million of the estimated 10 million children eligible for health insurance under CHIP within 5 years. This year, the budget includes several of Vice President Gore's proposals to accelerate enrollment of children in CHIP. The President is also proposing a new FamilyCare program, which would give States the option to cover parents in the same plan as their children. [White House Fact Sheet, 1/11/00; White House, 2/23/99]

Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform. The President signed into law the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which helps individuals keep health insurance when they change jobs, guarantees renewability of coverage, and ensures access to health insurance for small businesses. As many as 25 million people will benefit from this law. The bill also eliminated the discriminatory tax treatment of the approximately 10 million Americans who are self-employed; strengthened efforts to combat health care fraud, waste and abuse by creating a stable source of funding; and provided consumer protections and tax incentives for private long-term care insurance. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 83; Domestic Policy Council]

Enacted Historic Comprehensive FDA Reform that Expedited the Review and Approval of New Drug Products. The President signed into law the 1997 FDA Modernization Act that includes important measures to modernize and streamline the regulation of biological products; increase patient access to experimental drugs and medical devices; and accelerate review of important new medications. This reform builds on the administrative initiatives implemented under the Vice President's reinventing government effort which have led U.S. drug approvals to be as fast or faster than any other industrialized nation. Average drug approval times have dropped since the beginning of the Administration from almost three years to just over one year. [Domestic Policy Council]

Signed Mental Health Parity Provisions into Law. To help eliminate discrimination against individuals with mental illnesses, the President signed into law mental health parity provisions to prohibit health plans from establishing separate lifetime and annual limits for mental health coverage. In 1999, the White House held the landmark, first-ever Conference on Mental Health and released the Surgeon General's first Report on Mental Health. This year, the President's budget includes an investment of \$100 million for mental health services, an increase of 16 percent over last year's funding level and a 90 percent increase since 1993. [Presidential Statement, 9/26/96]

Signed Legislation to End Drive-Through Deliveries. President Clinton 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. [Presidential Statement, 9/26/96]

Extended Strong, Enforceable Patient Protections for Millions of Americans. Leading by example, the President directed all federal agencies to ensure that their employees and beneficiaries have the benefits and rights guaranteed under the proposed Patients' Bill of Rights. 85 million Americans covered by federal health plans have the security of knowing they will have fair access to health care thanks to the President's work. The President and Vice President have called for passage of the bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights Act, to ensure that all Americans have essential protections, such as guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to assure patient care if a patient's health care provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process with a medical necessity standard; assurance that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options; and an enforcement mechanism that ensures recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of health plan actions. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 85]

Fighting Medicare Fraud and Waste. Since 1993, the Clinton-Gore 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. The Balanced Budget Act gave an array of new weapons in our fight to keep scam artists and fly-by-night health care out of Medicare and Medicaid. [Domestic Policy Council, Health Care Achievements]

Released Strong New Protections for the Privacy of Electronic Medical Records. The Clinton-Gore Administration released a new regulation to protect the privacy of electronic medical records held by health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers. This rule would limit the use and release of private health information without consent; restrict the disclosure of protected health information to the minimum amount of information necessary; establish new requirements for disclosure of information to researchers and others seeking access to health records; and establish new administrative and criminal sanctions for the improper use or disclosure of private information. [Domestic Policy Council]

Implementing Comprehensive Nursing Home Quality Initiative. The Clinton-Gore Administration has issued the toughest nursing home regulations in the history of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, including increased monitoring of nursing homes to ensure that they are in compliance; 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. Won \$43.5 million increase in FY00 to fund more rigorous inspections of nursing facilities and improved federal oversight and enforcement of nursing home quality. [HHS Fact Sheet, 12/14/99; National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families. President Clinton created the President's Council on Food

Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies. The Clinton-Gore Administration has implemented a new science-based inspection system -- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points -- and reduced the prevalence of *salmonella* in raw meat and poultry by as much as 50 percent. The Administration formed national computer network of public health laboratories, called PulseNet, to help rapidly identify and stop outbreaks of foodborne illness by performing DNA "fingerprinting" on foodborne pathogens. The President signed the Food Quality Protection Act, which included special safeguards for kids and strengthened laws governing pesticides and food safety. The Administration also issued new rules to prevent foodborne illness caused by pathogens such as *E. coli*. [Executive Order 13100, 8/25/98; USDA Press Release, 10/7/99; Presidential Statement, 8/3/96; USDA Press Release, 10/7/99]

Raised Child Immunization Rates to All Time High. Childhood immunization coverage rates in 1998 were the highest ever recorded. 90 percent of toddlers in 1996, 1997 and 1998 received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines, surpassing the President's 1993 goal. [HHS Fact Sheet, 9/23/99]

Issued Regulation that Drug Companies Provide Adequate Testing for Children. President Clinton directed an important Food and Drug Administration regulation requiring manufacturers to do studies on pediatric populations for new prescription drugs -- and those currently on the market -- to ensure that prescription drugs have been adequately tested for the unique needs of children. [Domestic Policy Council]

New Efforts to Help Consumers Understand Important Information on Over the Counter Drug Labels. The President unveiled a historic new FDA regulation that, for the first time, requires over-the-counter drug products to use a new product label with larger print and clearer language, making it easier for consumers to understand product warnings and comply with dosage guidance. The new regulation provides Americans with essential information about their medications in a user friendly way and takes a critical first step towards preventing the tens of thousands of unnecessary hospitalizations caused by misuse of over-the-counter medications each year. [Domestic Policy Council]

Promoting Reproductive Health. The Clinton-Gore Administration has taken strong steps to protect a woman's right to choose and to promote safe reproductive health services for women. The President has provided contraceptive coverage to more than a million women covered by federal health plans; provided family planning services to low income women through the Medicaid program; stood up against attempts to prohibit the FDA from approving RU-486; and continues to fight restrictions on international family planning. [Domestic Policy Council, Health Care Achievements]

Environment: Growing the Economy And Improving the Environment

Preserving Our National Treasures. The Clinton-Gore Administration has protected tens of millions of acres, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. The Administration reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest. In the FY 2000 budget, the President and Vice President won \$651 million (a 42 percent increase) for Lands Legacy, a historic initiative to strengthen federal efforts to preserve national treasures and provides communities with new resources to protect local green spaces. This year, the President's budget includes a record \$1.4 billion for Lands Legacy -- a 93 percent increase and the largest one-year investment ever requested for conserving America's lands. [Protecting Our National Treasures, Department of Interior; National Economic Council, 11/18/99; White House Fact Sheet, 2/7/00]

Created Four New National Monuments. The Clinton-Gore Administration has created four new national monuments: Grand Staircase-Escalante, protecting spectacular red rock canyonlands in Utah; Grand Canyon-

Parashant, protecting deep canyons, mountains and buttes on the north rim of the Grand Canyon; Agua Fria, protecting extensive prehistoric ruins in Arizona; the California Coastal monument, protecting thousands of islands, rocks and reefs along the California coast. The Administration also expanded Pinnacles National Monument in California to better protect the area's unusual rock formations. [Presidential Proclamations, 1/11/00 and 9/18/96]

Preserving Our National Forests. The President directed the National Forest Service to develop and propose regulations to provide long-term protection for 40 million acres of “roadless” areas within national forests and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the pristine wilderness. The proposed regulations would ban road building in these areas and could also prohibit logging or other activities that harm their unique ecological value. [Executive Memorandum, 10/13/99]

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment. The Clinton-Gore Administration has cleaned up over 500 Superfund sites -- nearly three times as many in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve -- with clean up of more than 90 percent of all sites either completed or in progress. The Administration has leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment. [Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund NPL Construction Completions Since 1/20/93 to 6/22/99]

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. The President proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Administration has required America’s 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water. The Administration also proposed new rule to reduce dirty runoff and strengthen protections for 20,000 rivers, lakes and other waterways too polluted for swimming and fishing. Ninety-one percent of America’s tap water from community drinking water systems now meets all federal standards. [White House, Office of the Press Secretary, 8/6/96; White House, Council on Environmental Quality, 4/22/99; Environmental Protection Agency, Summary of the 2000 Budget, p. 30]

Clearing the Air of Unhealthy Pollution. The President and Vice President have adopted the toughest standards ever on soot and smog. They proposed significant reductions in tailpipe emissions from cars, light trucks and SUVs, and launched long-term effort to restore pristine skies over our national parks and wilderness areas. Since 1993, the number of Americans living in communities that meet federal air quality standards has grown by 43 million. [White House, Council on Environmental Quality, 5/1/99]

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming. The Clinton-Gore Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way. The President and Vice President secured \$1.1 billion in FY00 for research and development of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, and set a goal of tripling U.S. use of bio-energy and bio-products by 2010. The President issued an Executive Order directing agencies to dramatically improve energy efficiency in federal buildings, saving taxpayers over \$750 million a year when fully implemented. [Environmental Protection Agency; National Economic Council, 11/18/99; White House, Executive Memorandum, 8/12/99; White House, Executive Order, 6/3/99]

Science and Technology: A Strong Research and Development Agenda

Unprecedented Investment in Biomedical Research. Two years ago, the President called for an increase of almost 50 percent over 5 years in the NIH budget as part of his Research for America Fund. Since that time, the NIH budget has increased by over \$4.3 billion and with the funding proposed by the President this year, the Administration will be one year ahead of schedule in reaching the 50 percent goal. As a result, NIH now 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. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99; Domestic Policy Council]

Supporting University Research, Training the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers. The FY00 budget contained a 6.6 percent increase in the National Science Foundation research budget to support science and engineering research across all fields and disciplines. This includes \$126 million for the Administration's "Information Technology for the 21st Century" initiative. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Ensuring U.S. Leadership in Space Science and Exploration. The Clinton-Gore Administration won increased investment of \$13.65 billion for NASA in FY00. This investment offers the potential of new scientific breakthroughs through an aggressive robotic series of exploration missions into the solar system, as well as enhancing our ability to monitor important changes in the earth's climate systems, and strengthening aviation safety for the traveling public. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Strengthening the Economy and National Security with Information Technology. The Administration continued our investment to help ensure that America leads the world in information technologies that predict tornadoes, design life-saving drugs, and make air travel safer and more efficient, and maintain our nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing. [National Economic Council, 11/18/99]

