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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.~~

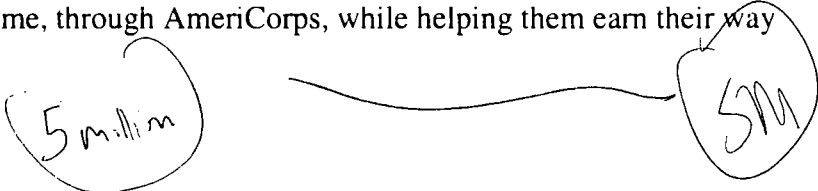
Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Then our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, ~~discredited government~~. The title of a best-selling book asked: "America: What went wrong?" *a govt that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

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 We restored the vital center, replacing outdated ideologies with a new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.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~~ ^{We will meet} the challenge of the aging of America. ~~To provide~~ ^{Make} quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. To make America the safest big country on earth. ~~To reverse~~ ^{We will} the course of climate change and leave a cleaner, safer planet. ~~To lead~~ ^{Make} the world toward shared peace and security, freedom and prosperity, and the far frontiers of science and technology. ~~And to become~~ ^{we will} 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 ^{hi} 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 ^{may} 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.

all our children

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.

by using the same formula

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.

for 16th year support to

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 ^{to} will help 5,000 schools a year make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a ^{to} tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools – to ^{get} 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 ^{will} 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. *nothing does that better* ~~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 ^{he} ~~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~~ ^{moving} 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~~. *Widman*

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~~ *new investments in* inner cities or rural areas. ~~And~~ *PM* 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~~ ^{knowing how to use it}. 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~~ ^{hope for our best interests} 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.

Opportunity for every American

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

~~We~~ ^{to} cannot realize the possibilities of the new economy ~~just within our own borders.~~ ^{we must look beyond} 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.)

all cars
from
P.G.U.

→ key there
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shift

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.

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.

In a more interconnected world, our diversity can be our greatest strength. But as we have seen all too often, 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~~ ^{new} frontiers of possibility.

Amides

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.

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Company: Executive Office of the President
Phone: 202-456-5587
Fax: 4567431

From: Joseph A. Levitt, Director
Company: Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Phone: 1-888-SAFEFOOD
Fax: 1-877-366-3322

Date: 01/21/2000

Time: 2:38 PM

**Pages including this
cover page: 5**

Subject: CFSAN Office Established/Lead Scientists for Nutrition
Message:

For your information attached are announcements regarding the establishment of the new Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling & Dietary Supplements and the announcement of Dr. Yetley as the FDA-Lead Scientist for Nutrition

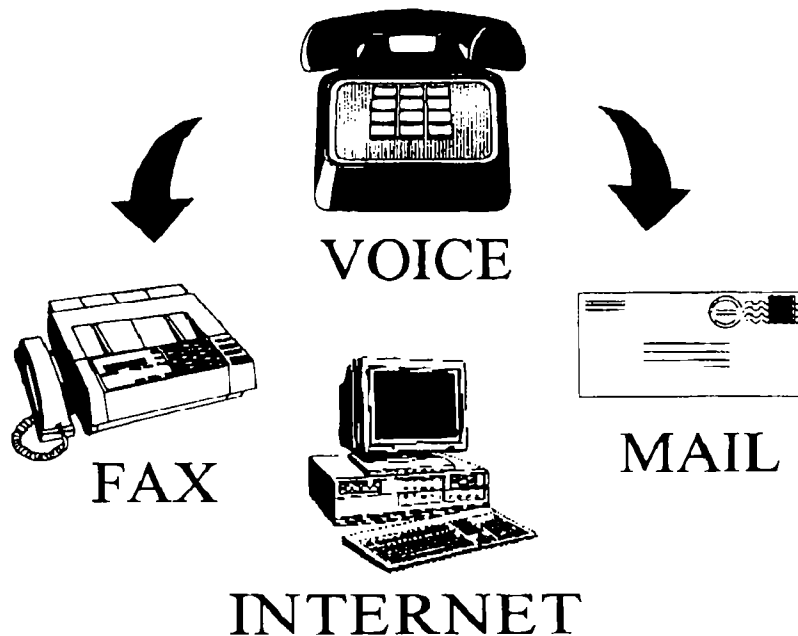
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Dear Colleague, FDA Foods Community:

I am pleased to announce the merger of the Office of Food Labeling and the Office of Special Nutritionals into the Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling and Dietary Supplements (ONPLDS). Dr. Christine Lewis will be the Acting Director of the new office.

