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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
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Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

We have built a new economy.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a

row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, the credit belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to those of you in this chamber who have worked with us to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.

Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Then our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, discredited government. The title of a best-selling book asked: "America: What went wrong?"

In the best traditions of our nation, Americans determined to set things right. We restored the vital center, replacing outdated ideologies with a new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner that gives our people the tools to solve their own problems.

With the smallest federal workforce in 40 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime: not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility. That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children, and investing more in child care, transportation, and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with family leave, which 20 million Americans have used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps, while helping them earn their way through way through college.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. Today, we have results. More important, America again has the confidence to dream big dreams. But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass on to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great.

My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st Century. Now, we must shape a 21st-Century American revolution – of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

At the dawn of the last century, Theodore Roosevelt said, “the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight. . . It should be the growing nation with a future which takes the long look ahead.”

Tonight let us take our look long ahead – and set great goals for our nation.

To 21st Century America, let us pledge:

To ensure that every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed. To bring prosperity to every American community. To help every family succeed at home and at work – and ensure that no child is raised in poverty. To meet the challenge of the aging of America. To provide quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. To make America the safest big country on earth. To reverse the course of climate change and leave a cleaner, safer planet. To lead the world toward shared peace and security, freedom and prosperity, and the far frontiers of science and technology. And to become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

These are great goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year. Not even in this decade. But we will reach them. Let us remember that the first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single year. The lessons of our history – and the lesson of the last seven years – is that we make great strides toward great goals by moving step by step: building on our progress, always gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you again to pass a real patient's bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. To pass campaign finance reform. To vote on long overdue judicial nominations and other important appointees. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget. I said: Let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline. Because we refused to stray from that path, we are doing something that would have seemed unimaginable seven years ago: We are actually paying down the national debt. If everyone in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we can pay down the debt entirely in 13 years and make America debt-free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, we began to put our fiscal house in order with the Deficit Reduction Act, winning passage in both houses by just one vote. Your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, led that effort – and he is here with us tonight. Lloyd Bentsen, you have served America well.

Beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important guarantees we make to every American – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bipartisan down payment

on Social Security reform by crediting the interest savings from debt reduction to the Social Security Trust Fund to ensure that it is strong and sound for the next 50 years.

But this is just the start of our journey. Now let's make sure that our first steps into the 21st Century are the right steps toward reaching our great goals.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21st Century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. At a time when education is more than ever the key to our children's future, we must make sure that all our children have that key. That means universal preschool and afterschool, the best trained teachers in every classroom, and college opportunities for every student in America.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility: Investing more, but demanding more in return.

Reading, math, and college entrance scores are up. And some of the most impressive gains are in schools in poor neighborhoods.

All have succeeded with the same proven formula: higher standards, more accountability, and extra help to ensure all children can reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds all states and school districts accountable

for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our schools. It's time to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

As we demand more than ever from our schools, we should invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools – or shut them down.

Let's double our investment in afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement, including the arts, and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We should achieve another goal as well: making sure every child has access to quality preschool. Since 1993, we've nearly doubled our investment in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose to add another \$1 billion to Head Start, the largest increase in the program's history. Along with our early learning fund and other investments, this will build the foundation for our long-term goal: quality pre-school for every child in America.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row.

And to make sure all teachers know the subjects they teach, tonight I propose a new teacher quality initiative – to recruit more talented people into the classroom, reward good teachers for staying there, and give all teachers the training they need.

We know real public school choice works. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of 3,000 by next year.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet. We're getting there. In 1994, only three percent of our classrooms were connected. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, more than half of them are; and 90 percent of our schools have at least one connection to the Internet.

But we can't finish the job when a third of all schools are in serious disrepair, many with walls and wires too old for the Internet. Tonight, I propose a budget that will help 5,000 schools a year make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools – to put our students in high-tech classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know smaller schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, the average American high school has grown five times bigger. We should double our efforts

to help districts convert factory-style high schools into smaller schools, where students can get more individual attention and support.

We must do more to prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds for college and convince them that the money is there to pay their way. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create the Gear Up program, to provide college mentors for at-risk middle-school students. I propose to double the number of children we reach, to 1.4 million; and to offer disadvantaged students a chance to take the same college test-prep courses wealthier students use to boost their test scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable for all, we must make college affordable for all. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken action toward that goal: larger Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates do go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in college tuition costs. Let's make four years of college affordable for all.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. In a world where the demands on parents are greater than ever, our goal must be to give every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children. That means making sure that all parents have the tools to bring their children up right; that none of our children grow up in poverty; that every family has the support to care for aging parents.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program – CHIP – so that workers who don't have health care coverage through their employers at least can get it for their children. So far, we've enrolled 2 million children, and we're well on our way to our goal of 5 million.

But there are still more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, more than there were in 1993. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion to make low income parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. Together with our children's initiative, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America. And we should do it now.

And let's give a real option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose that we also give them a tax credit to make that choice an affordable one.

When the Baby Boomers retire, Medicare will be faced with caring for twice as many of our citizens – and yet it is far from ready to do so. My generation must not ask our children's generation to shoulder our burden. We must strengthen and modernize Medicare now.

My budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform Medicare, to make it more efficient and competitive. And it dedicates nearly \$400 billion of our budget surplus to keep Medicare solvent past 2025; and, at long last, to give every senior a voluntary choice of affordable coverage for prescription drugs.

Lifesaving drugs are an indispensable part of modern medicine. No one creating a Medicare program today would even consider excluding coverage for prescription drugs. Yet more than three in five seniors now lack dependable drug coverage which can lengthen and enrich their lives.

Before retiring five years ago, Mrs. Patricia Brown, who is here with us tonight, spent decades assisting seniors in her home town of Johnson, Tennessee. Yet today, she herself is facing many seniors' worst nightmare. She has to spend a huge percentage of her income for the medicine she needs – and she has to pay the highest prices. For the sake of Mrs. Brown and all older Americans, we must act now. In good conscience, we cannot let another year pass without extending to all seniors the lifeline of affordable prescription drugs.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. Frankly, that wasn't enough. This year, let's triple it to \$3,000 – and this year, let's pass it.

And we must make needed investments to expand access to mental health care. I want to thank the person who has led our efforts to break down the barriers to the decent treatment of mental illness: Tipper Gore.

Taken together, these proposals would mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since the creation of Medicare. We owe it to our people to make this investment this year.

We must also make investments that create incentives for work. One of the most powerful has been the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families: the EITC. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; working; taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first Address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand this tax credit; and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure it rewards marriage just as it rewards work. And we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children to provide up to \$1,100 more in tax relief.

We can't reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. The female unemployment rate is the lowest in 46 years. Yet women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. We must do better by providing the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, training more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs, and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – which are rent subsidies to help working families live closer to the workplace. This year, let us more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Many working parents spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide child care for about two million children. But that's only an eighth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 400,000 children.

