

Heather Howard's Files
Office of Policy Development, Domestic Policy Council, First Lady's issues

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Authorizing Priorities Labor- H appropriations
GAO report on mental health parity act
Gore Mental Health proposals
White House mental health conference 1999
Women and Social Security
Patients bill of rights
Medicare and clinical trials
Prescription drug benefits
Prescription drugs NEC study
Intercountry adoption convention
Childcare
Million mom march
Snapshots of America's families
Women business owners
Abstinence
NWLC report card on women's health
Women and heart disease
Wise women program
Women's health accomplishments
White House conference on teens
Family leave baby UI regulations
Single sex education
Social entrepreneurship
VAWA

VAWA bad legislative vehicle (bankruptcy)
VAWA reauthorization- legislative strategy
VAWA countdown to expiration
VAWA event
VAWA NM examples
VAWA state by state funding
VAWA NM event Connie Trujillo
Examples of VAWA
VAWA statements
VAWA bill signing

Youth Conference
Medicare Plan
Immunization
Childcare

Enclosures filed in
Oversize Attachments #

21198

VAVA # 18382

POTUS Talking Points

Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Background:

The House passed VAWA overwhelmingly on September 26, 2000 (415-3). In the Senate, a compromise version authored by Senators Biden and Hatch has passed the Judiciary Committee, but there is no indication of when it will be considered on the floor. Lott has indicated that he knows the White House wants VAWA, and therefore wants to get something in return for it. He has talked about attaching it to an objectionable bill. There is also talk about adding it to the Sexual Trafficking Conference Report, but no agreement has been reached.

Talking point:

- I urge you to move reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. As you know, VAWA is an historic piece of legislation, for the first time providing a federal framework for combating violence against women and changing the way we hold offenders accountable and provide services to victims. Over \$1.6 billion in Federal grant funds have gone to the states to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence and to provide critical services to victims and their families. Although the programs are working, there is still so much more that needs to be done and that's why we must pass this reauthorization before this Congress adjourns. In 1994 VAWA passed with strong bipartisan support, and today its reauthorization has very strong bipartisan support. It passed the House overwhelmingly (415-3), and in the Senate, it has over 70 cosponsors. If you will move the bill, we can send a strong message to American women and their families that we can work together in a bipartisan fashion to protect them from violence. This is a win-win situation.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act

Background:

This bill provides a new Medicaid treatment option, which was included in the Administration's budget, for low-income women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the Federal Breast and Cervical Cancer screening program. The legislation passed the House in May with overwhelming bipartisan support. It passed the Senate by UC yesterday (October 4th), and was sent over to the House, where supporters are trying to get it placed on the suspension calendar so that it can be approved quickly and sent to you.

Talking point:

- I urge you to schedule the Senate-passed version of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act as soon as possible under suspension of the rules. As you know, it was approved by the House overwhelmingly in May, and passed the Senate by UC yesterday. This bill is something we can all agree on – it is an important, bipartisan effort I know we can

get done for American women this year. It builds on the success of the Federal breast and cervical cancer screening program, by providing states with the option to provide the full Medicaid benefit package to low-income, uninsured women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the Federal screening program. I was proud to include this proposal in my budget this year, and am pleased it has such overwhelming bipartisan support. I know you agree with me that we must provide treatment for low-income, uninsured women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through our Federal screening program – we cannot leave them hanging with a terrible diagnosis. I hope you will allow the House to consider the Senate-passed bill soon so that it can get enacted this year.

AUTHORIZATION ISSUES WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Children and Families

Reauthorization of the Corporation for National Service: The primary purpose of the national service reauthorization proposal is to extend longstanding national service legislation – the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. The extension authorizes support for programs that encourage Americans to engage in full-time or part-time service in their communities in order to meet unmet needs in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs, such as health and housing. The CNS reauthorization bill, S. 2794, was marked-up and passed out of the Senate HELP Committee on Friday, July 21, 2000.

Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): The Violence Against Women Act, enacted in 1994, established new Federal criminal provisions and key grant programs that have improved the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and directed critical services to victims. \$1.5 billion dollars in Federal grant funds have gone to the states to enable law enforcement agencies and communities across the nation to promote the safety of countless women and hold offenders accountable. The House passed VAWA overwhelmingly on September 26, 2000. In the Senate, a compromise version authored by Senators Biden and Hatch has passed the Judiciary Committee, but there is no indication of when it will be considered.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act: This bill provides a new Medicaid treatment option, which was included in the Administration's budget, for low-income women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a Federal screening program. The legislation passed the House in May with strong bipartisan support. It was approved, also with bipartisan support, by the Senate Finance Committee in June.