The new structure has been developed to maximize the resources available in the two offices, improving the way FDA performs related functions, such as health claims and overlapping labeling issues. Additionally, the reorganization is designed to further enhance FDA's science-based approach to addressing dietary supplement and food labeling issues. All current functions of these offices will be maintained in the new office. The effective date of the merger is January 31, 2000.

I believe this merger will improve our efficiency and increase the synergy between these related program areas. Although it will not solve all of our resource needs, it is at least a step in the right direction.

Dr. Lewis has been in FDA since 1986. Prior to her current position as the Deputy Director of the Office of Special Nutritionals, she served as a Division Director in the Office of Food Labeling. In 1995, Dr. Lewis, who is an officer within the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, was selected to spend a year in Rome with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. She worked to implement a special project involving international harmonization of food labeling and food composition databases. Prior to coming to FDA, she worked as an assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University, teaching both undergraduate and graduate nutrition-related courses. Dr. Lewis received her bachelor's degree in food microbiology at the University of Connecticut and her master's degree in biochemistry and doctoral degree in nutrition and statistics from Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Lewis is well positioned, by virtue of her training and experience in both offices, to lead this new organization. She will be well supported by a cadre of strong division directors who have already worked together to make this new office a reality.

Sincerely,

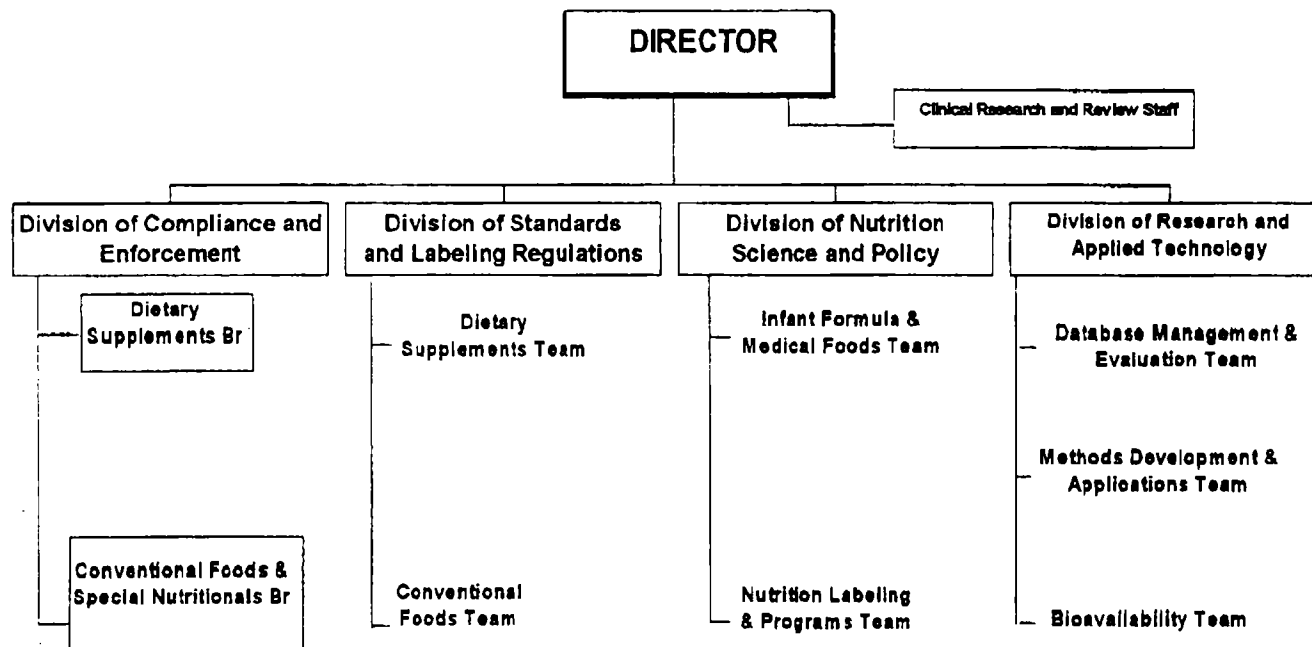
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Levitt".