For hard-pressed middle-income families, we should also expand the child care tax credit. And we should take the next big step. We should make that tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$30,000 a year, that could mean up to [\$2,400] for child-care costs. We all say we're pro-work and pro-family. Passing this proposal would prove it.

Tens of millions of Americans live from paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too few can make use of IRAs and 401-K retirement plans. That is why I have long supported the so-called Individual Development Accounts that help working families to save and accumulate wealth. I believe it is time to lift this idea to a new level. We should expand the idea of Individual Development Accounts so that every low- and moderate-income family in America can save for retirement, or a first home, or a college education. We will match their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save in new Retirement Savings Accounts. I also propose a major new tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to its workers.

But even as we make these and other vital investments in health care, education and support for working families...even as we offer tax cuts to help pay for college, for retirement, to care for aging parents and reduce the marriage penalty...we must not forsake the path of fiscal discipline that got us here. We must make these investments and tax cuts only in the context of a balanced budget that strengthens and extends the life of Social Security and Medicare and pays down the national debt. That is the responsible way to create opportunity for all.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father. These children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Clearly, demanding and supporting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have doubled child support collections since 1992, and I am proposing tough new measures to hold still more fathers responsible. But we should recognize that a lot of fathers

want to do right by their children -- and need help to do it. Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota, got that help. Now he has a good job and can better provide the financial and emotional support his son Ricardo needs. My budget will help 40,000 fathers make the choices Carlos did. I thank him for being here tonight.

If there is any issue on which we can reach across party lines it is in our common commitment to reward work and strengthen families. Thanks to overwhelming bipartisan support from this Congress, we have improved foster care, supported those who leave it when they turn eighteen, and dramatically increased the number of foster children going to adoptive homes. I thank you for that. Of course, I am also very grateful to the person who has led our efforts from the beginning, and who has worked tirelessly for children and families for thirty years now: my wife, Hillary.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped for the past seven years – the longest decline on record, thanks to a national consensus we helped to forge on community police, sensible gun control, and effective prevention. But nobody believes America is safe enough. So let's set a higher goal: let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire 50,000 more police officers, concentrated in high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support.

Soon after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage – and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President – the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people, and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what happens when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming his grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business; and I thank him for being here with us tonight.

We have shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are up 16 percent since I took office. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers. And we must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun – and every bullet – used in a crime in America.

Every state already requires hunters and automobile drivers to have a license. They should do the same for handgun purchasers. Tonight, I propose a plan to ensure that every

handgun buyer must first have a photo license from their state, showing that they have passed a Brady background check and a gun safety course.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in the other 25 industrialized nations – combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I ask Congress to fund research in Smart Gun technology. I also call on responsible leaders in the gun industry to work with us on smart guns and other steps to keep guns out of the wrong hands and keep our children safe.

Every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. But the ratings are too numerous, diverse, and confusing to be really useful to parents. Therefore, I now ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge – to develop a single, voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment, one that is easier for parents to understand and enforce.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

To keep our economy growing and our inflation low, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America – in our inner cities, poor rural areas, and on Indian reservations.

Our nation's prosperity has not yet reached these places. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of them – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in communities from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, from Watts to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity, eager to work. Let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets that they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit more than twice the size I proposed last year. With this and other incentives, we can spur \$22 billion in private-sector capital – to create new businesses and help firms expand or relocate to inner cities or rural areas. And Empowerment Zones have been creating opportunity for five years now. We should create more of these areas and increase the incentives to invest in them.

I thank the business leaders who have joined us at the forefront of this effort. And I challenge every business to follow their lead.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. It is an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and the Reverend Jesse Jackson in your home state of Illinois, and committed to working toward our common goal, by combining the best ideas from both sides of the aisle. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you.

We must maintain our commitment to community development banks and keep the community reinvestment act strong so all Americans have access to the capital they need to buy homes and build businesses.

We need to make special efforts to address the areas with the highest rates of poverty. My budget includes a special \$110 million initiative to promote economic development in the Mississippi Delta; and \$1 billion to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for Native American communities. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans. Leaders and members from both parties have already expressed an interest in working with us on these efforts.

There's another part of the American community that's in trouble today – our family farmers. When I signed the Farm Bill in 1996, I said there was a great danger it would work well in good times but not in bad. Well, droughts, floods, and historically low prices have made times very bad for our farmers. We simply must work together to strengthen the farm safety net, invest in land conservation, and create new markets by expanding our program for bio-based fuels and products.

Today, opportunity for all requires something new. It means having access to a computer and mastering the tools of the information economy. And that means we simply must close the digital divide between those who have these tools and those who don't.

Connecting classrooms and libraries to the Internet is crucial, but it's just a start. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 communities – and ensures that all new teachers are trained to use 21st Century tools and teach 21st Century skills. This spring, I will invite high-tech leaders to join me on another New Markets tour – to close the digital divide and open opportunity for all our people. I want to thank the high-tech companies across our country that have already done so much in this area. And tonight, I propose new tax incentives that I hope will encourage others to join us.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

We cannot realize the possibilities of the new economy just within our own borders. We must also shape another revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations, economies and cultures: globalization.

It is the central reality of our time. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But there is no turning back. And our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand, and act on, the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. But we must also be at the center of every vital global network, as a good neighbor and partner. We cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

First, we must forge a new consensus on trade. Those of us who believe passionately in the power of open trade must ensure that it lifts both our living standards and our values. And

we must never tolerate abusive child labor or a race to the bottom on the environment and worker protection. But open markets and rules-based trade are the best engines we know for raising living standards, reducing global poverty and environmental destruction, and assuring the free flow of ideas. There is only one direction for America on trade: we must go forward.

And we must make developing economies our partners in prosperity – which is why I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

But globalization is about more than economics. Our purpose must be to bring the world together around democracy, free markets and peace. And to resist the forces that threaten that goal.

With that in mind, let me describe the fundamental challenges I believe America must meet to shape the 21ST Century world.

First, we must continue to encourage our former adversaries, Russia and China, to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic nations. Both are being held back from reaching their full potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, economic turmoil, a cruel and self-defeating war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much has changed for the better: thousands of former Soviet nuclear weapons eliminated; Russian soldiers serving with ours in the Balkans; Russian people electing their leaders for the first time in a thousand years. And in China, a society more open to the

world than ever before. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. But we must do everything in our power to increase the chance they will choose wisely, to be constructive members of the global community.

That is why we must support those Russians struggling for a democratic, prosperous future; continue to reduce both our nuclear arsenals; and help Russia safeguard weapons and materials that remain.

That is why Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations as soon as possible this year. Our markets are already open to China. This agreement will open China's markets to us. And it will advance the cause of peace in Asia and promote the cause of change in China.