Changing the Way Government Does Business: Doing More for Less

Eliminating Red Tape. 16,000 pages of Federal regulations have been eliminated by President Clinton and Vice President Gore as part of the Vice President's National Performance Review. [National Performance Review, Accomplishments fact sheet]

Smallest Government Workforce Since the 1960's. There are 375,000 fewer employees in the Federal government workforce than in 1993 -- giving us the smallest Federal workforce since the Kennedy Administration. [Budget of the U.S. Government FY 2000, "Historical Tables" (table 17.1); Budget of the U.S. Government FY 2000, "Analytical Perspectives," (table 10-1) p. 248]

Lowest Government Spending Since 1974. At 18.7 percent, Federal Government spending as a share of the Gross Domestic Product is at its lowest level since 1974. [The FY 1999 Historical Tables of the Budget (table 1.2); Treasury Department, FY99 Final Monthly Treasury Statement]

Increasing Participation in Our Democracy with the Motor Voter Law. President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act during his first year in office -- making voting easier for millions more Americans, and leading to the registration of more than 28 million new voters. [Presidential Statement, 5/20/93; FEC, 6/99; FEC, 6/97]

Foreign Policy: World's Strongest Force for Peace, Freedom and Prosperity

Promoting Peace and Strengthening Democracy

- **Ended a decade of repression and reversed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo** by leading the NATO alliance to victory in a 79-day air war against Serb forces, forcing their withdrawal and ushering in international peacekeepers.
- **Advancing the Middle East peace process** by brokering peace agreements between Israel and its neighbors; negotiating the Wye River Accords; and supporting the launch of final settlement negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

- **Restarted Israel-Syria track of Middle East peace process** by holding first high-level meeting between the two former adversaries in Washington after months of behind-the-scenes Presidential diplomacy, and following that meeting with formal talks in January.
- **Brokered the Good Friday Peace Accord in Northern Ireland**, ending decades of bloodshed.
- **Building a self-sustaining peace in Bosnia** by leading diplomatic efforts to end civil war and foster multi-ethnic democracy.
- **Restored democracy in Haiti**, ending military dictatorship and stopping refugee flows.
- **Supporting transition to democracy in Nigeria** and mediating peace efforts in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia-Eritrea.
- **Ended violence and protected democracy in East Timor** by leading diplomatic efforts and supporting international peacekeeping mission.
- **Helped settle Peru-Ecuador border dispute and end civil war in Guatemala.**
- **Pressing for human rights and religious freedom worldwide**, including in China, Burma, Sudan.
- **Pressing for human rights, core labor standards, religious freedom, and the elimination of child labor worldwide.**

Combating New Threats

- **Protecting Americans from weapons of mass destruction** by reducing Russian nuclear arsenals, easing nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan and ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Combating terrorism** by developing a national counterterrorism strategy and striking terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan.
- **Reducing North Korea threat** through deterrence, diplomacy, and non-proliferation.
- **Containing Saddam Hussein** through diplomacy, economic sanctions and military force.
- **Addressing new threats** by protecting America's critical infrastructure from cyber-terrorism and biological and chemical weapons.
- **Developing limited national missile defense** to protect against attacks from rogue states while preserving nuclear stability with Russia
- **Improving military readiness through increased defense spending**, with the first long-term sustained increase in defense funding in 15 years

Strengthening Alliances and Building Partnerships

- **Fulfilling vision of an undivided, democratic and peaceful Europe** by enlarging NATO, integrating Southeast Europe, and reaching out to Russia.
- **Building more constructive relationship with China** through engagement and frank dialogue on human rights, security and trade.
- **Deepening security alliances with Japan and South Korea.**
- **Secured landmark agreement to develop secure oil and gas pipelines from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea**, strengthening ties in the region and ensuring Americans have access to vital resources.
- **Expanding trade and strengthening democracy in Asia and Latin America** through APEC and the Summit of the Americas.
- **Building partnerships with Africa** and pushing for passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Expanding Prosperity

- **Opening markets for U.S. exports abroad and creating American jobs** through NAFTA, GATT and

more than 270 other free and fair trade agreements.

- **Integrating China into the world economy** through landmark trade agreement that opens markets to U.S. exports, slashes Chinese tariffs, and protects American workers from dumping.
- **Established World Trade Organization** to reduce tariffs, settle trade disputes, and enforce rules.
- **Prevented Asian financial crisis from undermining America's prosperity** by promoting sound monetary policies, urging banking reforms and fighting corruption.
- **Stimulating worldwide growth through support for the IMF and G-8 global economic strategy.**
- **Saved Mexico from currency crisis by providing financial relief.** [National Security Council]

2/00

SOTU Policy Book

Outline of President Clinton's State of the Union Address

January 27, 2000

Fiscal Discipline and Economic Prosperity

- Maintaining Fiscal Discipline
- Paying Down the Debt by 2013
- Protecting and Strengthening Social Security
- Nearing the Longest Economic Expansion

Opportunity and Responsibility in Education

- Proposing Largest Head Start Expansion in History
- Promoting Early Learning
- Fixing Failing Schools and Rewarding Success
- Class Size Reduction
- Small, Safe and Successful High Schools
- Teaching to High Standards
- Charter Schools
- School Construction and Modernization
- Preventing Youth Violence
- College Opportunity Tax Cut
- \$1 Billion to Pell Grants, SEOG, etc.
- \$400 Million to Keep Youth on Track for Success

Rewarding Work and Strengthening Families

- Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Minimum Wage Increase
- Ensuring Equal Pay
- Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families
- Homeless Initiative
- Millions Move from Welfare to Work
- New Initiatives to Collect More Child Support
- New Fathers Work/Families Win Grants
- Helping Long-Term Recipients Move from Welfare to Work
- Second Chance Homes
- Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care
- Assisting 8 Million Families with Child Care Expenses
- Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses
- Supporting High Quality Early Childhood Educators
- Promoting Early Learning
- Campus Based Child Care
- Retirement Security Accounts
- Expand Pension Coverage for Small Businesses
- Tax Relief for Working Families

Health Care

- Patients' Bill of Rights
- Health Insurance Coverage Initiative
- Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare
- Long-Term Care Initiative
- Increasing Federal Mental Health Funding
- Preventing Medical Errors/Improving Care
- Major New Investment to Combat HIV and AIDS

Responsibility and Crime

- 21st Century Policing Initiative
- National Gun Enforcement Initiative
- Funding Innovative Smart Gun Technology
- Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation

Opening New Markets

- New Markets Initiative
- Delta Initiative
- Native American Initiative
- Strengthening the Farm Safety Net
- From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

Global Change and American Leadership

- Benefits of Expanding International Trade
- Forging a New Consensus on Trade
- Trade Agreements Enforcement Initiative
- Child Labor
- African Growth and Opportunity Act
- Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative
- Building Democracy Around the World
- Leading a Global Campaign Against AIDS and Disease
- U.S.-China Trade Agreement
- Building Peace in the Middle East
- Bringing Peace to Northern Ireland
- Reversing Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo
- Protecting Computer Networks Against Cyber Attack
- Combating International Crime
- Aiding Colombia in its Fight Against Drugs
- Debt Relief
- Leading the Way in Global Non-Proliferation
- Maintaining the Strongest Military in the World

Responsibility, Opportunity and the Environment

- Lands Legacy
- Climate Change
- Tax Credits for Energy-Efficiency
- Clean Energy for the 21st Century
- Livable Communities

The Opportunity and Responsibility of Science and Technology

- Major New Investments in Science and Technology
- Protecting Americans' Personal Privacy

Community

Service and Philanthropy

- AmeriCorps and Encouraging Community Service
- Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- Increasing Charitable Giving

One America

- Civil Rights Enforcement
- The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA")
- The Hate Crimes Prevention Act
- English Literacy/Civics Initiative
- Fairness to Immigrants

Governmental and Political Reform

- Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform
- Reinventing Government

FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND NEARING THE LONGEST ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN U.S. HISTORY

Maintaining Fiscal Discipline

When President Clinton was elected seven years ago, America was burdened with a \$290 billion deficit, and our national debt had quadrupled over the previous 12 years. Interest rates were high and growth was low. The President and the Vice President set a new path of fiscal responsibility, opening markets, and investing in our people and new technologies. We passed strong deficit reduction packages in both 1993 and in 1997, and made tough choices in each and every budget. This has put the nation on a course of fiscal discipline, while continuing to invest in our people and our future.

Now we see the results of the last seven years: the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; last year's surplus of \$124 billion was the largest in our history. The latest numbers from the Treasury indicate the surplus for this year will be even larger. In just the last two years, we've already paid down \$140 billion of the national debt. Because we've resisted efforts to push our nation off the path of fiscal discipline with large and irresponsible tax cuts, our debt is \$1.7 trillion less this year than it was projected to be back in 1993.

Last year, the President asked the Congress to use every single dollar of our Social Security surplus to pay down the debt, and to use the interest savings from that debt reduction to lengthen the life of Social Security. This year the President has announced that because of the choices we have made, the budget he will submit for 2001 accelerates the date that we will be able to pay off our debt to 2013 -- two years earlier than we had originally planned. The President will do this by protecting Social Security funds, and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security, allowing us, in addition to paying off the debt, to extend the solvency of the Social Security trust fund to at least 2050. We will also be able to make Medicare secure now, through 2025. And we will be debt-free for the first time since 1835, when our nation just had 24 states and fewer than 15 million people.

Paying Down the Debt by 2013

In the State of the Union address, President Clinton will announce that his budget for 2001 would put America in a position to pay off the \$3.6 trillion debt by 2013 -- 2 years earlier than planned. The President will emphasize that this debt reduction would be accomplished by protecting Social Security funds -- and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security, allowing the Social Security solvency to be extended until at least 2050. In contrast, the Republican lockbox plans in Congress fail to extend the life of Social Security by even one day. The President also will announce that his budget will make Medicare secure through at least 2025 by devoting a substantial fraction of the surplus to Medicare solvency and debt reduction. The President's plan to pay down the debt will result in lower interest rates and stronger investment. For typical families it will mean lower mortgage payments and car payments. By strengthening the economy and eliminating the debt, the President's plan will help prepare the government -- and the Nation -- to meet the challenge of the retiring baby boomers.

