

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 2001

WOMENS HEALTH CARE EVENT

DATE: January 4, 2001
LOCATION: The East Room
BRIEFING: 2:30 pm – 2:35 pm
MEET & GREET: 2:40 pm – 2:50 pm
EVENT TIME: 2:55 pm – 3:40 pm
FROM: Chris Jennings
Mary Beth Cahill

I. PURPOSE

To celebrate the enactment of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 2000 and announce new steps to help improve access to cancer screenings and treatments for low-income women and Federal employees.

II. BACKGROUND

Today, you and the First Lady will be joined by advocates for women and families in a White House ceremony celebrating the enactment of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 2000. You will announce new steps your Administration is taking to help ensure this important legislation can be properly administered to help thousands of low-income, uninsured women with breast cancer without delay, and you will release an Executive Memorandum to all Federal agencies to help eliminate barriers to preventive care. In addition, the First Lady will highlight the recently enacted Children's Health Act of 2000, which makes a multi-million dollar investment in research on children's health issues.

Encouraging States To Provide New Insurance Option For Vulnerable Women With Breast And Cervical Cancer. Today you will announce that the Health Care Financing Administration is sending guidance to all 50 states encouraging them to take advantage of a new Medicaid option that allows states to provide low-income, uninsured women access to critical treatment services. This new option costs \$990 million over 10 years and was included in your FY 2001 Budget to:

- Provide comprehensive health insurance to low-income, uninsured women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer. States have the option to provide the full Medicaid benefit package to uninsured women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for the duration of their treatment. These women will be able to access critical health care services necessary to treat their cancer, including radiation treatment, chemotherapy, and other health care services.

- Allow women to access life saving treatment without delay. States also have the option to allow health care providers and other qualified entities to provide critical health care services to women pending official enrollment in Medicaid, increasing the chances of survival for these women and allowing them to focus on fighting these terrible diseases – not about how they will pay for their care.
- Increase state spending on breast and cervical cancer screening programs. Some states currently supplement the Federal funds they receive for breast and cervical cancer with their own funds for diagnosis and treatment of these diseases. Estimates by the Congressional Budget Office indicate that, under similar proposals, states would redirect these funds to supplement their investment in screening for breast and cervical cancer, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of mammograms and pap smears provided.

Taking New Executive Action To Eliminate Barriers To Preventive Screenings For Federal Employees.

The Federal government currently provides employees with considerable flexibility in scheduling their work hours around medical needs, including routine examinations and preventive screenings. Many agencies offer creative, effective employee health programs that provide opportunities for employees to take advantage of preventive health screenings at work. Today, you will take the next step to eliminate barriers to preventive screenings for Federal employees by releasing an Executive Memorandum directing all Federal agencies to:

- Review existing policies to ensure that Federal employees can take advantage of screening programs and other preventive health programs. This Executive Memorandum includes flexible options to encourage preventive health screenings, such as: promoting alternative work schedules, which allow for a variety of working arrangements tailored to fit the needs of individual employees; granting leave under the sick and annual leave programs; and granting excused absence to employees to participate in agency sponsored preventive health activities.
- Ensure all employees have at least four hours of leave for preventive screenings each year. For employees with fewer than two weeks of accrued sick leave, you will direct each department and agency to provide up to four hours of excused absence each year, without loss of pay or charge to leave, for participation in preventive health screenings for these individuals.

Highlighting New Investment In Research And Treatment For Children's Health.

Today, you and the First Lady will highlight the importance of the Children's Health Act of 2000, which expands, intensifies, and coordinates research, prevention, and treatment activities for diseases and conditions having a disproportionate or significant impact on children. This legislation establishes eight Centers of Excellence to promote research on the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control, and treatment of autism; promotes training of pediatric specialists; authorizes new research provisions, which will increase our understanding of children's health, including a long-term child development study on environmental influences on children's health and a loan repayment program at NIH for health professionals conducting pediatric research; and authorizes the Healthy Start program for the first time.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing:

Jake Siewert
Melanne Verveer
Chris Jennings
Mary Beth Cahill
Loretta Ucelli
Heather Hurlburt
Heather Howard

Meet and Greet Participants:

The First Lady
Secretary Donna Shalala
Director Janice Lachance
Tonia Conine, Breast Cancer Survivor
Approximately 19 women and children health advocates (*see attached list*)

Program Participants:

YOU

The First Lady
Tonia Conine, Breast Cancer Survivor

Tonia Conine is 42-years-old and from Oklahoma City. She was diagnosed with breast cancer through the CDC Early Prevention Program in March of 2000. Tonia did not have health insurance and could not receive it through her employer, but her income was too high to qualify her for Medicaid coverage. She went to her doctor and told him that she could not afford to be treated. He performed the necessary surgery for free and she went into debt for the costs associated with the follow-up care she needed (about \$6,000 – which she is paying off on a monthly basis). She is now in remission, and supports the CDC law because she does not want another woman to have to go through what she has gone through.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** will greet meet and greet participants in the Blue Room.
- **YOU** will be announced into the East Room accompanied by the First Lady and Tonia Conine.
- The First Lady will make brief remarks and introduce Tonia Conine.
- Tonia Conine will make brief remarks and introduce **YOU**.
- **YOU** will make remarks, work a ropeline and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Meet and greet participants