A second challenge is to protect our security from conflicts that threaten our interests and our fundamental values. America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, our common humanity suffers. And left unresolved, such tragedies can throw whole regions into turmoil and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace; building peace in Northern Ireland; working for peace in East Timor and Africa; promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey and in Cyprus; working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan; defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces and those of our allies who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo – enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we are building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror on Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Thanks to our armed forces' skill and bravery, we prevailed without losing a single American in combat. Captain Cherrey, we honor you, and promise to finish the job you began.

A third challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and potentially hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; increasing our preparedness against chemical and biological attack; protecting our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals; and developing a system to defend against new missile threats – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia.

I also hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which will lead eventually to its ratification.

A fourth challenge is to ensure that the stability of our planet is not threatened by the huge gulf between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while the rest live on the bare edge of survival. We must do our part, with expanded trade, expanded aid, and the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet fragile democracies need help. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting narco-traffickers for its people's lives – and our children's lives. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia win this fight; and I ask for your support. [And I will propose tough new legislation to go after what drug barons value most – their money.]

In a world where 1.2 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must do what the Pope and other religious leaders have asked: and reduce the debts of the poorest countries so they can invest in education, health and economic growth. Last year, Congress made a down payment on America's part of this global endeavor. I ask for your continued support.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million more in the fight against this and other infectious killers. Today, I propose a tax credit to speed the

development of vaccines for diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS. I ask the private sector and our partners around the world to join us in embracing this cause. Together, we can save millions of lives.

Our final challenge is to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world and to fund fully the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st Century weapons, raises salaries for our men and women in uniform, and protects our veterans.

And it makes good on our commitment to pay our UN dues and arrears. I ask your continued support.

If we really want America to lead in the era of globalization, we must to meet all these challenges.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

I am grateful for the opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor our responsibility to the environment – and finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand the economy while protecting the environment. As our economy has grown, we have rid more than 500 neighborhoods of toxic waste and ensured cleaner air and water for millions of families. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve more than 40 million acres of roadless lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments.

But as our communities grow, our commitment to conservation must grow as well. Tonight, I propose creating a permanent conservation fund to restore wildlife, protect coastlines, and save natural treasures from California redwoods to the Everglades. This Lands Legacy endowment represents by far the most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks, not parking lots, and parents can be home with their children instead of stuck in traffic. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving precious open spaces ... for helping major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium. If we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, deadly heat waves and droughts will become more frequent, coastal areas will be flooded, economies disrupted.

Many people in the United States and around the world still believe we can't cut greenhouse gas pollution without slowing economic growth. In the Industrial Age that may have been true. In the digital economy, it isn't. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide even more growth.

We now have windows on the market that drastically cut energy bills by keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We have new light bulbs that last up ten times longer than standard bulbs while using a fifth the energy. We're using NASA innovations to develop solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution. Last week, automakers unveiled cars that get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique research partnership between government and industry. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help speed these innovations, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for the production of clean energy ... and to families for buying energy-saving homes and appliances and the next generation of super-efficient cars when they hit the showroom floor. I also call on the auto industry to use available technologies to make all new cars more fuel efficient right away. And I propose a major new initiative to promote the export of our clean-energy technologies to the developing world – creating new jobs at home while providing a cleaner energy future for them.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be the key not only to the health of the environment but to miraculous improvements in the quality of our lives and advances in the economy.

Later this year, researchers will complete the first draft of the entire human genome – the very blueprint of life. It is important for all Americans to recognize that your tax dollars have fueled this research – and that this and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease.

For example, researchers have identified genes that cause Parkinson's Disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer – and are they are designing precision therapies that will block the harmful effects of these faulty genes for good. Researchers are already using this new technique to target and destroy cells that cause breast cancer. Soon, we may be able to use it to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's Disease. Scientists are also working on an artificial retina to help many blind people to see and microchips that would directly stimulate damaged spinal cords and allow people who are now paralyzed to stand up and walk.

Science and engineering innovations are also propelling our remarkable prosperity. Information technology alone now accounts for a third of our economic growth, with jobs that pay almost 80 percent above the private sector average. Again, we should keep in mind: government-funded research brought computers, the Internet, and communications satellites into being.

We must continue to expand this research. The future will bring devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... inexpensive molecular computers the size of a teardrop that would have the power of the fastest supercomputers available today.

My budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund, the largest increase in civilian research in a generation. We will boost support for biomedical research at the NIH, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, space exploration, clean energy, nanotechnology, and university-based research.

As new breakthroughs are made, we must use them in ways that reflect our most cherished values. First and foremost, we must safeguard our citizens' privacy. Last year, we proposed rules to protect every citizen's medical records – and this year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken the first steps to protect the privacy of bank and credit card statements and other financial records. Soon I will send legislation to the Congress to finish the job. And we must act to prevent any genetic discrimination by employers or insurers.

COMMUNITY

At a time when science, technology and the forces of globalization are bringing so many changes into our lives, it is more important than ever that we strengthen the bonds that root us in our local communities and in our national communities.

No tie binds different people together like citizen service. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with AmeriCorps, an expanded Peace Corps, and unprecedented new partnerships between government and our citizens.

For example, four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies in our Welfare to Work Partnership have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens off the welfare rolls.

Over the past seven years, we have created and supported many other successful partnerships with businesses, foundations, and community groups. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To strengthen the arts. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing.

~~We can do even more~~ To help Americans help each other, We should support lower and middle-income citizens who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, ~~only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction~~ for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low- and middle-income citizens to ~~claim~~ the same deduction.

Set

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities, fighting poverty and drug abuse, and helping young people get back on the right track. We should support organizations like the Lutheran Social Services in Brockton, Massachusetts, which runs a Second Chance Home for unwed teen mothers. We can support more Second Chance Homes – and still respect the line between church and state.

We should do more to help new immigrants fully participate in the American community – investing more to teach them civics and English.

Our nation is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

~~But~~ In a more interconnected world, ~~our~~^{all} diversity can be our greatest strength. But as we have seen ~~all too often~~^{all} at home and abroad, racial, ethnic and religious differences too often spark hatred and division. ~~And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.~~

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year alone, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. Without delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And we should reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Protections in law must be protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office of One America to promote racial reconciliation. That's what Hank Aaron, has done all his life. From his days as baseball's all-time homerun king to his recent acts of healing, he has always brought Americans together. We're pleased he's with us tonight.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists said something we should all remember. He said all human beings, genetically, are 99.9 percent the same. So modern science affirms what ancient faith has always taught: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

Therefore, we must do more than tolerate diversity – we must honor it and celebrate it.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with great hope and expectations for our nation. But tonight is special – because we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and before us, even wider frontiers of possibility.

We should be filled with gratitude and humility for our prosperity and progress; with awe and joy at what lies ahead; and with absolute determination to make the most of it.

When the framers finished crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today, because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning brightly, lighting new frontiers of possibility, we still bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun.

After 224 years, the American Revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.



Cynthia A. Rice

01/27/2000 03:54:17 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS? 