Protecting and Strengthening Social Security

As he did in his 1998 and 1999 State of the Union addresses, the President will call on Congress to enact his plan to save Social Security first -- and strengthen it. For almost 65 years, Social Security has been an unshakable covenant among generations, between workers and retirees, between the disabled and the able bodied. For many Americans, Social Security, along with savings and pensions, is the foundation of retirement security. In his 1999 State of the Union Address, the President proposed a plan that would, building on our historic period of prosperity and budget surpluses, use debt reduction to extend the life of Social Security without damaging and unnecessary benefit cuts or tax increases. In the last session of Congress, the President proposed specific legislation that reserves the entire Social Security surplus for Social Security and debt reduction and, in addition, devotes the interest savings from paying down the national debt to extending the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050. If the interest savings were prudently invested in equities, solvency would be extended to 2054.

Nearing the Longest Economic Expansion in U.S. History

The President's leadership on fiscal discipline and economic strategy has helped put the economy on track for the longest expansion in American history. The strong economy has benefited Americans in the form of more jobs, higher wages, lower inflation, greater homeownership, and an increasing sense of optimism about the future:

- America is currently in the longest peacetime expansion in its history. By the end of February, the U.S. will have enjoyed 107 consecutive months of expansion – the longest economic expansion in history.
- Since President Clinton took office in 1993, the economy has created 20.4 million new jobs – the highest number of jobs ever created under a single President. These are overwhelmingly good jobs: according to a study by the Council of Economic Advisers and the U.S. Department of Labor, 81 percent of all new jobs are located in industry/occupation categories that pay above-median wages.
- The vast majority of the new jobs – 18.8 million or 92 percent of the total – were created by the private sector, the highest private sector share of job creation since Harry S. Truman was President.
- The unemployment rate in 1999 fell to 4.2 percent – the lowest rate in 30 years. For African Americans, the unemployment rate fell to 8.0 percent – the lowest on record. For Hispanics, the unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent – the lowest on record.
- The economy has expanded at 3.8 percent annually under President Clinton – the fastest growth rate of any administration since President Johnson.
- As a result of the strong economy and investments in people, 7.7 million people have been lifted out of poverty under President Clinton. The poverty has fallen to 12.7 percent – the lowest rate since 1979. For African Americans and African American children, the poverty rate is the lowest on record. For Hispanics, the poverty rate is the lowest since 1980. For single mothers, the poverty rate has fallen to the lowest level in history.
- In the third quarter of 1999, the homeownership rate rose to 67.0 percent – the highest rate ever recorded. The homeownership rates for African Americans and Hispanics also reached record levels in 1999.
- The underlying core rate of inflation was 1.9 percent in 1999 – the lowest rate since 1965.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History

The President's budget increases funding for Head Start by \$1 billion – the largest funding increase ever proposed for the program – to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children. This funding will bring within reach the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002 and builds the foundation for the long-term goal of universal pre-school. Head Start prepares low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, rigorous and comprehensive child development. Early Head Start, created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, brings these services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women. The President's FY 2001 proposal would increase funding for Early Head Start by \$143 million. Since 1993, this Administration has already increased funding for Head Start by 90 percent.

Promoting Early Learning

The President's budget includes \$3 billion over five years for the Early Learning Fund to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. The Early Learning Fund will provide community grants for activities that foster cognitive development, improve child care quality and promote readiness for school. Resources could be used to help child care providers get training or certification, facilitate licensing or accreditation of child care centers, and reduce child-to-staff ratios.

Fixing Failing Schools and Rewarding Success

- **Universal After-School for Students in the Most Need** - The President and Vice President propose to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to help ensure that every child in every failing school can have a safe place to learn during the after school and summertime hours. This more than doubles the FY 2000 investment. The Administration's budget will maintain the commitment to serving all children, but will dedicate the increase to help those children most in need of academic assistance as part of a comprehensive approach to help low-achieving students meet high academic standards. The budget provides sufficient funding to make after school or summer school programs universally available to all students attending Title I school identified as low-performing, nearly tripling the number of children served by the program to 2.5 million.
- **Accountability Fund** – In November, the Congress appropriated \$134 million for the President's accountability fund. This year, the President will increase funding for this initiative to \$250 million to turn around failing schools. This funding is used by states and localities to turn around low-performing schools by overhauling curriculum, improving staffing, or even closing the school and reopening it as a charter school. The accountability initiative also includes provisions expanding public school choice for students in failing schools.
- **Rewarding High Performance and Closing the Achievement Gap** - The President also proposes a \$50 million initiative to provide high-performance bonuses to states that make exemplary progress in improving student performance and closing the achievement gap between high and low performing groups of students. States would be eligible for bonuses based on substantial overall improvements in student performance and significant narrowing of the achievement gap as indicated by performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Class Size Reduction

The President's class size reduction initiative continues his commitment to reduce class size in the early grades by staying on a path to hiring 100,000 high quality teachers. The Administration's FY2001 budget will boost funding for this initiative to \$1.75 billion, an increase of \$450 million over current levels – enough to fund about 49,000 teachers, nearly half way to our long-term goal. Smaller classes allow teachers to spend more time on instruction and less time on discipline, and provide more individualized attention. Research shows that students attending small classes in the early grades make more rapid educational progress than students in larger classes. New teachers hired under this program must be qualified and know the subjects they are teaching.

Small, Safe and Successful High Schools

Research shows that smaller schools can boost academic achievement and extracurricular involvement and lead to fewer discipline problems. The President's budget will include \$120 million for a Small Schools Initiative to reinvent high schools on a smaller scale and make them more responsive to student needs. School districts could use this money to create small schools or break up existing large schools into smaller learning communities. Districts would be expected to demonstrate increases in student achievement, graduation rates, and the number of students pursuing postsecondary options, and decreases in classroom disruptions and violence.

Teaching to High Standards

This initiative is a new \$1 billion teacher quality plan to recruit, train and reward good teachers. The Teaching to High Standards Initiative will give grants to states and districts to fund high-quality, standards-based professional development for teachers. It also includes several new proposals:

- **Higher Standards-Higher Pay for Teachers** – This \$50 million initiative will award grants to high-poverty school districts to help them attract and retain high-quality teachers through better pay and higher standards. Participating teachers would receive immediate pay increases and additional raises for exceptional work.
- **Teacher Quality Rewards** – This \$50 million program will reward school districts that have made exceptional progress in reducing the number of uncertified teachers and teachers teaching outside their subject area. The President has proposed requiring states to ensure that 95 percent of teachers are certified and 95 percent of secondary teachers are teaching within field by 2004.
- **Hometown Teacher Recruitment** – This \$75 million program would empower high-poverty school districts to develop programs to recruit homegrown teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers. Programs supported by this grant would make students aware, as early as middle school, of the opportunities available in the teaching profession; provide mentoring and teaching experiences as they progress through school; and provide financial assistance for students who enter college and pursue academic degrees with the goal of teaching in high-need communities after graduation.
- **Transition to Teaching** – This \$25 million initiative will build on the success of the Department of Defense's Troops to Teachers program by recruiting and preparing talented mid-career professionals from diverse fields to become teachers in high-need subject areas and high-need schools.
- **School Leaders Initiative** – This \$40 million program will fund non-profit partnerships designed to recruit, prepare and provide professional development for superintendents and principals, and other school leaders.

Charter Schools

The President's budget will increase funding for charter schools by \$30 million dollars from \$145 million to \$175 million. Charter schools are public schools started by parents, teachers, or community groups that are open to all and given a great deal of flexibility in exchange for agreeing to meet defined goals for student performance. Charter schools are one way to increase competition, provide options and choices for parents, and increase accountability in public education. When the President was first elected in 1992, there was only one charter school in the country. Now, according to the Department of Education, there are approximately 1,700 and 36 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing the creation of charter schools. This proposed new funding will ensure that we can meet the President's goal of creating 3,000 public charter schools.

School Construction and Modernization

At least 2,400 new public schools will be needed nationwide by 2003 to accommodate rising enrollments and to relieve overcrowding. Thousands more will be needed in following years. To address this critical need, President Clinton is renewing his commitment to his School Modernization Bond proposal. It provides \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds over two years to modernize up to 6,000 schools. This proposal has an estimated cost

of \$8 billion over ten years. Within this \$24.8 billion program, \$2.4 billion is reserved for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds. In addition, the 2001 budget includes a new \$1.3 billion school urgent/emergency renovation loan and grant proposal. This \$1.3 billion program could support nearly \$7 billion of renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Both loans and grants would be made available, with the smaller grant program directed toward the neediest districts.

Preventing Youth Violence

Over the past year, the country has been traumatized by a spate of school shootings. The President has taken leadership to address the issue of preventing youth violence by establishing a National Campaign Against Youth Violence. The National Campaign is beginning a public engagement campaign on how best to prevent youth violence and is working with the best minds in the field of youth violence to identify and replicate best practices of prevention in local communities. The President's budget includes over \$8.8 billion, \$875 million above FY 2000, for programs throughout the government that work to target youth violence and programs that support the healthy development of young people including developing smaller high schools; promoting safe after-school opportunities; cracking down on illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to youth; and, helping communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school and youth violence through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. The Safe Schools program joins principals, parents, police and others in the community to collaborate on comprehensive strategies to address violence problems confronting children in and out of school. The President's new budget will provide a \$100 million increase for his safe schools initiative, investing a total of nearly \$250 million in this signature program.

College Opportunity Tax Cut

Since 1993, the President has taken numerous steps to make college more affordable and accessible, including direct student loans, Pell Grant increases, as well as the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credits, producing the biggest expansion in college opportunity since the GI Bill. This year the President goes one step further and calls on Congress to pass his College Opportunity Tax Cut to expand on previous educational tax cuts and make college, graduate school, and job training more affordable for millions of families. The President's proposal would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or a 28 percent tax credit on tuition and fees to pay for college and other higher education. The proposal would cover up to \$5,000 of educational expenses in 2001 and 2002 and rise to \$10,000 of educational expenses from 2003 forward. When fully phased in, this proposal would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief annually to help American families pay for college, graduate work, or courses taken to improve job skills.