Meet and Greet Participants

Stephenie Foster, GSA
Pat Reuss, Women's Legal Defense Fund
Kate Michelman, NARAL
Marcia Greenburger, National Women's law Center
Duffy Campbell, National Women's Law Center
Gloria Feldt, Planned Parenthood
Jody Rabham, National Council of Jewish Women
Fran Visco, President, National Breast Cancer Coalition
Joanne Howes, Bass and Howes
Dorian Goldman, Irvin Goldman Family Foundation, National Breast Cancer Coalition
Marlene McCarthy, Director, Rhode Island National Breast Cancer Coalition
Dr. Dileep Bal, President, American Cancer Society
Dr. Gerald Woolam, Former President, American Cancer Society
Dan Smith, American Cancer Society
Jonathan Shestack, Cure Autism Now
Marina Weiss, March of Dimes
Jo Merrill, March of Dimes
Mary and David Busby, FRAXA Research Foundation
Katie Clapp, President FRAXA Research Foundation

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON PROMOTE SCREENINGS AND TREATMENT FOR BREAST, CERVICAL AND OTHER CANCERS
Highlights the Administration's Strong Record on Women and Children's Health

January 4, 2001

Today, President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will join advocates for women and families in a White House ceremony celebrating the enactment of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 2000. The President will announce that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is releasing new guidance today to all 50 states advising them of how they can provide this important new health insurance option for thousands of low-income, uninsured women with breast cancer. President Clinton will also release an executive memorandum directing all Federal agencies to make at least four hours of leave available each year for employees to receive important health screenings for cancer and other preventable diseases. In addition, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will highlight the recently enacted Children's Health Act of 2000, which promotes research on children's health issues, as the latest step in the Administration's strong record on women and children's health.

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR LOW-INCOME UNINSURED WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST OR CERVICAL CANCER ARE LIMITED.

The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides breast and cervical cancer screening to over 360,000 women without access to these services annually. Although Federal government-sponsored screening programs make every effort to assist individuals diagnosed with disease to access treatment, thousands of women still face financial barriers to care, and those that receive some help frequently do not receive comprehensive coverage for services they need.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ENCOURAGES STATES TO PROVIDE NEW INSURANCE OPTION FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN WITH BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER.

Today, the President announced that HCFA is sending guidance to all 50 states encouraging them to take advantage of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 2000. This new option, which costs \$995 million over 10 years and was originally included in the President's FY 2001 Budget, will allow states to provide women diagnosed with cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program with access to insurance that covers critical treatment services. The guidance being issued today will clarify that the new law will:

- **Provide immediate, comprehensive health insurance to low-income, uninsured women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer.** States have the option to provide the full Medicaid benefit package, at an enhanced Federal matching rate, to uninsured women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. They will be eligible for this benefit throughout the duration of their treatment, eliminating financial barriers to care for these women. These women will be able to access critical health care services necessary to treat their cancer, including radiation treatment, chemotherapy, as well as other health care services, such as basic laboratory and palliative care services, in order to provide a high quality standard of care to these patients.

- **Allow women to access life saving treatment without delay.** The guidance will make clear that states also have the option to allow health care providers and other qualified entities to provide critical health care services to women pending official enrollment in Medicaid, increasing the chances of survival for these women and allowing them to focus on fighting these terrible diseases – not about how they will pay for their care.
- **Result in increased state spending on breast and cervical cancer screening programs.** Some states currently supplement the Federal funds they receive for breast and cervical cancer with their own funds for diagnosis and treatment of these diseases. Estimates indicate that, under similar proposals, states would redirect these funds to supplement their investment in screening for breast and cervical cancer, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of mammograms and pap smears provided.

UNDETECTED AND UNTREATED CANCER CONTINUE TO HARM AMERICANS.

Despite recent improvements in prevention and treatment, cancer remains the second leading cause of deaths in the United States. For women age 50-69, regular mammograms can reduce the chance of death from breast cancer by approximately 30 percent. Even in women age 40-50, regular mammograms can reduce mortality rates by approximately 17 percent. Because colorectal cancers grow slowly, early detection significantly increases survival. When detected early, the five-year survival rate is 90 percent. However, less than 40 percent of colorectal cancers are discovered at that stage. After the cancer has spread, the five-year survival rate drops to 65 percent. Preventive screenings and early detection, however, are not effective if patients cannot afford the treatment. Women without health insurance are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than insured women since they are likely to get needed care.