The teen birth rate has dropped seven years in a row from 1991 to 1998 (the latest available) -- this is the stat we always use (the rate is the number per 1,000 teens aged 15 to 19).

The number of teen births has dropped but not every year in the last seven years.

Anna Richter



Anna Richter

01/27/2000 03:44:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

Teen births have dropped seven years in a row?

BND APPLS

JUDGES &

PRASGE #?

1MM?

FATHERS/CS

Draft10 01/26/00 7:15pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. We have built a new economy. ✓

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years. ✓

CRIME
WELFARE
ADOPTION

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, the credit belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.

Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Then our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock. The title of a best-selling book asked: "America: What went wrong?"

In the best traditions of our nation, Americans determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with a new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We rose above the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution – one of the false choices that had paralyzed Washington for too long. Instead, we reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner that gives our people the tools to solve their own problems.

With the smallest federal workforce in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime: not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals.

CRIME



and immigrants

B.R.?

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility. That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children, and investing more in child care, transportation, and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with family leave, which 20 million Americans have used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one.

✓ FAMILY
Leave

In 1992, we had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, America again has the confidence to dream big dreams. We must make the most of this moment. We must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass on to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great.

My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st Century. Now, we must shape a 21st-Century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

At the dawn of the last century, Theodore Roosevelt said that “the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight. . . It should be the growing nation with a future which takes the long look ahead.”

Tonight let us take our look long ahead – and set great goals for our nation.

To 21st Century America, let us pledge:

To ensure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed. To bring prosperity to every American community. To help every family succeed at home and at work. And ensure that no child is raised in poverty. To meet the challenge of the aging of America, to provide quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. To make America the safest big country on earth. To reverse the course of climate change and leave a cleaner, safer planet. To lead the world toward shared peace and security, freedom and prosperity, and the far frontiers of science and technology. And to become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

These are great goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year. Not even in this decade. But we will reach them. Let us remember that the first American revolution was not won with a single shot. John Glenn had to circle the Earth before Neil Armstrong could plant the American flag on the moon. But the lesson of our history – and the lesson of the last seven years – is that we make great strides toward great goals by moving step by step: building on our progress, always gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patient's bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. To pass campaign finance reform. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

PBOR

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said: Let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline. Because we refused to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we are doing something that would have seemed unimaginable seven years ago: We are actually paying down the national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we can pay down the debt entirely in 13 years and make America debt-free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, we began to put our fiscal house in order with the Deficit Reduction Act, winning passage in both houses by just one vote. Your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, led that effort – and he is here with us tonight. Lloyd Bentsen, you have served America well.

Beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important guarantees we make to every American – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bipartisan down payment on Social Security reform by crediting the interest savings from debt reduction to the Social Security Trust Fund to ensure that it is strong and sound for the next 50 years.

SS
Medicare

But this is just the start of our journey. Now let's make sure that our first steps into the 21st Century are the right steps.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21st-Century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. At a time when education is more than ever the key to our children's future, we must ensure that all our children have that key. That means universal preschool and afterschool, the best trained teachers in every classroom, and college opportunities for every student in America.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility: Investing more, but demanding more in return. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Reading scores, math scores, and college entrance scores are up. And some of the most impressive gains are in schools in poor neighborhoods.

All have succeeded with the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to ensure all children can reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds all states and school districts accountable for

progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our schools. It's time to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

[Education success story – TK]

As we demand more than ever from our schools, we should invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools – or shut them down. ~~And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making test scores go up.~~

*Failing
Schools*

Let's double our investment in afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We should achieve another goal as well: making sure every child has access to quality preschool. Since 1993, we've nearly doubled our investment in HeadStart and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose to add another \$1 billion to HeadStart, the largest increase in the program's history. If we continue this level of new commitments, then we can provide quality preschool to every child in America by ~~20[TK]~~. *the end of decade.*

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row.

*small
class
High-Quality*

And to make sure all teachers know the subjects they teach, tonight I propose a new teacher quality initiative – to recruit more talented people into the classroom, reward good teachers for staying there, and give all teachers the training they need.

We know real public school choice works. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of 3,000 by next year.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet. We're getting there. In 1994, only three percent of classrooms were connected. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, more than half of them are. And 90 percent of our schools have at least one connection to the Internet. But we can't finish the job when a third of all schools are in serious disrepair, many with walls and wires too old for the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

construction

We know smaller schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, the average American school has grown five times bigger. We should double our efforts to

more than

help districts convert factory-style high schools into smaller schools, where students can get more individual attention and support.

We must do more to prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds for college and convince them that the money is there to pay their way. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create the Gear Up program, to provide college mentors for at-risk middle-school students. I propose to double the number of children we reach, to 1.4 million; and to offer disadvantaged students a chance to take the same college test-prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable for all, we must make college affordable for all. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken action toward that goal: larger Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates do go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in college tuition costs. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase, we can say we have made four years of college available to all.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. In a world where the demands on parents are greater than ever, our goal must be to give every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children. That means making sure every child has loving care and none grow up in poverty; that all parents have the tools to bring their children up right; and that every family has the support to care for aging parents.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; working; taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first Address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure it rewards marriage just as it rewards work. And we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children to provide up to \$1,200 more in tax relief.

In today's world, we can't reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. The female unemployment rate is the lowest in 47 years. Yet women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. We must do better by providing the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, training more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs, and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

✓
Equal Pay
75¢/dollar

Two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – rent subsidies to help working families live closer to the workplace. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

vouchers

1.75 last year

Many working parents spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only about a tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 600,000 [CK] children.

Child Care

We should also expand the child care tax credit. And we should take the next big step. Let's make that tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year, that could mean up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. We all say we're pro-work and pro-family. Passing this proposal would prove it.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too few can make use of IRAs and 401-K retirement plans. That is why I have long supported the so-called Individual Development Accounts that help working families to save and accumulate wealth. I believe it is time to lift this idea to a new level. We should expand the idea of Individual Development Accounts so that every low- and moderate income family in America can save for retirement, save for a first home, or a college education. We will match their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save in new TK Accounts. I also propose a major new tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program – CHIP – so that workers who don't have health care coverage through their employers can get it for their children. ~~Already~~, we've enrolled 2 million children, and we're well on our way to our goal of 5 million.

CHIP

But there are still more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, more than there were in 1993. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion to make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. Together with our children's initiative, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America. And we should do it now.

Coverage

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose that we also give them a tax credit to make that choice an affordable one.

Medicare buy-in

When the Baby Boomers retire, Medicare will be faced with caring for twice as many of our citizens – and yet it is far from ready to do so. My generation must not ask our children's generation to shoulder our burden. We must strengthen and modernize Medicare now.

My budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform Medicare, to make it more efficient and competitive. It dedicates nearly \$400 billion of our budget surplus to keep Medicare solvent past 2025; and, at long last, to give every senior the choice of affordable coverage for prescription drugs.

modernize Medicare

Lifesaving drugs are an indispensable part of modern medicine. No one creating the Medicare program today would even consider excluding coverage for prescription drugs. And yet more than three in five seniors now lack dependable drug coverage which can lengthen and enrich their lives. In good conscience, we cannot let another year pass without giving all our seniors this lifeline.

prescription drugs

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. Frankly, that wasn't enough. This year, let's triple it to \$3,000 – and this year, let's pass it.

etc

And we must make needed investments in mental health. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. I want to thank the person who led the first White House Conference on Mental Health last year, who has led all our efforts to break down the barriers to the decent treatment of mental illness: Tipper Gore.

last investment

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since the creation of Medicare. We can afford it. ~~And we owe it to our people to make that investment this year.~~

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father. These children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Clearly, demanding and supporting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We are working toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, from booting their cars to denying them passports. But we should recognize that a lot of fathers want to do right by their children and need help in affording it. That's why I support more help for programs like the one in St. Paul, Minnesota, that helps fathers like Carlos Rosas go back to school, get a good job, and provide more financial and emotional support for his son, Ricardo. My budget will help 40,000 fathers make the choices Carlos did. I thank him for being here tonight.

enable stakes to up to

If there is any issue on which we can reach across party lines it is in our common commitment to reward work and strengthen families. Thanks to overwhelming bipartisan support from this Congress, we improved foster care, supported those who leave when they turn eighteen, and dramatically increased the number of foster children adoptive homes. I thank you.

And of course, I am also very grateful to the person who has led our efforts from the beginning, and who has worked tirelessly for children and families for thirty years now: my wife, Hillary.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped for the past seven years – the longest decline on record, thanks to a national consensus we helped to forge on community police, sensible gun control, and effective prevention. But nobody believes America is safe enough. So let's set a higher goal: let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire 50,000 more police officers, concentrated in high-crime neighborhoods. Let's continue to put more cops on the beat, but let's also make sure our courts work. Today, dozens of qualified judicial candidates await confirmation. I call on the Senate to do America justice. Give them the vote they deserve.

Soon after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage – and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President – the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people, and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming his grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business; and I thank him for being here with us tonight.

We've shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are up 25 percent since 1998 alone. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers. We must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun – and every bullet – used in a crime in America.

~~Every state~~ already requires hunters and automobile drivers to have a license. They should do the same for handgun purchasers. Tonight, I propose ~~legislation requiring every handgun buyer to get a photo-ID license from their states before purchasing a gun~~, showing that they ~~have~~ passed a Brady background check and ~~took~~ a gun safety course.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the United States than in the other 25 industrialized nations – combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I ask Congress to fund research in technologies for these Smart Guns. I also call on responsible leaders in the gun

Shel
industry to work with us on smart guns and other steps to keep guns out of the wrong hands and keep our kids safe.

Every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. But the ratings are too numerous, diverse, and confusing to really be useful to parents. Therefore, I now ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge – to develop a single, voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment, one that is easier for parents to understand and enforce.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

To keep our economy growing and our inflation low, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America – in the inner cities, and poor rural areas, and on Indian reservations – places not yet blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in communities from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, from Watts to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity, eager to work. Let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets that they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit more than twice the size I proposed last year. With this and other incentives, we can spur \$22 billion in private-sector capital to create new businesses and help firms expand or relocate in inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the number of Empowerment Zones and the tax incentives to invest in them.

I thank the business leaders who have joined us at the forefront of this effort. And I challenge every business to follow their lead.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. It is an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with us in combining the best ideas from both sides of the aisle. I look forward to working with you in that bipartisan effort.

Two of the hardest-pressed areas in all of America are our Indian reservations and the Mississippi Delta. I hope we can agree to make special efforts to support them. Unemployment on Indian reservations is as high as 70%, and poverty remains rampant. My budget increases our investment in economic and job development, health care, education, and law enforcement by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans.

Katrina

[Acknowledge Lott and other members – TK]

There's another part of the American community that's in trouble today – our family farmers. When I signed the Farm Bill in 1996, I said there was a great danger it would work well in good times but not in bad. In recent years, family farms have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices. Congress cannot stand by and watch the Freedom to Farm Bill become a freedom to fail bill. We simply must work together to strengthen the farm safety net, invest in land conservation, and create new markets by expanding our program for bio-based fuels and products.

Today, for our children, opportunity means something new – it means having a computer and mastering the tools of the information economy. If we seek opportunity for all, then we must close the digital divide between those who have these tools and those who don't.

Connecting classrooms and libraries to the Internet is crucial, but it's just a start. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 communities – and ensures that all new teachers are trained to use 21st-Century tools and teach 21st-Century skills. And this spring, I will invite high-tech leaders to join me on a New Markets tour – to close the divide and open opportunity for all our children. I thank the companies that have already joined in our efforts. I hope that our new tax incentives will encourage others to join us.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

We cannot realize the possibilities of the new economy just within our own borders. We must also shape another revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations, economies and cultures: globalization.

It is the central reality of our time. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But there is no turning back. And our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand, and act on, the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. We must also be at the center of every vital global network, as a good neighbor and partner. We cannot build our future without helping others build theirs.

We must forge a new consensus on trade. If we believe passionately in the power of open trade, we must make it lift both our living standards and our values. And we must never tolerate abusive child labor or a race to the bottom on the environment and worker protection. But open markets and rule-based trade are the best engines we know for raising living standards, reducing global poverty and environmental destruction, and assuring the free flow of ideas. There is only one direction for America on trade: we must go forward.

And we must make developing economies our partners in prosperity – which is why I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

But globalization is about more than economics. Our purpose must be to bring the world together around democracy, free markets and peace. And we must resist the forces that threaten that goal.

With that in mind, let me describe the fundamental challenges I believe America must meet to shape the 21st Century world.

First, we must continue to encourage our former adversaries Russia and China to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic nations. Both are being held back from reaching their potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, by economic turmoil, by a cruel and self-defeating war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much has changed for the better: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian soldiers serving with ours in the Balkans; Russian people electing their leaders for the first time in a thousand years. And in China, a society more open to the world than ever before. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. But we must do everything in our power to increase the chance they choose wisely, to be constructive members of the global community.

That is why we must support those Russians struggling for a democratic, prosperous future; continue to reduce both our nuclear arsenals; and help Russia safeguard weapons and materials that remain.

That is why Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations. Our markets are already open to China. This agreement will open China's markets to us. And it will advance the cause of peace in Asia and promote the cause of change in China.

A second challenge is to protect our security from conflicts that threaten our interests and our values. America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers. And left unresolved, such tragedies can throw whole regions into turmoil and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace; building peace in Northern Ireland; working for peace in East Timor and Africa; promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey and in Cyprus; working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan; defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces and those of our allies who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we are building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror on Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Thanks to their skill and bravery, we prevailed without losing a single American in combat. Captain Cherrey, we honor you with our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A third challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; increasing our preparedness against chemical and biological attack; protecting our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals; and developing a system to defend against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia.