Nearly \$1 Billion In Increases To Pell Grants, SEOG, Work Study, And Other Programs:

- **Pell Grants.** The Pell Grant program provides grants to economically disadvantaged young people to help pay the cost of a postsecondary education. The maximum Pell Grant in FY2000 is \$3,300. The President's FY2001 budget increases the maximum to \$3,500, more than 50 percent larger than the maximum grant in 1993, to make a college education more affordable for the nearly 4 million Pell Grant recipients. Funding for the Pell Grant program is increased by over \$716 million, bringing the total Pell Grant appropriation to \$8.356 billion.
- **SEOG.** SEOG, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, provides campus-based grant assistance to needy undergraduate students. Generally, this program supplements the aid students receive from other sources, and leverages institutional aid by at least one dollar for every three federal dollars. The FY2001 budget provides \$691 million for SEOG, a \$60 million increase, the largest increase in 10 years. An estimated 1.2 million students (over 60,000 more than in 2000) will receive awards in 2001.
- **Work Study.** Work Study provides students the opportunity to work their way through college. The FY 2000 budget achieved the goal of giving one million students the opportunity to participate in Work Study. The FY2001 budget includes \$1.011 billion for Work Study, an increase of \$77 million to continue this commitment to serve one million students.

- **College Completion Challenge Grants.** The FY2001 budget creates a new initiative within the TRIO program called College Completion Challenge Grants (CCCCG). Although college enrollment rates have risen, 37 percent of students that go on to post-secondary school drop out before they get a certificate or a degree. The problem is especially acute for minorities: 29 percent of African Americans and 31 percent of Hispanics drop out of college after less than one year, compared to 18 percent of whites. The CCCC program is designed to address this problem with a comprehensive approach including pre-freshman summer programs, support services and increased grant aid to students. This \$35 million initiative will improve the chances of success for nearly 18,000 students.
- **Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions.** The FY 2001 budget proposes a new program to increase opportunities for students at minority-serving institutions that offer four-year degrees. Students would receive two degrees within five years: one from a minority-serving institution, and one from a partner institution in a field in which minorities are underrepresented. This new \$40 million program will serve an estimated 3,000 students.

Over \$400 Million In Increases To Keep Young People On The Track To Success:

- **GEAR UP.** GEAR UP is a nationwide initiative to encourage more disadvantaged young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to and succeed in college. GEAR UP is funded at \$200 million in FY 2000, enough to provide services to over 750,000 students. The FY 2001 budget provides a 62.5% increase to \$325 million, enough to provide services to 1.4 million students.
- **TRIO.** The TRIO programs seek to motivate and prepare students to go to and stay in college. The FY 2001 budget provides \$725 million for TRIO, an increase of \$80 million to help provide assistance to over 760,000 students, 37,000 more than in 2000.
- **Youth Opportunity Grants and Youth Training Formula Grants.** Youth Opportunity Grants are an initiative to provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The program was passed as part of the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act. Funded at \$250 million in FY 2000, this program would serve up to 50,000 of the most disadvantaged young people in central cities and rural communities across America. The President's FY2001 budget provides a 50 percent increase in funding to \$375 million, enough to serve an additional 25,000 youth in high poverty areas. In addition, the FY2001 budget provides a \$25 million increase (from \$1.001 billion to \$1.022), to the Youth Training Formula Grants, enough to provide job training and summer job opportunities to nearly 600,000 disadvantaged young people.
- **Youthbuild.** The Youthbuild program, is targeted to 16-24 year old high school dropouts, and provides disadvantaged young adults with education and employment skills through rehabilitating and building housing for low-income and homeless people. The program also helps to expand the supply of housing in these categories. Funded at \$42.5 million, the Youthbuild programs will provides opportunities for approximately 2,000 trainees in 2000. The FY2001 increases funding by 76% to \$75 million, enough to serve approximately 3,330 trainees.
- **Job Corps.** Job Corps is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential education and job training program targeted at impoverished young people. The FY2001 budget increases Job Corps funding by \$33 million, bringing the total Job Corps budget to \$1.392 billion.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

President Clinton will call on Congress to pass his \$21 billion plan to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit – a key part of his opportunity, responsibility, and community agenda to reward work and family. According to estimates by the Department of the Treasury, the President's proposed EITC expansion would deliver tax relief for 6.8 million families, providing up to \$1,200 in additional tax relief for some of these hard-pressed, working families. The President's proposal would build on the EITC expansion that he signed into law in 1993 and which provided a tax cut for 15 million families. That expansion made the EITC even more effective at encouraging work and reducing poverty: In 1998, 4.3 million people were directly lifted out of poverty by the EITC – more than double the number in 1993. The President's proposal would further increase the reward to work and family by: (1) increasing benefits for families with three children; (2) expanding the credit for married, two-earner couples; (3) rewarding families that are working hard to move into the middle class by lowering the phaseout rate; and (4) encouraging savings through simplification. To illustrate the effects of the President's proposed expansion: under current law, a married couple earning \$23,000 and with three kids qualify for a \$1,892 EITC; the President's proposed expansion would boost that amount to \$2,867 – an increase of \$975.

Minimum Wage Increase

The President will call on Congress to pass a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and make ends meet. The President believes that parents who work hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. A working parent with two children earning the minimum wage in 1993 made \$10,559 with the EITC (in 1998 inflation-adjusted dollars) – well below the poverty line. As a result of the expanded EITC and higher minimum wage, a similarly situated family in 1998 was above the poverty line – making \$13,268 – a 26 percent inflation-adjusted increase in their standard of living. The President's challenge to build on the success of these policies by raising the minimum wage by \$1 would help 11.4 million Americans – 70 percent of whom are adults and 59 percent of whom are women. For a full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage, the President's proposal would mean an additional \$2,000 per year, enough to buy 7 months of groceries or pay 5 months of rent.

Ensuring Equal Pay

According to the Department of Labor, the average woman who works full-time earns approximately 75 cents for each dollar that an average man earns. For women of the color, the gap is even wider. This gap is attributable, in part, to differing levels of experience, education, and skill. However, even after accounting for these factors, a significant pay gap still remains between men and women in similar jobs. The President will announce a \$27 million Equal Pay Initiative in his Fiscal Year 2001 budget, an increase of \$12 million over Fiscal Year 2000. The Initiative requests \$10 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to provide training and technical assistance to about 3,000 employers on how to comply with equal pay requirements and to launch a public service announcement campaign on wage issues. The Initiative also dedicates \$10 million for the Department of Labor (DOL) to train women in nontraditional jobs, including high-tech jobs and other skill shortage occupations. Lastly, the Initiative provides \$7 million for DOL to help employers assess and improve their pay policies, support public education efforts, provide for projects in non-traditional apprenticeships, and implement industry partnerships. The President also will call on Congress again to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen wage discrimination laws, provide for new collection of data on wage issues, and provide for additional research, training, and public education efforts on this important subject.

New Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families

The President's budget will include \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These housing vouchers subsidize the rents of low-income Americans, enabling them to move closer to job opportunities – many of which are being created far from where these families live. Of the

120,000 new housing vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new housing vouchers secured through the President's leadership over the past two years.

Homeless Initiative

Homeless persons do not participate fully in important health and other programs for which they are eligible. The President's budget proposes legislation for a new \$10 million initiative that would improve homeless individuals' access to mainstream programs that will help them move toward self-sufficiency. Demonstration grants would be awarded to several states to improve access to and provide coordination among mainstream programs such as Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, the Workforce Investment Act, and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants. The budget also proposes \$1.2 billion for homeless assistance programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including \$105 million for 18,000 homeless vouchers.

Millions Move from Welfare to Work

In 1992, President Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it, and now more than three years after the enactment of the welfare reform law, we've seen revolutionary changes to promote work and responsibility: the number of Americans on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 -- 30 years ago -- as millions of people move from welfare to work. Since January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.9 million. More than 1.3 million welfare recipients went to work in 1998 alone. The 12,000 business participating in the Welfare to Work Partnership launched by the President in 1997 have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. The federal government is also doing its share: in 1997, the President asked the Vice President to lead the federal hiring initiative to hire 10,000 welfare recipients over four years. Today, we've far exceeded that goal, hiring more than 16,000 people. At a time when the federal workforce is the smallest it has been in thirty years, the Vice President has shown that you can both create a leaner government and one that leads by example.

New Initiatives to Collect More Child Support

Since the President took office, child support collections have nearly doubled. Today, parents who owe child support have their wages garnished, their bank accounts seized, and their tax refunds withheld. To build on this success, the budget contains several new initiatives to further increase child support collections and crack down on parents who owe child support. Parents who owe past-due child support will have their gambling winnings intercepted and their vehicles booted. They will have a harder time obtaining or renewing a passport, and they can be prohibited from enrolling as a Medicare provider. Finally, the budget will require that child support orders be updated more frequently and increase the amount of child support paid directly to families.

New Fathers Work/Families Win Grants

The President's budget will contain \$255 million in new competitive grants in FY 2001 to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families, critical next steps in reforming welfare and reducing child poverty. The Clinton-Gore Administration's budget will encourage responsible fatherhood through \$125 million in "Fathers Work" grants to put approximately 40,000 non-custodial parents (mainly fathers) who owe child support to work and help them connect with their children. As part of this effort, states will need to put in place procedures allowing them to require more parents who owe child support to pay or go to work. The President's budget will also contain \$130 million in "Families Win" grants to help about 40,000 low-income parents stay in their jobs, move up the career ladder, and remain off cash assistance. An important part of these grants will be to improve families' access to food stamps, health care, child care, and other critical support for working families. \$10 million will be set aside for Indian and Native American grantees. Fathers Work/Families Win competitive grants will be run by one-stop career centers, community groups, and faith-based organizations under contract to local and state workforce investment boards.

Helping More Long-Term Recipients Move from Welfare to Work

Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act contained \$3 billion for Welfare-to-Work grants to help long-term welfare recipients and certain non-custodial parents go to work and support their children. To fully implement these important efforts, the President's budget allows grantees an additional two years to spend these existing funds.

Second Chance Homes

The budget includes \$25 million in new funds to support "second chance homes," adult-supervised and supportive living arrangements, for unmarried teen parents and their children who cannot live at home or with other relatives. States will be able to use these funds, as they can other Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds, to support services provided by faith-based and community-based organizations. (Overall, the budget increases SSBG funds by \$75 million.) This new initiative will be latest of the Administration's efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, which have resulted in the lowest teen pregnancy rates on record and an 18 percent decline in teen births from 1991 to 1998.

Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care

The President's budget expands the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to afford child care. The President's budget request will increase funding for child care subsidies by \$817 million in FY 2001, enabling the program to serve nearly 150,000 more children next year. These new funds, combined with the child care funds provided in welfare reform, will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly one million since 1997. The block grant is part of the Child Care and Development Fund, the primary federal subsidy program that helps families pay for child care, thereby enabling low-income parents to work. Today, millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs do not receive any help; in 1999, only about 12 percent of the 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law, received subsidies.

Tax Relief for Over 8 Million Families with Child Care Expenses

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) provides tax relief to those who, in order to work, pay for the care of a child under 13 or for a disabled dependent or spouse. The President's proposals, which cost \$30 billion over 10 years, broaden this tax relief and will help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses:

- **Making the Credit Refundable for Nearly Two Million Working Parents.** Under current law, a typical family of four with an income under \$25,000 is ineligible for credits for child care expenses because it has no income tax liability. Many such families earn too little to claim the credit, but too much to get the full benefit of child care subsidies. To help these families, the President proposes to make the CDCTC refundable for the first time -- so that families with no tax liability can receive up to \$2,400 to help offset the cost of child care. This proposal will assist nearly two million families.
- **Increasing the Child Care Tax Credit.** For families earning up to \$60,000, the President proposes to increase the maximum level of the CDCTC from 30 percent to 50 percent. This will provide an average additional tax cut of \$249 for these families and eliminating tax liability for nearly all families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. Under this proposal, a family of four with an annual salary of \$35,000, and child care expenses of \$3,100, would receive a tax credit of \$1,395 -- an increase of \$775 over current law. This expansion proposal will help over four million working families pay for child care.
- **Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home.** The President will also propose enabling parents who stay at home with children under age one to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. This proposal will provide an average tax cut of \$154, benefiting almost two million parents.

Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses

In his budget, President Clinton will also propose a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. These services could include: building or expanding child care facilities, operating

existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resource and referral services. The credit covers 25 percent of qualified costs (and 10 percent of resource and referral service expenses), but may not exceed \$150,000 per year per business. The President's budget includes \$539 million over five years for this tax credit.

Supporting High-Quality Early Childhood Educators

The President's budget includes \$30 million to ensure that well-trained professionals are teaching our young children. The Early Childhood Professional Development initiative will provide competitive grants to local partnerships that can pull together universities, local school districts and child care providers. The initiative would focus on equipping early childhood educators with the tools they need to help children develop vital language and literacy skills.

Encouraging the Pursuit of Higher Education by Offering College Campus Based Child Care

To encourage low-income parents to pursue higher education, the President's budget includes \$15 million – a \$10 million increase over last year's funding level -- to provide an additional 150 college campuses with grants to support the establishment or expansion of child care services. States may also use a share of the Child Care and Development Block Grant for this purpose.

Retirement Savings Accounts To Help Families Save and Invest

The President's Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) proposal will give 76 million Americans the opportunity to build wealth and save for their retirement through a progressive tax cut. The President's proposal builds on the successful model of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), extending generous matches to all low- and moderate-income families to encourage them to develop savings and assets. A person who participated for 40 years in this savings program could accumulate over \$266,000 – enough to produce \$24,000 a year of income in retirement. This proposal would cost \$54 billion over 10 years.

Expand Pension Coverage for Small Businesses

In an effort to encourage more small businesses to offer pensions for their employees, the President will also announce a proposal to provide a 50 percent tax credit for qualified contributions to employees' pensions. This provision would cost \$17 billion over 10 years.

Tax Relief for Working Families: Simplifying Taxes and Rewarding Marriage and Work

Today as part of his State of the Union Address, President Clinton will announce his plan to reduce the marriage penalty for married, two-earner couples by increasing the standard deduction by nearly \$2,000. The President will propose to increase the standard deduction for two-earner married couples to twice that of single filers, providing substantial tax relief for 9.1 million families. The President would provide an additional \$500 increase in the standard deduction for single-earner married couples that do not face a marriage penalty. He would also increase the standard deduction for single filers by \$250. The President's plan would cost \$45 billion over 10 years and benefit 42.1 million families.

HEALTH CARE

Patients' Bill of Rights

The President and Vice President continue to challenge the Congress to finally finish the overdue job of passing patients' rights legislation that includes critical protections such as: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections so that patients will not have an abrupt transition in care if their providers are dropped; access to a fair, unbiased and timely internal and independent external appeals process to address health plan grievances; and an enforcement mechanism that ensures recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of a health plan's actions. Last fall, over 60 Republicans joined virtually every Democrat in the House in voting for the Norwood-Dingell Patients Bill of Rights. This strong, enforceable, patient protections bill should not be watered down in a manner that makes it ineffective and unworthy of signing. It should also not include provisions that do little more than further segment healthy from unhealthy populations without significantly expanding coverage for the currently uninsured.

Health Insurance Coverage Initiative

The President and Vice President strongly believe we should expand access to affordable health care coverage to more Americans. The budget proposes a 10-year, \$110 billion initiative that would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more. It addresses the nation's coverage challenges by building on and complementing current private and public programs. Specifically, the initiative: (1) provides a new, affordable health insurance option for families called "FamilyCare," which builds on the State Children's Health Insurance Program to provide higher Federal matching payments to parents of children eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or S-CHIP; (2) accelerates enrollment of uninsured children eligible for Medicaid and S-CHIP; (3) expands health insurance options for Americans facing unique barriers to coverage, including a Medicare buy-in with a new 25 percent tax credit; a new 25 percent tax credit for COBRA continuation coverage; an initiative to help small businesses afford insurance, and new Medicaid options for vulnerable groups of Americans (people ages 19 and 20; people leaving welfare for work; legal immigrants); and (4) strengthens programs that provide health care directly to the uninsured. If enacted, this would be the largest investment in coverage since Medicare was created in 1965.

Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare

The President's budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform and modernize Medicare. This plan will: (1) make the program more efficient and competitive; (2) extend the solvency of the Health Insurance (HI) trust fund to at least 2025; (3) modernize benefits including adding a long-overdue, voluntary prescription drug benefit; and (4) create a reserve fund to be used for debt relief or to create bipartisan consensus to further strengthen the proposed drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. Building on the President's successful fight against fraud and waste, the plan would dedicate over \$300 billion in savings and surplus over 10 years to the HI trust fund, helping to meet the inevitable financing and health challenges that result from the aging of the baby boom. The proposed prescription drug benefit would be voluntary, available and affordable to all beneficiaries, including low-income beneficiaries who would pay low to no costs for coverage. It would be administered by private organizations like pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs) and would give financial incentives to employers who currently offer retiree prescription drug benefits to maintain coverage. Finally, a reserve fund would be created for debt reduction or, if there is bipartisan consensus, to strengthen the Administration's drug benefit by adding protections against the cost of catastrophic drug expenses.

Long-Term Care Initiative

The budget proposes a 10-year, \$28 billion initiative that helps address the nation's multifaceted long-term care challenge. It includes: (1) a \$3,000 tax credit to compensate people with long-term care needs or their caregivers for the cost of care; (2) a major new investment in the Older Americans Act for information and referral as well as direct support services for family caregivers; (3) a new Medicaid option to increase income eligibility levels for home and community based services to the same levels as nursing home residents; (4) a Housing and Urban Development program to encourage assisted living facilities for low-income elderly; and (5) a new option for Federal employees to purchase quality private long-term care insurance. The FY 2001 budget

also includes an additional \$16.8 million to help states strengthen nursing home enforcement tools and increase Federal oversight of nursing home quality and safety standards.

Increasing Federal Support for Improving the Mental Health of All Americans

According to the December 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, one in five Americans is living with a mental health disorder. This report states that the fundamental components of effective service delivery are broadly agreed upon, but in short supply. The President will highlight his new investment of \$100 million for mental health services, an increase of 16 percent over last year's funding level and a 90 percent increase since 1993.

Major New Investment to Combat HIV and AIDS in the United States

The President has proposed to invest an additional \$125 million in the Ryan White Program, an increase of almost 8 percent over last year's funding level, to provide primary medical care, pharmaceuticals critical to treatment, and other critical support services for people living with HIV and AIDS. The budget also includes an additional \$50 million for HIV prevention, the largest increase ever in funding for these activities, to encourage individuals at risk to avoid behaviors that can result in the transmission of the disease.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

21st Century Policing Initiative

In order to keep crime rates down to record low levels, and officers on the beat at all time highs, the President is committed to continuing the second year of his 21st Century Policing Initiative. The 21st Policing Initiative, builds on his successful COPS program that has funded 100,000 more community police for our streets, by: (1) providing resources for communities to hire and redeploy up to 50,000 more police for our streets by FY 2005 with an effort to target new police officers to crime “hot spots”; (2) giving law enforcement access to the latest crime-fighting and crime-solving technologies, such as improved police communications, crime mapping software, laptop computers, and crime lab improvements; and (3) funding new state and local prosecutors to work with local law enforcement and the community to combat local crime problems; and (4) engaging all sectors of the community to prevent and fight crime by funding partnerships with probation parole officers, schools, and faith-based organizations.

Fighting Gun Crime with New National Gun Enforcement Initiative

Building on his successful strategy of combating gun violence that has helped lead to a 35 percent decline in gun crime, the President proposed \$280 million to fund the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history that specifically includes:

- **500 New ATF Agents and Inspectors** - The President’s initiative includes the largest increase ever in ATF agents and inspectors, with new agents to crack down on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers at guns shows, gun stores and on the streets, and more firearms inspectors to target unscrupulous gun dealers who supply firearms to criminals and juveniles.
- **Over 1,000 New Federal, State and Local Gun Prosecutors** - The proposal will fund 1,000 new state and local prosecutors to combat gun crime and violence, 100 new federal gun prosecutors, and new gun enforcement teams to coordinate efforts with local law enforcement to remove gun criminals from our communities and put them behind bars.
- **Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing** - To move toward tracing every crime gun in America, 250 local law enforcement agencies will receive training and tracing equipment to facilitate comprehensive tracing, and the Administration’s Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) will be expanded from 38 to 50 cities across the country.
- **New National Integrated Ballistics Information Network** - The President’s initiative will triple current funding for ballistics testing programs to launch the first-ever national ballistics network -- to support the deployment of 150 ballistics imaging units to law enforcement, helping to link bullets and shell casings to the criminal guns they were fired from.
- **Local Anti-Gun Violence Media Campaigns** - To help communities send a strong message to combat gun crime and violence, the initiative funds matching grants to support local media campaigns highlighting penalties for breaking gun laws, proper storage of firearms and preventing child access.