Older-Americans Act Reauthorization: On July 21, 2000, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions reported S. 1536, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1999. The Senate expects to consider the reported bill shortly.

Crime and Guns

COPS Reauthorization: The Administration's COPS Reauthorization bill would extend the COPS program created in the 1994 Crime Act through FY 2005. The legislation would fund the hiring of up to 50,000 more officers on the street; provide law enforcement with the latest crime-fighting technologies; provide \$200 million to hire new community prosecutors; and authorize new community crime prevention funding.

Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund (VCRTF) Reauthorization: This legislation would extend the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund (VCRTF) first authorized in the 1994 Crime Act through FY 2005. The VCRTF creates a "lock box" to protect over \$6 billion each year through FY 2005 for law enforcement programs and to secure federal law enforcement funding so that

local communities can better plan their budgets through 2005. VCRTF reauthorization is currently included in the VAWA reauthorization approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bulletproof vest grants: In May 2000, President Clinton announced his support for legislation sponsored by Senators Leahy and Campbell and Representative Vislosky to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Program for another three years (FY 2002-2004) and double the authorized funding from \$75 million to \$150 million. The House has passed the legislation but the Senate has not yet completed action on this bipartisan legislation.

DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL – Authorizing Priorities – FALL 2000

Children and Families

Reauthorization of the Corporation for National Service: The CNS reauthorization bill, S. 2794, was marked-up and passed out of the Senate HELP Committee on Friday, July 21, 2000. Senators Jeffords and Kennedy have made an agreement with Daschle and Lott to try to get it passed on the Senate Floor next week under UC. The House, however, has no plans to take up this bill. Chairman Goodling has been clear that he does not support this reauthorization and does not plan to schedule a mark-up. The House Leadership, led by Army and Delay, has also continually expressed their distaste for this bill. The Administration needs to formulate a House strategy to pass the reauthorization given the dynamics.

VC2TF
Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act: VAWA II has passed out of the Judiciary Committees in both the House and Senate, but has not yet been scheduled for floor action. Currently, there are no clear vehicles in the Senate. There have been some rumors of adding VAWA reauthorization to the Trafficking bill, but the Administration is concerned about holding up Trafficking due to VAWA. The House was prepared to move VAWA under suspension, but the bills became bogged down in both the Commerce and Education and Workforce Committees, which have jurisdiction over the HHS programs. The Administration needs to work to get the committees to either waive jurisdiction or quickly move VAWA.

Hate Crimes: The Hate Crimes bill passed the Senate in June as an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill. Pre-Senate version is pending in the House. Our strategy has been to try to push Hastert into bringing the bill to the Floor, and then work to adopt the Senate version in conference (Mary Smith is handling this issue, but keeping us informed).

Lott
Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act: This bill provides a new Medicaid treatment option for low-income women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the Federal screening program. The proposal was included in the President's budget. The authorization bill passed the House in May and was approved by the Senate Finance Committee in June, but there is no clear vehicle for floor consideration, and no indication from the leadership of when it will move.

Older-Americans Act Re-authorization: On July 21, 2000, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions reported S. 1536, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1999. This bill represents the culmination of months of negotiations between Administration and Senate staff (Jeffords, DeWine, Kennedy and Mikulski) to craft a bipartisan reauthorization bill. In addition to the support of the Administration, the committee reported bill has the support of the key aging organizations. The Senate expects to consider the reported bill on the floor during the week after Labor Day weekend. During the August recess, Senate staff worked closely with the House to enlist their support of the bill. There are a few issues remaining to be worked out with House staff. If these issues can be resolved prior to Senate consideration, the Senate may address them through a floor amendment. If not, the Senate still intends to consider the bill after Labor Day and then pass it on to the House for their consideration.