I also hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which will lead eventually to its ratification.

A fourth challenge is to ensure the stability of our planet is not threatened by the huge gulf between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while the rest live on the bare edge of survival. We must do our part, with expanded trade, expanded aid, and the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting narco-traffickers for its people's lives – and our children's lives. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia win this fight; and I ask for your support.

In a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must do what the Pope and other religious leaders have asked: reduce the debts of the poorest countries so they can invest in education and health. Last year, Congress made a down payment on America's part in this global endeavor. I ask for your continued support.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the fight against this and other infectious killers. Today, I propose a tax credit to speed the development of vaccines for diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS. I ask the private sector and our partners around the world to join us in embracing this cause. Together, we can save millions of lives.

All these challenges come down to one question: Will America choose to shape the future, or be shaped by it?

We must remain strong, keeping our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st Century weapons. It raises salaries for our men and women in uniform and ensures our veterans the thanks and honor they have so richly earned.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

I am grateful for the opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor our responsibility to the environment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand the economy while protecting the environment. As our economy has grown, we have rid more than 500 neighborhoods of toxic waste and ensured cleaner air and water for millions of families. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve more than 40 million acres of roadless lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments.

But as our communities grow, our commitment to conservation must grow as well. Tonight, I propose creating a permanent conservation fund to restore wildlife, protect coastlines, and save natural treasures from California redwoods to the Everglades. This Lands Legacy endowment represents by far the most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, we launched a new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks, not parking lots, and parents can be home with their children instead of stuck in traffic. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving precious open spaces ... and for helping major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium. If we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, global warming could threaten the world's people and its economies – with deadly heat waves, droughts, tropical diseases, and rising seas.

Many people in the United States and around the world still believe we can't cut greenhouse gas pollution without slowing economic growth. In the Industrial Age that may have been true. In the digital economy, it isn't. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide even more growth.

We now have windows on the market that drastically cut energy bills by keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We have advanced light bulbs that last up ten times longer than standard bulbs while using a fifth the energy. We're helping to develop solar roofing shingles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution. Last week, automakers unveiled cars that get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique research partnership between government and industry.

To help speed these innovations, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for the production of clean energy ... and to families for buying energy-saving homes, appliances, and the next generation of super-efficient cars when they hit the showroom floor. I also call on the auto industry to use available technologies to make all new cars more fuel efficient right away. And I also propose a major new initiative to promote the export of our clean-energy technologies to the developing world – creating new jobs at home while providing a cleaner energy future for the world.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be the key not only to the health of the environment but to miraculous improvements in the quality of our lives and advances in the economy.

Later this year, researchers will complete a first draft of the entire human genome – the very blueprint of life. It is important for all Americans to recognize that their tax dollars have fueled this research – and that this and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease.

Human Genome -

For example, researchers have identified genes that cause Parkinson's Disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer – and are they are designing precision therapies that will block the harmful effects of these faulty genes for good. Researchers are already using this new technique to target and destroy cells that cause breast cancer. Soon, we may be able to use it to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's Disease. Scientists are also working on an artificial retina to help many blind people to see and microchips that would directly stimulate the spinal cord and allow people who are now paralyzed to stand up and walk.

Science and engineering innovations are also propelling our remarkable prosperity. Information technology alone now accounts for one third of our economic growth, with jobs that pay almost 80 percent above the private sector average. Without government-funded research, computers, the Internet, and communications satellites might not even exist.

We must continue to expand this research. The future will bring devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... inexpensive molecular computers the size of a teardrop that would have the processing power of the fastest supercomputers available today.

My budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund, the largest increase in civilian research in a generation. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, nanotechnology, university-based research, and NASA's never-ending quest in space.

*3 Billion
N/H*

As new breakthroughs are made, we must use them in ways that reflect our most cherished values. First and foremost, we must protect the privacy of our citizens most sensitive personal information – their financial and medical records. Last year, we proposed rules to protect medical records. This year we will finalize those rules. Last year I signed legislation that provided some protection for financial records. I will soon send legislation that provided some protection for bank records, credit cards, and other financial records. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to finish the job.

We should also act to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume, and no insurer uses this information to deny you coverage. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself ensure strong privacy protections. And tonight, I challenge on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

We know our medical professionals work wonders every day, but Americans should never have to fear that their health care will jeopardize their health. We recently learned that as many as 98,000 Americans die from preventable medical errors every year. I have directed that the over 300 health plans serving federal employees must only contract out with hospitals that have strict patient safeguards in place. In the coming weeks, I will announce further actions to help eliminate all preventable errors.

Med errors

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing our lives and, even more, the lives of our children, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time of globalization and technological change, it is more important than ever that we strengthen the bonds that root us in our local communities and in our national communities.

No tie binds different people together like citizen service. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with AmeriCorps, an expanded Peace Corps, and unprecedented new partnerships between government and private citizens.

For example, four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens off the welfare rolls.

WTH

Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships with businesses, foundations, and community groups. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing.

We can do more to help Americans help others.

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income citizens who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction. I also propose new steps to make it easier for foundations and individuals to give even more to charity.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track. We must do more to support the good works of organizations like Lutheran Social Services in Brockton, Massachusetts which runs a Second Chance Home for unwed teen mothers. We can give more support to Second Chance Homes and still respect the line between church and state. /

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's why we're proposing to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen around the world, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity – we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I approved the White House Office of One America to build racial reconciliation and remind us of what we all have in common. This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something that drove this point home. He pointed out that all human beings genetically, are 99.9 percent the same. Modern science now affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, tonight I have set out a bright vision of America's future. Because of the progress we have already made, we are in a position to achieve it. We can make new investments in vital areas, from education to health care to technology. We can provide working and middle class families with the tax cuts they need— to reduce the marriage penalty, pay for college tuition, give to charity, and care for aging parents. And we must do all of this

within a budget that is not only balanced but that strengthens Social Security and Medicare and pays down the national debt. That is the responsible way to create opportunity for all.

Each time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with great hope and expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead, even wider frontiers of possibility.

We should be filled with gratitude and humility for our prosperity and progress, awe and joy at what lies before us, and determination to make the most of it.

When the framers finished crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting." "Today," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today, because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility, we bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun.

After 224 years, the American Revolution still continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders’ dreams. There is no better moment to dream new dreams for our nation and act on them.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs in the last seven years. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in

half to their lowest levels in 32 years, and seven million Americans have moved off welfare and are moving into work.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. With your hard work – to raise your families and live your dreams -- you have prepared our nation for the 21st century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: “America: What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution, a government dedicated to giving the American people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner with Americans in all other walks of life.