Funding Innovative Smart Gun Technology

The accidental gun death rate for children under 15 in the U.S. is nine times higher than 25 other industrialized nations combined. To help prevent accidental gun death and injuries of children who obtain access to guns, gun theft, and other unauthorized uses, the President committed to fund the expansion, testing and replication of “smart” gun technologies. These state-of-the-art gun safety precautions can limit a gun’s use to its adult owner or other authorized users.

Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation

In addition to pressing the Congress to pass his aggressive gun enforcement budget to give communities more and better tools to fight gun crime, President Clinton urged the Congress to make passage of pending common sense gun safety measures the first order of legislative business. Among the reforms he called on the Congress to enact include: closing the gun show loophole by requiring background checks and records at gun shows; requiring child safety locks for handguns sold; banning the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; and banning violent juveniles from owning guns for life.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

The New Markets Initiative

The United States is currently in the midst of the longest peacetime expansion in its history. The strength and duration of this expansion has helped bring economic opportunity to millions of people once cut off from the economic mainstream. But too many urban and rural areas have not participated in this growth. These areas have tremendous potential as New Markets. The President's expanded New Markets initiative will spur \$22 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these economically distressed areas through a package of tax credits and loan guarantees. The package includes the following components:

- **More Than Doubling the New Markets Tax Credit** – The President proposes to more than double the New Markets tax credit to spur \$15 billion dollars in new investment in community development in economically distressed areas. An entity making new equity investments in a selected community development project would be eligible for a tax credit worth 25 percent of the cost of the investment. A variety of vehicles providing equity and credit to businesses in underserved areas would be eligible. The total cost of the tax credits amounts to about \$5 billion over 10 years.
- **Expanded Empowerment Zone Tax Incentives** - These tax credits will extend and improve economic growth in the 31 existing urban and rural Empowerment Zones, administered by HUD and USDA, and support a third round of 10 new empowerment zones to be designated in 2001. The total cost of these proposals will be \$4.4 billion over 10 years.
- **America's Private Investment Companies (APICs)** - Modeled after the Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) successful investment fund program, APICs would provide guaranteed debt to private investment companies, licensed by HUD, to help leverage private equity capital and lower the cost of capital for investments in low- and moderate-income communities. For every dollar that private investors provide, the government will guarantee two dollars in debt to expand the APIC's pool of capital available for making investments and enhance the return on those investments to the private investors. APICs will make equity investments in larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner cities and rural areas.
- **New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs)** – The President is asking for \$51.7 million in his 2001 budget to allow SBA to match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20 new investment partnerships – New Markets Venture Capital Firms -- selected to provide both long-term growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.
- **Other Elements of New Markets** - Other elements include: increasing the funding for SBA's microenterprise lending program; creating PRIME-- a program providing technical assistance to low-income entrepreneurs; boosting CDFI funding; expanding support for BusinessLINC to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets; and establishing a New Markets University Partnerships pilot project which, under the auspices of HUD, would provide Universities with funding to develop local community partnerships, assistance to intermediaries, and technical and business development assistance to new and existing firms. In addition, to better serve Native American communities, the President will provide additional funding to expand the New Markets initiative to Indian Country.

Delta Initiative

In the Mississippi Delta, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average. The President has proposed the creation of a new Delta Regional Authority, modeled after the successful Appalachian Regional Commission, to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help bring the infrastructure and job training needed to make the Nation's prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Native American Initiative

In order to better serve Native American communities in this millennium and to honor the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes, the President's budget includes an increase of \$1.2 billion over Fiscal Year 2000 for key new and existing programs assisting Native Americans and Indian reservations. This initiative brings together several agencies in order to address the needs of Native American communities comprehensively. Some of the highlights of this initiative include: \$300 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction and repair; \$349 million through the Department of Transportation for roads in Indian Country; \$650 million to provide rental and homeownership assistance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and \$2.6 billion for the Indian Health Service. Other key components of the Native American initiative include: "New Markets" economic development initiatives such as funding to create Native American Small Business Development Centers at the Small Business Administration; funding to create a Native American Economic Development Access Center at HUD; addressing the "digital divide" by creating a new program, in conjunction with the tribal colleges, to encourage Native Americans to enter information technology fields; funding 500 new Native American school administrators; increased funding for tribal colleges; \$49 million to fund technology, infrastructure, planning, and public works projects at the Economic Development Administration; and increased funding of \$103 million for the third year of the joint Department of Justice/Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement initiative.

Strengthening the Farm Safety Net

As the President has noted on numerous occasions since its passage, the 1996 Farm Bill fails to provide America's farmers with an adequate safety net. As prices have remained depressed for the past two years, the Federal government has provided over \$15 billion in emergency assistance. In order to provide American farmers and ranchers with the critical assistance that they need and deserve, the President's budget includes \$11 billion to strengthen the farm safety net until the next farm bill in 2002, with three key components: conservation, supplemental income assistance, and crop insurance. The budget includes for FY 2001:

- \$1.3 billion to help family farmers take steps to protect water quality and the environment and to preserve farmland, including \$600 million for a new conservation security program that will assist farmers who voluntarily adopt comprehensive plans to curb erosion and protect water supplies from pesticide and nutrient runoff.
- \$3.1 billion for a new targeted supplemental income assistance program that will provide payments to producers whose farm revenue falls more than 92 percent below its 5-year average.
- \$640 million to subsidize the cost of crop insurance premiums, to allow farmers to purchase higher levels of coverage than are included in the basic catastrophic coverage.

From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, social and political life. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" – unequal access to technology by income, education level, race, and geography. In 1998, those with a college degree were more than *eight times* more likely to have a computer at home and nearly *sixteen times* as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education. And the gap is widening. This growing divide also cleaves our community along income, ethnic, and geographic lines, with affluent, white, and urban/suburban households enjoying better computer and Internet access than their African-American, Hispanic, less affluent and more rural counterparts. To address this troubling trend, the President will shortly unveil a comprehensive program that relies on all levels of government working in partnership with the private sector and non-profit organizations and also will lead high-tech executives and others on a New Markets tour focused on closing the Digital Divide.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Benefits of Expanding International Trade

Trade has been crucial to American prosperity. Since World War II, as the U.S. has led eight separate rounds of multilateral trade negotiations and signed hundreds of trade agreements, global trade has increased 15-fold, contributing to the most rapid, sustained economic growth ever recorded. Real production in the United States is up 5-fold and real average American per capita income is up 3-fold over this period. Still, there remains much work to be done. Ninety-six percent of the world's consumers live outside the US, many in countries that are only now achieving the means to become significant purchasers of American products.

Forging a New Consensus on Trade

American leadership over the last 50 years has helped develop a world trading system in which the United States is now the world's largest exporter and importer with over \$2 trillion worth of goods and services in trade each year. Since the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1948, Democratic and Republican Administrations, working in partnership with Congress, have concluded eight negotiating Rounds, opening markets for American goods, and helping advance basic principles of rule of law, transparency, and fair play in the world economy. Most recently, since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994, a more open world economy has helped American exports to rise by well over \$200 billion. This has contributed significantly to the rapid economic growth we have enjoyed over the past five years, and the continuation of the longest peacetime expansion in America's history. At the same time, it has helped us to gain high-skill, high-wage jobs, reverse a 20-year period of decline in wages, and in fact increase wages by 6% in real terms. Nevertheless, as President Clinton has said, we need to build a new consensus on trade by putting a human face on the global economy. The five years since the WTO was founded as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have revealed areas where the institution can be further strengthened in this regard -- including greater transparency, a greater role in addressing workers' concerns about globalization through the establishment of a Working Group on Trade and Labor, and a commitment to sustainable development, including protection of the environment, as enshrined in the WTO's Preamble.

Trade Agreements Enforcement Initiative

The President is committed to ensuring that trade is free and fair and that American companies and workers benefit fully from our bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. He is proposing in FY 2001 that the Department of Commerce and related agencies have the resources necessary to monitor and enforce international trade agreements.

Child Labor

In his 1999 State of the Union address, President Clinton pledged: "[W]e will lead the international community to conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world." In June, he spoke to the ILO before it adopted the new convention and in December, with Senate advice and consent, he signed the convention on behalf of the United States. Now we must do more to help countries around the world make the convention's aspirations a reality, bringing education -- not hard labor -- to millions of children and preventing the loss of future generations of youth to abusive work. In the last two budgets, the United States became the world's largest contributor to the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). This year, the President proposes to expand support for international efforts to eliminate child labor.

African Growth and Opportunity Act

In the State of the Union, President Clinton called upon Congress to pass the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), an important and groundbreaking piece of legislation, which recognizes African countries' efforts to institute sound economic policies and reform. The House and Senate passed different versions of the legislation last year. The philosophy of the legislation is simple: America stands ready to help those African countries that undertake difficult reforms to build a better future. Effective aid, combined with strong reform and increased trade and investment, will help bring Africa into the global economy and create new markets for

U.S. exports. American businesses, farmers, and workers all stand to benefit from expanding our trade with one of the largest underdeveloped markets in the world.

Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative

The President will work with Congress toward swift passage of legislation expanding our Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) trading relationship with Caribbean and Central American countries. As part of a package including the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, the Senate passed legislation last fall similar to that which the Administration has proposed. The President's CBI enhancement legislation will create opportunities for American companies and workers as it provides enhanced market access and economic stimulus for countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The Administration is strongly committed to conclude, by 2005, negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will expand U.S. export opportunities throughout Latin America, and views CBI enhancement as a useful bridge to this initiative.

Promoting Democracy and Advancing Human Rights

Promoting democracy and advancing human rights has been a central priority of the Clinton-Gore Administration's foreign policy, one that he will again stress in his State of the Union address. Over the past seven years, the Clinton Administration has succeeded in ending bloodshed and reducing tensions in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, East Timor, Bosnia, Kosovo, Haiti, Sierra Leone and elsewhere has offered new hope for peace, democracy and prosperity. This year the President will reaffirm his commitment to advance this cause by calling for continued support for his efforts to broker peace, promote democracy, protect human rights, defend religious freedom, and fully fund our diplomacy.

