

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1995

Greetings to everyone gathered for the twenty-first annual national conference of the National Association of Meals Programs. I am delighted that Assistant Secretary for Aging Fernando Torres-Gil is joining you for this special event.

As the nation's oldest and largest organization representing meals services providers, NAMP is an essential source of daily nutrition and companionship for millions of older Americans and others in need. Each of you can be proud of your efforts to provide the comfort and care that enable countless citizens to maintain independent, dignified lives.

Recognizing this vital mission, I have continually supported the Older Americans Act and its nutrition services programs. Proposals put forward by Congress, however, would reduce funding for these and other valuable, proven initiatives so critical to the well-being of our seniors. While I am committed to achieving a balanced budget and to reducing federal spending, reaching these goals should not make us lose sight of our highest priorities. Demographic changes have increased the demand for meals and other services, and we must not jeopardize programs that make an important difference in the lives of older Americans.

As we work toward a balanced budget that ensures a bright future for Americans young and old, I am glad to have your compassionate involvement. Best wishes to all for a most productive conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

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