With the smallest federal government in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We refused to keep making the false choices that paralyzed Washington for too long. We cut crime, not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of a half-million criminals. We protected the environment, not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – with cleaner air, safer water and food, and record amounts of precious land protected.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with ideas like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used for childbirth or to care for sick loved ones, and immunizing 90 percent of our children for the very first time. And that's how we are opening the doors of college to all – with more Pell grants, more affordable college loans, and already almost 5 million recipients of the HOPE Scholarship.

Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service, in building One America, one community at a time, through

AmeriCorps as they earn money to further their own college education. That's how we seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products, while pushing for an end to child labor and advances in the global economy and environment. That's how we've advanced our interests around the world – by standing up for peace from Bosnia to Ireland to the Middle East; by expanding NATO; by building new partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa; by fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

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In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, we have the chance of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... ~~always moving forward~~ ... always gaining ground.

But you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

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I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the surplus for Social Security. Because we resisted the temptation to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we have had back to back surpluses and are doing something that would have

seemed unimaginable seven years ago. We are paying down our national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we now know that we can pay down the debt in ^{entire} 13 years and make America debt free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

began

In 1993, when we took our first major step to put our fiscal house in order with the passage of the deficit reduction act, I asked your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, and a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen, to lead that effort. America is better off for his service.

But beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of that debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important programs for every family in America – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bi-partisan down payment on Social Security reform by ensuring that it is strong and safe for the next 50 years. We should also use the benefits of debt reduction to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And to provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

*CJ -
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But all of this is just a start. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt, at the dawn of the last century, called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are increasingly connected to each other and to people

around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now we must shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom was not accomplished with one march. The dreams for which we strive are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward them step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. With the largest, most diverse group of students ever, an economy that rewards education more than ever, we must set the highest goals for education ever: Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have afterschool and summer school to meet high standards. Every child should learn from great teachers. Every student should graduate high school with a diploma that means something. And every young person in America should know that if they want to go to college, they can afford to.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, following a fundamental strategy: Invest more, but demand more in return. Since 1993, we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are now going up, ~~even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test.~~ And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

I have visited schools across this country, ~~in some of America's poorest neighborhoods,~~ that have turned themselves around through the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to make sure children reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula, a plan that holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

But just as we must demand more than ever from our schools, tonight I propose that we invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up.

Let's double our investment in ~~quality~~ afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. This will lay the foundation for our long-term goal: ~~universal~~ pre-school for every child who needs it.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know public school choice works when parents have real choice. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000.

We know that for children today, having access to the Internet is as vital as access to a library. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and only three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. And the money is there to connect them all. The problem is that a third of all schools are in serious disrepair – not just with leaky roofs but with walls too old to wire to the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000

schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know that smaller high schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger. We must help districts convert large, factory-style high schools into smaller schools where the often-cruel forces of peer pressure can be softened by the influence of caring adults.

We must do more to prepare young students for college ~~and convince them they can go~~. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle school students. I propose to double the number of children reached, to 1.4 million, and to offer disadvantaged students the same college test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable, we must make college affordable. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of families feel the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs -- providing as much as \$2,800 in

much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase and other aid, we can say that we have made four years of college available to all.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. We should help them.

Rewarding work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate

is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We must provide the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home or a dignified retirement. Every family that works hard should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and

moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. I also propose a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. We have made sure workers can keep their coverage when they change jobs or take time off to care for a sick loved one. And we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program, so that workers who don't have health coverage through their employers can get it for their children. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We're on our way to our goal of 5 million. To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are: schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.

But there is more we must do – to insure not only children, but entire families that lack coverage. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion and make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. If we do this, not just for children but for these 6.5 million parents, we can make sure that families have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or an inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's pass it – and triple it to \$3,000.

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare. We owe it to our people to make that investment this year.

Let's make another pledge: let's improve mental health care. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. And I want to thank someone who has waged this battle on all fronts, fighting for the mentally ill homeless, working to break down the barriers that keep people from the help they need: Tipper Gore.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, like

booting their cars and denying them passports. And we should require fathers to work – while helping them find work – so they can pay the child support they owe.

We know this can make a difference. Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota enrolled in a father's program in 1996 when he was not making enough to keep up with his child support payments to his 13-year-old son, Ricardo. Since continuing his education and graduating from technical school, Carlos has landed a good job and is able to better support his son, both financially and emotionally. Contrary to conventional wisdom, many fathers, like Carlos, want to do right by their children, and we should help them. Carlos is with us tonight. And we should let him know that we support his commitment to support his child.

If you have any doubt that we can reach across party lines to reward work and strengthen families, remember this: Last year, we came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. And we have come together to improve foster care; to support those who leave it at age 18; and to greatly increase the number of foster children who find loving families in permanent homes. A bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen; and I thank you. Of course, I am also grateful to the person who has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children and families as long as I have known her: my wife, Hillary.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline on record. For seven years, we've helped wage the fight -- from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Our nation is safer, but no one believes America is safe as it can be. Let's set a higher goal. Let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support this year.

Last year, after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage -- and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President -- the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine High School. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. ^{His father Tom,} Like all parents who lose their children, ~~his~~ ~~father Tom~~ has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. We need to give parents more tools to raise their kids right in today's culture. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I challenge the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. To keep our communities safe, we must do more to monitor ex-offenders and give them the support they need to become responsible citizens. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are far less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

We need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America – in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations – places not yet blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in these communities. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity. They're eager to work. I say: let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit that is more than twice the size of what I proposed last year. With this and other new incentives, we can spur [\$TK billion] in private-sector capital to create new businesses and to help firms expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones – which, with Vice President Gore's leadership, have been bringing prosperity to distressed areas for five years now.

I thank the business leaders who are not just seizing these opportunities – but creating them. I challenge every business to do the same.

This is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it's an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with us. I thank you for your commitment and I look forward to working with you.

I hope we can also agree to make special efforts to support our Indian reservations, where unemployment is extreme – as high as 70%. My budget increases our investment in health care,

education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans – Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well only in good times and not in bad – especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must strengthen the farm safety net and invest in farm conservation. The Freedom to Farm Bill cannot become a “freedom to fail” bill.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the disturbing gap between those who have the tools to succeed in the new economy, and those who don't. That “digital divide” exists along lines of education, income, region, and race. [It is one of the great civil rights challenges of this Information Age.

[We are now on track to meeting our goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet.] But now, we must connect all our citizens to the Internet – everywhere they live and work.] My budget helps to train more teachers, wire more classrooms, and connect more communities to the economic mainstream. If America closes this digital divide, we can open a new era of opportunity for all.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead and shape the revolution that is sweeping our world: globalization. It is the central reality of our time – a process tearing down barriers and building new connections between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures.

Globalization is irreversible, driven even faster by the explosion in information technology. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand and act on the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. But we cannot lead alone. And we cannot keep going forward by holding other countries, especially poor ones, back. We cannot lead without being at the center of every vital network, being a good neighbor and good partner. We cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and growing fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about the dignity of work and the quality of life. And it means a global economy based on the rule of law.