Leading the Global Campaign Against AIDS and Other Deadly Diseases

Although much progress has been made in the fight against AIDS and other deadly diseases, much more still needs to be done. To that end, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have stepped up the international battle to prevent, treat, and search for a cure for AIDS, which has disproportionately afflicted our poorest nations. The FY2001 budget that the President will send to Congress next month calls for an additional \$100 million investment in AIDS prevention, care, public health infrastructure, and education in the African and Asian countries that have been hit the hardest by the disease. Vice President Gore announced this additional funding during an address to the UN Security Council in early January. The President has also called for a new tax credit for sales of vaccines for malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS to accelerate the development of these vaccines, creating an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to invest in the development of vaccines for poor countries, which often cannot afford to buy the vaccines they need. This would build upon a proposed \$50 million investment in the vaccine purchase fund of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. Finally, the President will call upon the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to dedicate an additional \$400 million to \$900 million annually of their low-interest-rate loans to expand immunization, prevent and treat common diseases, and build sound delivery systems for other basic health services.

U.S.-China Trade Agreement

Under the terms of the agreement, China has agreed to grant the United States *significant new access* to its rapidly growing market of over one billion people, while we have agreed simply to maintain the market access policies we *already* apply to China by granting it permanent Normal Trade Relations (NTR). The agreement slashes Chinese tariffs on our goods, opens China's markets to our services, and contains safeguards against unfair trading practices. The agreement also advances critical national security goals. WTO membership will spur China's economy, adding impetus to reforms there; introduce China to global economic competition and accelerate a process that is removing the government from vast areas of the country's economic life; open China's telecommunications market, including to Internet and satellite services, and thus expose China to information, ideas and debate from around the world; and oblige the government to publish laws and regulations and subject pertinent decisions to review of an international body, all of which will strengthen the rule of law in China and increase the likelihood that it will play by global rules as well. While WTO membership will not by itself or overnight transform China's human rights record, it will move the country in the right direction. The United States must grant China permanent NTR or risk ceding the full benefits of the agreement we negotiated to our Asian and European competitors. For all these reasons, the President will make passage of this historic legislation a high priority in the coming year.

Building Peace in the Middle East

After days of intense negotiations at Wye Plantation in November 1998, President Clinton brokered an historic agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that strengthens Israel's security, expands the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhances economic opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. And in December of last year, President Clinton ended years of stalemate between Syria and Israel by achieving a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks and hosting the highest level meeting ever between Israel and Syria after months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The United States has helped broker agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Jordan, and led the efforts toward a resumption of the Israeli-Syrian talks. The United States has stood firmly by those who have taken risks for peace, providing them with strong political, economic and material support; and demonstrated to the enemies of peace that violence and terror will not succeed in disrupting the peace process. At the same time, the United States has maintained its long-standing commitment to the security of Israel, strengthened its ties with Egypt and Jordan, and built a new relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people.

Bringing Peace to Northern Ireland

President Clinton's intensive diplomatic efforts helped achieve the landmark Good Friday Accord in April 1998, bringing new governing structures and a new era of cooperation to Northern Ireland. And in December of last year, both sides made historic progress towards implementation of the Accord, forming of an inclusive government in Northern Ireland, accepting the principle of consent with respect to any change in the territorial status of Northern Ireland, launching new institutions for North/South cooperation on the island, and taking the first steps to address the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his support for full implementation of the agreement, so Northern Ireland can pursue a prosperous, democratic course, free of violence and terror. The United States will also continue to support the International Fund for Ireland, which promotes reconciliation through economic regeneration projects targeting disadvantaged Irish border counties and Northern Ireland.

Reversing Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo

This past year, 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, the Serb dictator capitulated, withdrawing his troops and permitting international peacekeepers to secure the peace for returning refugees. The President is now committed to winning the peace, joining European leaders in strengthening democracy and civil society in Kosovo, enhancing economic development and regional integration through the Stability Pact, and supporting opposition within Serbia to complete the democratization of the Balkans.

Protecting Our Computer Networks from Cyber Attack

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to strengthen America's defense against the emerging threats cyber terrorists pose to our critical infrastructure, computer systems, and networks. Earlier this month, he launched the National Plan for Information Systems Protection and announced new budget proposals to protect our computer networks from cyber attack, including \$621 million to enhance federal research and development in computer security; \$50 million to create a new Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection; \$25 million to recruit, train and retain federal information technology experts; and \$10 million to design a Federal Intrusion Detection Network (FIDNET) which alerts the federal government to cyber attacks. President Clinton has increased funding on critical infrastructure substantially over the past three years, including a 16% increase in the FY2001 budget proposal to \$2.03 billion. He has also developed and funded new initiatives to defend the nation's computer systems from cyber attack. To jumpstart the FY01 program initiatives, the President will also propose a \$9 million supplemental this spring.

Combating International Crime

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton highlighted new measures to combat international money laundering, which facilitates illegal money flows, fosters corruption, and undermines democracy. Combating international money laundering has become an increasingly important issue for the United States. The last

decade has seen an explosive proliferation of offshore banking centers that facilitate international criminal money flows. This proliferation also works against U.S. developmental goals by allowing easy placement of funds obtained from official corruption. There is also a growing concern that these offshore centers can contribute to significant financial destabilization, by providing new avenues for unregulated capital flight and new opportunities for financial management entities incorporated in these jurisdictions to take advantage of the absence of supervisory authorities to engage in activities that would be prohibited in the United States.

Aiding Colombia to Fight Drugs and Strengthen Democracy

Eighty percent of the cocaine entering the U.S. is either processed, transported, or grown in Colombia. For the first time in years, a new administration, led by President Andres Pastrana, is taking the tough steps necessary to crack down both on narcotics traffickers and human rights violators. The President recently announced his support for a bold new plan developed by President Pastrana to both stem the tide of drugs entering the United States and to strengthen the Colombian economy and democracy. To assist the Colombians in this effort, the President has proposed a total of \$1.6 billion in funding over two years to help fight narcotics trafficking, provide economic alternatives for Colombian farmers who now grow coca and poppy plants, improve the judicial system, increase the protection of human rights, and crack down on money laundering. A portion of the investment will go to help train and equip special counter-narcotics battalions and to improve the Colombian capability to interdict traffickers by improving radar, aircraft, airfields, and intelligence-gathering equipment. The Administration will also propose \$95 million to purchase equipment to enable the Colombian National Police to eradicate more coca and poppy fields, and \$93 million for new programs to help the judicial system and promote the peace process. Most of the effort will be financed from the Colombian government's own resources. The aid from the United States is expected to be supplemented by multilateral agencies and our allies.

International Debt Relief

At their Summit last June, G-7 leaders endorsed a new initiative spearheaded by the President to enable Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)s to receive deeper, broader and faster debt relief. Under the so-called Cologne Initiative, international financial institutions are developing a new framework for linking debt relief with poverty reduction. The goal is to boost resources for priority social expenditures, including health, child survival, AIDS prevention and education, as well as improve transparency in government budgeting and consultation with civil society in the development and implementation of economic programs. Together with earlier debt relief commitments, the Cologne Initiative provides for reduction of up to 70 percent of the total debts for these countries, decreasing the stock of debt from about \$127 billion today to as low as \$37 billion with the cancellation of official development assistance (ODA) debt by G-7 and other bilateral creditors. As part of the initiative, the President announced in September that the U.S. would seek to write off all of the \$5.7 billion it is owed by as many as 36 heavily indebted poor countries. Last fall, Congress passed part of the funding and authority necessary for the United State's full participation in the initiative, and the President is seeking approval of the remainder this year.

Leading the Way in Global Non-Proliferation

The Clinton-Gore Administration has led the effort to reduce the international threat of weapons of mass destruction. Over the past six years, the Administration has made unprecedented progress in curbing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the missiles that deliver them, in reducing the dangerous legacy of Cold War weapons' stockpiles and in promoting responsible conventional arms transfer policies. President Clinton was the first world leader to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and has proposed a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus that will lead to its eventual ratification. The United States has also ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention and is working to strengthen the 1972 treaty outlawing biological weapons and to achieve a positive Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Strengthening Military Readiness

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have remained committed to ensuring that America's military remains the best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world, ready to face the continuing challenges posed by the post-Cold War world and the challenges of a new century. He has matched new commitments with new resources, requesting and receiving from Congress billions in additional defense spending in 1999, reversing declines that began a decade ago. The FY2000 budget proposed a six-year increase of \$112B for military readiness and modernization through a combination of new spending and budgetary savings, assuring the first sustained real (after inflation) increase for defense spending in over a decade. This plan increased military pay by the largest percentage since the early 1980s, and increased the 20-year retirement benefit from 40% to 50% of average base pay over the last three years of service. The President's 2001 Defense budget builds on this plan, ensuring military readiness remains first-rate for years to come. Moreover, significant increases are proposed for weapons modernization to guarantee the continued technological superiority of U.S. forces.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Lands Legacy

To meet the conservation challenges of a new century, President Clinton is proposing a new category of dedicated, discretionary funding to protect America's land, coastal and wildlife resources. In FY 2000, the President secured \$652 million for Lands Legacy, a 42 percent increase. For FY 2001, the President is proposing another substantial increase and creation of a new budget category to preserve this higher level of funding in future years. The proposed FY 2001 funding would dramatically increase support for state, local and tribal efforts to protect farmland, forests, urban parks and other local green spaces. It also would provide significant increases for federal, state, local and tribal efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources. In addition, Lands Legacy would supported federal protection of natural and historic lands across the country, with priorities including Civil War battlefields, the Florida Everglades, the Mojave Desert, and New England forests and wildlife refuges.

Climate Change

Against a backdrop of growing scientific consensus that the Earth is warming – and that human activity is at least partly to blame – the President is proposing a series of new initiatives to address global climate change. The President's FY 2001 budget will propose a new effort to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies in developing countries; increased funding for the research and development of bio-based technologies that use crops, trees and agricultural waste to make fuels and products; and start-up funding for a Clean Air Partnership Fund to support state and local efforts that achieve early reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level air pollutants. Other elements of the Administration's climate change strategy include continued increases in both investments and tax incentives to spur the development and deployment of clean energy technologies and energy-efficient cars, homes, and appliances; cutting energy use by the Federal government; working with Congress to reward companies taking early, voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; restructuring the electricity industry; and continued diplomatic efforts to fill in key details of the Kyoto Protocol and secure more meaningful participation by key developing countries in the fight against global warming.