Crime and Guns

Gun Safety Legislation: The key provisions of this legislation would require background checks at gun shows; mandate child safety locks with every handgun sold; ban the importation of high capacity ammunition clips; and bar the most violent juvenile offenders from possessing guns as adults. These measures were all included as part of the Administration's omnibus gun bill, the Youth Crime Gun Enforcement Act, that was introduced last spring by Rep. Conyers and by Senator Schumer. The proposals were passed as part of the Senate Juvenile Justice bill last spring with a tie-breaking vote by Vice President Al Gore, but failed to pass in the House. The Juvenile Justice legislation is now in conference, but the conferees have only held one meeting largely because of the contentious nature of the gun issues, particularly the gun show provisions. Rep. Conyers and Chairman Hyde have been attempting to work out a compromise on the gun provisions with the Administration's assistance, but none has been reached yet. The Administration has talked with Rep. Conyers' staff about the possibility of convening a meeting at the White House with Chairman Hyde after the August recess to work out our differences, but nothing has been scheduled.

*NO COPS act for
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COPS Reauthorization: The Administration's COPS Reauthorization bill would extend the COPS program created in the 1994 Crime Act through FY 2005. The legislation would fund the hiring of up to 50,000 more officers on the street; provide law enforcement with the latest crime-fighting technologies; provide \$200 million to hire new community prosecutors; and authorize new community crime prevention funding. Senator Biden and Rep. Weiner have introduced the Administration's COPS bill in Congress with some minor differences. For example, the Biden/Weiner legislation does not include community crime prevention funding and allows up to 50% -- instead of 5% proposed by the Administration-- of the hiring grants to be used for grants to retain officers already hired. The President formally endorsed the Biden/Weiner bill last fall. Attempts failed in both the House and the Senate to attach COPS Reauthorization to the Juvenile Justice bill last year. Senator Biden plans to offer his bill as an amendment to the Senate Commerce, Justice, State bill in September.

Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund (VCRTF) Reauthorization: This legislation would extend the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund (VCRTF) first authorized in the 1994 Crime Act through FY 2005. The VCRTF creates a "lock box" to protect over \$6 billion each year through FY 2005 for law enforcement programs and to secure federal law enforcement funding so that local communities can better plan their budgets through 2005. This legislation is a high priority for national law enforcement organizations. Senator Biden introduced this legislation this year, and he included the language in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) bill that passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last month. However, the VAWA legislation passed in the House Judiciary Committee this year without the VCRTF language. Senator Biden also plans to introduce his VCRTF proposal as an amendment to the Senate Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill in September.

Death Penalty -- DNA Testing/Competent Counsel: Senator Leahy introduced the "Innocence Protection Act" earlier this year to provide post-conviction DNA testing for inmates and competent counsel for capital case defendants. The "Innocence Protection Act" contains a number of other provisions relating to the death penalty such as a prohibition on the Attorney

General from seeking the death penalty in States that do not have this penalty under State law. While the Administration has not endorsed the "Innocence Protection Act", the Administration has been working with Leahy staff to develop a slimmed down version of the legislation that could get bipartisan support and the support of Senator Feinstein. The revised bill would focus solely on DNA testing and competent counsel, and would remove the original bill's grant conditions and replace them with funding incentives for States to implement the provisions. The House and Senate have not held hearings on the Innocence Protection Act, but there is some Judiciary Committee movement on DNA legislation. Senator Leahy's staff believes there is a chance that Hatch could try to move his post-conviction DNA testing bill, and that it is critical to tie competent counsel provisions to the DNA legislative vehicle. Senator Feinstein has presented Senator Hatch with a competent counsel grant program developed by the Justice Department and generally approved by Leahy staff to see if Hatch is willing to accept it as part of his DNA bill. At last check, Hatch had not given Feinstein any response to the proposal.

'01 Appropriations Language Issues

Transportation Appropriations Bill

Drunk Driving .08 BAC: This legislation proposed by Senator Lautenberg and Rep. Lowey would help to set a national impaired driving standard at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC). Currently, 18 States have adopted .08 BAC as the impaired driving standard. The bill language under consideration would give states three years to adopt .08 BAC as the impaired driving standard or risk losing a portion of their highway construction funds. President Clinton announced his support for the legislation in March 1999. On June 28, 2000 the Senate passed the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriations bill, which included language by Senators Lautenberg and Shelby that would set a national drunk driving standard at .08 BAC. The House-passed bill does not contain a .08 provision. Congressman Wolf supports the measure and will chair the transportation appropriations conference, which will likely take place in early September. Strong opposition is expected from the alcohol lobby, who managed to defeat the measure in House-Senate conference in 1998.

Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill

School Construction: The conference report includes \$1.3 billion for the Title VI block grant, which rolls together school construction and class size reduction. Because construction is only a permissible use of the money in their Title VI fund, removing school construction from Title VI and appropriating additional funds with the authorizing language in our budget proposal would be ideal.

Class Size Reduction: Though multi-year authorizing language from our ESEA proposal (outside of Title VI) would be most desirable, a one-year reauthorization similar to last year's agreement is more realistic and would be very difficult for the conferees not to accept in the negotiation.

Title I Accountability: As with last year, we would like to insert our ESEA language from Title XI for the comprehensive Accountability package, but should at least be able to secure one-year supporting language for the grants as we did last year. Last year's agreement did not include the set-aside for states that we were seeking and instead sent funds directly to districts. We should probably try again to secure some percentage of the funds for states (we proposed 30%, but 20% would also be acceptable). Also, since Goodling is unhappy with our interpretation of last year's agreement that applies the school choice provisions only to districts receiving Accountability money, he may push to broaden this provision to apply to all failing schools.

Teacher Quality: The current ESEA Eisenhower language on national activities includes recruitment, and is broad enough to encompass Troops-to-Teachers: Transition-to-Teaching, School Leadership, and Hometown Teachers. However, we would need additional authorizing language for the Early Childhood Educators since it is not a K-12 program and gives funds to consortia, as well as for Higher Standards Higher Pay and Teacher Quality Incentive Awards initiatives.

21st Century Community Learning Centers: Senator Gregg's amendment allowing CBOs to compete on equal terms with schools dictates our negotiating stance to some degree; if we are comfortable moving off of the 10% CBO-school partnership language in our FY2001 budget proposal, we could modify the language to increase the percentage of funds CBO partnerships are eligible for (up to 25%), as long as the overall level of funding is increased sufficiently towards the \$1 billion goal. In addition to the percent of funds question, we may also need to think about whether or not we are OK with Gregg's language which would not require CBOs to work in partnership with schools.

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AUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Children and Families

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Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): The Violence Against Women Act, enacted in 1994, established new Federal criminal provisions and key grant programs that have improved the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and directed critical services to victims. \$1.5 billion dollars in Federal grant funds have gone to the states to enable law enforcement agencies and communities across the nation to promote the safety of countless women and hold offenders accountable. VAWA programs are working: the number of women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declined 21 percent from 1993 to 1998. In addition, in 1996, 1997, and 1998, intimate partners committed fewer murders than in any year since 1976. Although tremendous strides have been made, domestic violence still devastates the lives of many women and children. VAWA, which has bipartisan support, must be reauthorized to ensure that we maintain support for these important programs and make critical improvements to the statute.

VAWA has passed out of the Judiciary Committees in both the House and Senate, but has not been scheduled for floor action. In the Senate, Senators Hatch and Biden have a compromise bill that we understand may go to the floor under UC. ~~In the House, however, the legislation has also been referred to the Commerce and Education and Workforce Committees, which have not indicated that they plan any action on the legislation.~~

Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. This bill provides a new Medicaid treatment option, which was included in the Administration's budget, for low-income women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a Federal screening program. The legislation passed the House in May with strong bipartisan support. It was approved, also with bipartisan support, by the Senate Finance Committee in June, but there is no indication when it will move to the floor. Because it differs from the House version, a conference will be necessary.

Older-Americans Act Re-authorization: On July 21, 2000, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions reported S. 1536, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1999. ~~This bill represents the culmination of months of negotiations between Administration and Senate staff (Jeffords, DeWine, Kennedy and Mikulski) to craft a bipartisan reauthorization bill.~~

Shorby

In addition to the support of the Administration, the committee reported bill has the support of the key aging organizations. The Senate expects to consider the reported bill on the floor during the week after Labor Day weekend. During the August recess, Senate staff worked closely with the House to enlist their support of the bill. There are a few issues remaining to be worked out with House staff. If these issues can be resolved prior to Senate consideration, the Senate may address them through a floor amendment. If not, the Senate still intends to consider the bill after Labor Day and then pass it on to the House for their consideration.

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Bulletproof vest grants: In May 2000, President Clinton announced his support for legislation sponsored by Senators Leahy and Campbell and Representative Vislosky to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Program for another three years (FY 2002-2004) and double the authorized funding from \$75 million to \$150 million. The House has passed the legislation but the Senate has not yet completed action on this bipartisan legislation that has the strong support of national law enforcement organizations.