We must also reach out to developing economies. I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives. This will help Americans economically, and build new partnerships for a more secure, more democratic world.

But mastering globalization means more than economics. It means seizing an unprecedented opportunity to build a future of security, prosperity and freedom, while dealing with the dangers that still imperil our national interests. Tonight I ask: What are the critical challenges we face in the coming century?

One will be to encourage our former adversaries Russia and China to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States. Both countries are being held back from reaching their potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian soldiers serving with ours to keep peace in the Balkans; Russian people democratically electing their leaders for the first time. And in China, a society more open to the world than at any time in its history. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. We can make sure that we do everything in our power to see that both are on the inside of the global community, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations. If we do, America's companies and workers gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market, but China gains no new access to ours. This agreement is good for America and will promote the cause of change in China.

Another critical challenge will be to protect our security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions. Our modern world is still bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by cynical leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. When human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, our common humanity suffers. Left unresolved, such tragedies can throw entire regions into turmoil, overwhelm the world's capacity to help the innocent, and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace. We should be proud of our work in building peace in Northern Ireland. We should be proud of our efforts from East Timor to Africa; in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey; in working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan, and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Captain Cherrey, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

Another critical challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses, and force us to live in fear again. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by helping Russia keep its arsenal secure and reducing both our nuclear arsenals; restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors. We are increasing our preparedness against biological attack and developing a system to defend against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

We must also strengthen global standards against proliferation. I hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which will eventually lead to its ratification. America must remain a leader in the struggle for a safer world.

Another critical challenge is to keep global stability from being threatened by a gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Part of the answer is expanded trade. A bigger part is the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting for its people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drugs. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I ask for your support. And if we want to put the drug barons, criminals and terrorists out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

In a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must also reduce the debts of impoverished countries. I ask Congress to continue to support that effort.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. It is unacceptable that last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in an initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry: if you develop vaccines for

diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS, we will help pay for them, and together save millions of lives.

And I will ask Congress to increase our support for international family planning by \$170 million. That money will help families live healthier lives, and it will save the lives of thousands of women and children.

All this comes down to a central challenge, the most important of all: will America continue to lead? In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them. Clearly, America must lead boldly and consistently and with a clear understanding of what globalization and increasing interdependence require of us.

To lead, we must remain strong. We have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. It raises salaries for our men and women in uniform and ensures America's veterans the thanks and honor they have so richly earned.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember: building a stronger global community will only strengthen our community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. As our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families, and taken unprecedented steps to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't

sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving farms and other precious open spaces ... and for helping the major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

As we work to protect our natural resources, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – the source of more than a quarter of the oxygen on earth. Yet these lush sanctuaries of life are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, deadly heat waves, droughts, and floods will become more frequent with each passing year.

But thanks to remarkable new technologies, we can meet this challenge – and we can do it in ways that produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, automakers unveiled cars that use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique partnership the Vice President has led. We've helped develop windows that drastically cut energy bills by

keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We're helping to bring the benefits of advanced space research into our homes with solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution at all. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help spur these new technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for producing clean power from crops, wind, or sun ... and to families for buying energy-efficient homes and appliances. And when new super-efficient cars hit the showroom floor, we should provide people who buy them with up to \$3,000 in tax credits, effectively cutting their sticker price and ensuring even greater appeal.

But we have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. So tonight, I call on auto industry leaders to join us in designing a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet the worldwide challenge of global warming by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. Nations can now achieve prosperity without following the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming. Let's help them follow a better, more modern path.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of our environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, improvements in the quality of our lives.

In the last century, the life expectancy for the average American increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better.

Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. This will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS. If we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America.

Research at the intersection between biomedical research and engineering will also lead to amazing breakthroughs. Scientists are already working on an artificial retina to treat certain kinds of blindness, and methods of directly stimulating the spinal cord to allow people who are paralyzed to walk.

Scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they will soon begin to test elegant therapies that will turn off these faulty genes for good.

Tonight, I want to thank these scientists for their brilliant work. I also want to salute Michael J. Fox – the talented actor, director, and producer who was diagnosed with Parkinson's nine years ago. Michael, on behalf of the million young and older Americans struggling with Parkinson's, I thank you for giving so much of yourself to accelerating the hunt for a cure.

Advances in science and engineering are also the engine of our economic growth. Consider the impact of information technology. Because of our early investments in developing microprocessors, satellite communications, and the Internet, America now leads the world in information technology – an industry that accounts for one third of our economic growth and that generates jobs that pay almost 80 percent more than the private sector average wage.

In the future, we will have devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak, enabling anyone to tap into the world's knowledge instantly – from anywhere ... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... unimaginably powerful computers made with DNA strands rather than silicon chips. These and other breakthroughs may enhance our economy and our society even more profoundly than the Internet does today.

For all these reasons, my budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50-year history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, university-based research, and NASA's never-ending quest in space.

It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment, reflecting our most cherished values.

First and foremost, we must ensure that citizens' privacy – financial and medical – is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

^{Should}
We ~~will~~ also ~~take action~~ to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We ^{should} ~~will~~ make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing our lives, and the lives of our children, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

In the era of globalization, we must work even harder to strengthen the bonds of our local communities and our national community.

We should begin with ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with revolutionary new partnerships between government and private citizens.

Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens.

Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing. To help our young people serve.

But there is much more to be done, we need more citizen servants.

Veterans of AmeriCorps, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are a pool of know-how and can-do. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

Our senior population represents a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve. So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups. [TK Specific examples to come]

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's why we're proposing to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants. That's why in this year of the census, every one of us must not only stand up and be counted. We must also stand up and be heard.

So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

We are going to use 21st century technology to open new doors to the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats---interactive discussions to connect more Americans to our democracy.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa...from the Balkans to the Middle East...racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity--we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of all Americans. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – to religious leaders, to corporate leaders, to the legal community to enlist the help of American in building the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember: all human beings are genetically 99.9 percent the same. Modern science affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring opportunity to every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, we will, step by step, ensure that they live healthier, with quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, we will, step by step, realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, we will, step by step, reverse climate change and secure our planet for our grandchildren.

At a time of steadily falling crime, we will, step by step, make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more parents are working, we will, step by step, ensure that all parents have the tools to succeed at work and in raising their children...and that none of those children are raised in poverty.

At a time when knowledge is the key to our children's future, we will, step by step, see to it that all of them begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, we will continue to be the world's indispensable nation -- a strong leader and a better neighbor.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, we will become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago -- one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

This is the long look ahead, unreachable in one year, but clearly within reach of a great people with big dreams, determined to work together and move ahead, step by step.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon, hanging in Independence Hall. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility, we bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun. Now it is our time. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass to our children.

And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great. After 224 years, the American revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our magic moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.