Tax credits for energy-efficient cars, homes and appliances

Cars and light trucks (including minivans, sport utilities, and pickups) currently account for 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The President's FY 2001 budget will propose tax incentives to help curb these emissions by moving advanced technologies for electric, fuel cell, and hybrid vehicles from the laboratory to the highway. Tax credits would be offered for the purchase of qualifying hybrid vehicles from 2003 through 2006; and the current tax credit for electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles would be extended through 2006. The President also is proposing a tax credits for the purchase of energy-efficient homes; for solar energy systems; for the purchase of energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment; and for wind and biomass power.

Clean Energy for the 21st Century

Energy technology markets in developing countries are projected to total \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion over the next 20 years. To accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies around the world, President Clinton is proposing the Clean Energy for the 21st Century: International Initiative – a multi-agency effort to encourage remove market barriers to clean energy technologies in developing and transition countries and to provide new incentives for clean energy technology innovation and export. This initiative, which builds on a set of recommendations by the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), will create as much as \$5 billion in new export revenues for U.S. companies and up to 100,000 new U.S. jobs, and will assist developing countries in powering their economic development while fighting air pollution and climate change.

Livable Communities

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to strengthen the Livable Communities initiative, which expands the choices available to communities to help them grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. The Administration's FY 2001 budget will propose record funding for public transit and other programs to ease traffic congestion while reducing air pollution; matching grants to help neighboring communities develop collaborative "smart growth" strategies; and funding to provide communities with new information tools, and improve public safety by sharing crime data. The Administration also will propose tax credits for Better America Bonds, a new financing tool generating billions in bond authority for investments by state, local and tribal governments to preserve green space, create or restore urban parks, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields (abandoned industrial sites). By delivering tools and resources to the local level, where issues of growth management are most appropriately addressed, this initiative helps empower citizens to build more "livable communities" for the 21st century.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Major New Investments in Science and Technology Research

President Clinton has announced that he will include a nearly \$3 billion increase in the "Twenty-First Century Research Fund" in his FY2001 budget, including a \$1 billion increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health and double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50 year history. These investments will ensure that science and technology will continue to fuel economic growth and allow Americans to lead longer, healthier lives. The funding includes increased support in all scientific and engineering disciplines, including biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. The President's budget includes:

- **\$1 billion increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.** The President's FY 2001 budget includes almost \$19 billion, an increase of \$1 billion over last year's funding level, for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health. In addition, the President will eliminate the delays in releasing \$4 billion in research funds as required in last year's appropriations bill. This increase will support research in areas such as diabetes, brain disorders, cancer, genetic medicine, disease prevention strategies, and development of an AIDS vaccine. It will also help researchers complete in the near future a first draft of the entire human genome – the very blueprint of life. This and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease. If Congress passes the President's proposal, funding for NIH will increase by over 80 percent – nearly twice what the NIH budget was when President Clinton came into office.
- **A new \$495 million National Nanotechnology Initiative.** Nanotechnology - the ability to manipulate individual atoms and molecules - could revolutionize the 21st century in the same way that the transistor did the 20th. Increased investments in nanotechnology could lead to breakthroughs such as molecular computers that can store the contents of the Library of Congress in a device the size of a sugar cube, and new materials ten times stronger than steel and a fraction of the weight.
- **A \$675 million increase in the National Science Foundation -- double the largest dollar increase in NSF's history.** This increase will boost university-based research and ensure balanced support for all science and engineering disciplines. NSF accounts for half of all non-health, university-based research.
- **An almost \$600 million increase in information technology research.** This increase in information technology research could lead to advances such as high-speed wireless networks that can bring distance learning and telemedicine to isolated rural areas; and supercomputers that can more accurately predict tornadoes and hurricanes and more rapidly develop life-saving drugs.

Protecting Americans' Personal Privacy

As information technology transforms our government and our economy, a growing challenge is how to gain the benefits from the new technology while preserving one of our oldest values – privacy – in a variety of different settings:

- Medical Records: This year the Clinton-Gore Administration will issue historic, final rules that will legally guarantee the key privacy protections: notice of data uses; consent before records are used for non-medical purposes; patient access to records; proper security; and effective enforcement. President Clinton also will support legislation to expand the scope and enforcement of those rules
- Financial Information: Financial modernization legislation signed by President Clinton last year included important privacy protections, but more needs to be done. This year, the President will seek further protections, including consumer choice before financial firms can share their information within a corporate family.

- Genetic Information: As the human genome project nears completion, genetic testing and information will be increasingly common to help predict, prevent, and treat diseases. However, there are real concerns that as this information becomes increasingly common that it will be used not to promote health in a protected manner, but will be used as a basis for discrimination. There are already examples of employers using this type of information as a basis not to hire or promote individuals and studies are showing that Americans fear that this information will be misused. The President will stress the need for strong action on this issue.
- On-line: In the on-line world, the Clinton-Gore Administration has encouraged self-regulatory efforts by industry to address privacy issues posed by emerging technologies and will work with consumers, industry, and interested public officials to explore how best to address the growing practice of building detailed profiles of every action consumers take online.

COMMUNITY

Service And Philanthropy

AmeriCorps and Encouraging Community Service

Since the start of his Administration, the President has encouraged and facilitated community service. Over 150,000 young people have participated in AmeriCorps – they have helped to immunize more than a million people; taught, tutored or mentored 4.4 million children; helped build some 11,000 homes; and truly sparked a new spirit of public engagement across the land. The President's budget includes over \$850 million for the Corporation for National Service. This increase of nearly \$120 million keeps AmeriCorps on track for the President's goal of 100,000 members each year by the year 2004. The budget will also include a new "AmeriCorps Reserves" program, modeled after the military reserves, and designed to engage former Corps members in times of need. The budget also includes \$15.5 million in new initiatives that reward innovations in youth service, as well as additional resources to encourage service by senior citizens, and to engage students in service through a new "Community Coaches" program.

Increasing Involvement of Interfaith Partnerships and Community Organizations

Already many faith and community-based organizations partner with government to help our nation's families, but the President and Vice President believe we should do more, and their budget proposes to increase the involvement of interfaith and community-based organizations in after school, housing, community development, criminal justice, welfare reform, teen pregnancy prevention, and juvenile justice programs, consistent with the constitutional line between church and state.

Increasing Charitable Giving

In his State of the Union address and his new budget, President Clinton today will unveil a package of new tax proposals to encourage philanthropy. First, he will propose allowing nonitemizers to take a tax deduction for charitable giving. Second, he will propose new rules to make it easier for charitable foundations to make gifts in times of need. And third, he will propose making it easier for individuals to donate appreciated assets like securities and real property. Last October, the President and First Lady convened the first-ever White House Conference on Philanthropy. The conference highlighted the unique American tradition of charitable giving, and emphasized that at a moment of great prosperity, we must preserve and expand this tradition. These proposals will help do just that.

One America

Civil Rights Enforcement

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget proposes a significant increase for civil rights enforcement to help ensure equal opportunity for all Americans. These funds will help to ensure that no American is discriminated against at work, a home, or in school. The President's budget request of \$698 million for civil rights enforcement agencies represents a \$81 million, or 13 percent increase, over last year's funding levels of \$617 million. Highlights of the President's package include: (1) \$98 million Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice -- a 20 percent increase over the 2000 enacted level -- to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct), promote compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and review redistricting plans; (2) \$322 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- an increase of 15 percent over the 2000 enacted level --to support the agency's effort to reduce the backlog of private sector cases to 28,000 by the end of 2001; (3) \$76 million for Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) -- an increase of 4 percent over the 2000 enacted level --to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance, including providing contractors with the necessary tools to evaluate their equal employment practices; (4) \$50 million for Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) fair housing efforts -- an increase of 14 percent over the 2000 enacted level -- to reduce housing discrimination, including funding for the final year of a three-year

audit-based enforcement initiative and training for housing providers to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to housing.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (“ENDA”)

This bill would outlaw discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotions based on sexual orientation. It is designed to protect the rights of all Americans to participate in the job market without fear of unfair discrimination. The Act provides an exemption for small businesses, the Armed Forces, and religious organizations, including schools and other educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. The bill specifically prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation, including quotas. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are the first President and Vice President ever to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians. President Clinton originally announced his support for the legislation in October 1995.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

The President has urged Congress to pass, as one of its first orders of business, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would strengthen the existing federal hate crimes law by expanding the situations in which the Department of Justice can prosecute defendants for violent crimes based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Further, it would expand existing law to cover cases of hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. The President’s budget includes \$20 million for training for federal, state, and local law enforcement to prevent and respond to hate crimes, and to promote police integrity.

English Literacy/Civics Initiative

Like generations of immigrants past, today’s immigrants are driven by a dream – and to achieve that dream, they seek to learn the ways of this land and become full participants in American society. To this end, President Clinton is proposing an increase for the English Language/Civics Initiative an innovative program to help states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction linked to civics and life skills instruction, including understanding and navigating the U.S. government system, the public education system, the workplace, and other key institutions of American life. This important initiative is a powerful tool in building a stronger American community. For FY 2001, the Administration’s budget request \$75 million for this initiative, a nearly \$50 million increase from FY 2000 enacted level.

GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL REFORM

Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

The President and the Vice President remain committed to the enactment of bipartisan campaign finance reform. Last year, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan reform. Tonight the President is challenging the Senate to follow suit and enact real reform early this year. Acceptable campaign finance reform legislation must meet five criteria: 1) it must be bipartisan; 2) it must be comprehensive; 3) it must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections; 4) it must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents; and 5) it cannot favor one party over the other.

Reinventing Government

Three months into our Administration, the Vice President took charge of our reinventing government initiative. Seven years later, the government is the smallest it's been in nearly 40 years -- over 350,000 fewer employees. And it's focused on giving Americans customer service equal to the best in business by getting results they care about. We're tossing aside outdated bureaucratic binders and red tape that too often kept us from making a real difference in people's lives. But this is not just another exercise in "good government" -- our goal is nothing short of restoring the American people's trust in their government. When we started, only 21% of the American people trusted government to do the right thing all or most of the time -- down from 76% under President Kennedy. Today, that figure is back up to 40% -- a dramatic turnaround. But it's not nearly good enough. And we won't rest until "change" and "customer service" become a permanent part of the landscape and a majority of Americans trust their government again.