PRESIDENT CLINTON TAKES NEW EXECUTIVE ACTION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE CARE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES. Today, President Clinton will issue an executive memorandum that ensures that all 1.8 million Federal employees have access to leave benefits enabling them to access preventive screenings. This executive memorandum, which is another contribution towards the Administration's success in making the Federal government a model employer, will direct all Federal departments and agencies to:

- **Ensure that all Federal employees have at least four hours of leave available annually for preventive screenings.** The President will direct agencies to encourage employees to take advantage of screening programs and other preventive health services through options like promoting alternative work schedules; granting leave under the sick and annual leave programs; and granting excused absence to employees to participate in agency-sponsored preventive health activities. In addition, for employees with fewer than two weeks of accrued sick leave, agencies will provide up to four hours of excused absence each year, without loss of pay or charge to leave, for participation in preventive health screenings.
- **Develop and expand worksite health promotion and disease prevention programs.** Recognizing that the workplace is an effective place to provide information on preventive health care, the President will ask Federal agencies to develop or expand programs that help employees understand their risks for disease, obtain preventive health services, and make healthy lifestyle choices. Program information will be shared with the Office of Personnel Management, which will promote best practices.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON HIGHLIGHT NEW INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

Today, the President and First Lady will highlight the importance of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This important legislation expands, and coordinates research, prevention, and treatment activities for conditions having a significant impact on children, including autism, diabetes, asthma, hearing loss, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, infant mortality, lead poisoning, and oral health. The legislation: establishes eight Centers of Excellence to promote research on the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, and treatment of autism; promotes training of pediatric specialists; authorizes new research provisions, including a long-term child development study on environmental influences on children's health and a loan repayment program at NIH for health professionals doing pediatric research; and authorizes the Healthy Start program for the first time.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S STRONG RECORD ON WOMEN'S HEALTH.

The Clinton-Gore Administration has a strong record on women and children's health issues. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked tirelessly to improve women's health, including ensuring the inclusion of women in clinical trials, more than doubling funding for breast cancer research, expanding Medicare coverage of mammograms, ending drive-through deliveries, and passing and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Administration has also taken strong steps to protect a woman's right to choose and promote women's reproductive health by securing historic increases in domestic and international family planning funding, providing contraceptive coverage to more than a million women covered by federal health plans, reversing the gag rule, and enacting the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE).

WHSO LAYOUT DRAFT 3

a/o 1/3/2001 6:57 PM; K. Widdess, C. Major

WOMEN'S HEALTH EVENT

Thursday, January 4, 2001

East Room

Gate Opens: 2:00 p.m.

Invite Time: 2:30 p.m.

Principals Time: 2:30 p.m.

2:40 p.m.

2:55 p.m.

Brief

Meet & Greet

Event

Map Room

Blue Room

East Room

Approx. 180 Guests/Open Press/Business Attire

11 Social Aides

3 Volunteers

Wed. p.m. WHCA setup in the East Room.

Thursday

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Press setup in the East Room.

1:45 p.m. IN PLACE TIME

2:00 p.m. East Visitors Gate opens and guests proceed to hold on the Ground Floor.
Contact: Shereen Soghier, Rhonda Binda, Joe Ratner

2:10 p.m. Guests proceed to be seated in the East Room.

2:30 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. CLINTON** receive briefing in the Map Room.
Contacts: Chris Jennings, Mary Beth Cahill, Heather Howard

2:35 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. CLINTON** proceed to the Blue Room.

2:40 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. CLINTON** greet the following in the Blue Room:

Blue Room Participants

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. CLINTON
Ms. Tonia Conine, Okalahoma City, OK
Conine Family TBD
Sec. Donna Shalala, Health and Human Services
Dir. Janice Lachance, Office of Personnel Management
MOCs TBD

Fran Visco, National President, NBCC
Dorian Goldman, NBCC
Marlene McCarthy, NBCC
Dr. Dileep Bal, President, American Cancer Society
Dr. Gerald Woolam, Former President, American Cancer Society
Dan Smith, Director of Federal Affairs, American Cancer Society
Jonathan Shestack, Founder and President, Cure Autism Now
Marina Weiss, March of Dimes

2:55 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. CLINTON** are accompanied by **Ms. Tonia Conine** and are announced to Honors into the East Room.

PROGRAM

MRS. CLINTON makes welcoming remarks and introduces **Ms. Conine**.

Ms. Conine makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

3:25 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. CLINTON** depart.

Guests depart East Gate.

SETUP NOTES

USHERS: Coat check in China Room; 10x16 stage at Gold Curtain; steps on front of stage; United States and Presidential flags on stage; foliage around stage; water at podium; 2-4 chairs on stage; press risers with rope and stanchion – 2 on each side of cross hall doors; 180 chairs; 2 chairs and music stands at east entrance for harp and flute; chairs and stands in foyer for strings; screens up on ground floor.

WHCA: Blue Goose on stage; WHCA announce from Blue Room.

WHMO: Harp and flute at East Landing; string ensemble w/ piano in Foyer; Honors Band in Foyer; 11 Social Aides.

SEATING

Stage Seating

The President
Mrs. Clinton
Ms. Conine

Name Cards (Yellow)

Sec. Shalala
Dir. Lachance
Mr. Ibarra

MOCs (tbd)

Blue Room Meet and Greet Guests

8 Blue Reserved Cards

Conine Family

TBD Red Seats

Barbara Woolley

4 Green Reserved Seats