Joseph A. Levitt

Director

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

OFFICE OF NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS, LABELING AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS
January 14, 2000





Dear Colleague, FDA Foods Community:

I have named Elizabeth A. Yetley, Ph.D., as the FDA Lead Scientist for Nutrition. In this capacity, she will serve as the CFSAN's chief advocate and facilitator of nutrition policy and related science across the Center and with top FDA officials and other officials throughout the federal government, the scientific and research communities, the food industry and internationally. Dr. Yetley will report directly to Dr. Robert Buchanan, the Center's Senior Science Adviser and also will serve as nutrition adviser to Dr. Susan Alpert, the Director for the Center's food safety program. This becomes effective on January 31, 2000.

Dr. Yetley has worked with FDA since 1980, most recently as the Director of the Office of Special Nutritionals. In her new position, she will lead Center activities to improve how FDA coordinates and applies sound nutrition science to regulatory and research activities. She also will assist the Center's top management in formulating, developing and executing short- and long-range nutrition-related goals.

Dr. Yetley serves as the U.S. delegate to the CODEX Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use. She has authored or co-authored more than 40 articles for professional publication and has received numerous awards and honors, including most recently, the Virginia Beal endowed lectureship award from the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Yetley earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in nutrition from Iowa State University.

Dr. Yetley has clearly established herself as the Center's leading scientist in the field of nutrition. In this new position, she will play a major leadership role in strengthening nutrition programs across CFSAN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph A. Levitt".

Joseph A. Levitt
Director
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

SDTV

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 27, 2000

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.

9:18 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: 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 and 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. And next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

We have built a new economy.

And our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: crime down by 20 percent, to its lowest level in 25 years; teen births down seven years in a row; adoptions up by 30 percent; welfare rolls 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 real 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 over partisanship.

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 restored the vital center, replacing outmoded ideologies with a new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a

community of all Americans. We reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas that stress both opportunity and responsibility, and give our people the tools they need to solve their own problems.

With the smallest federal work force in 40 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime, with 100,000 community police and the Brady law, which has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals.

We ended welfare as we knew it -- (applause) -- requiring work while protecting health care and nutrition for children, and investing more in child care, transportation, and housing to help their parents go to work. We've helped parents to succeed at home and at work, with family leave, which 20 millions Americans have now used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one. We've engaged 150,000 young Americans in citizen service through AmeriCorps, while helping them earn money for college.

In 1992, we just had a road map; today, we have results.

But even more important, America again has the confidence to dream big dreams. But we must not let this confidence drift into complacency. For we, all of

us, will be judged by the dreams and deeds 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 now, 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 that takes the long look ahead." So, tonight, let us take our long look ahead -- and set great goals for our nation.

To 21st century America, let us pledge these things: Every child will begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed. Every family will be able to succeed at home and at work, and no child will be raised in poverty. We will meet the challenge of the aging of America. We will assure quality, affordable health care, at last, for all Americans.

We will make America the safest big country on Earth. We will pay off our national debt for the first time since 1835. We will bring prosperity to every American community. We will reverse the course of climate change and leave a safer, cleaner planet. America will lead the world toward shared peace and prosperity, and the far frontiers of science and technology. And 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.

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 lesson of our history -- and the lesson of the last seven years -- is that great goals are reached step by step, always building on our progress, always gaining ground.

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

Again, I ask you to pass a real patients' bill of rights. I ask you to pass common-sense gun safety legislation. I ask you to pass campaign finance reform. I

ask you to vote up or down on judicial nominations and other important appointees.

And, again I ask you -- I implore you -- to raise the minimum wage.

Now, two years ago -- let me try to balance the seesaw here -- (laughter) -- two years ago, as we reached across party lines to reach our first balanced budget, I asked that we meet 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.

Now, if we stay on this path, we can pay down the debt entirely in 13 just years now 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, which you'll all remember won passages in both Houses by just a single vote. Your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, led that effort and sparked our long boom. He's here with us tonight. Lloyd Bentsen, you have served America well, and we thank you.

Beyond paying off the debt, we must ensure that the benefits of debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important guarantees we make to every American -- Social Security and Medicare. Tonight, I ask you 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 so that it will be strong and sound for the next 50 years.

But this is just the start of our journey. We must also take the right steps toward reaching our great goals. First and foremost, we need a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every single child can learn. Because education is more important than ever, more than ever the key to our children's future, we must make sure all our children have that key. That means quality pre-school and after-school, the best trained teachers in the classroom, and college opportunities for all our children.

For seven years now, we've worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility -- investing more, but demanding more in turn. Reading, math, college entrance scores are up. Some of the most impressive gains are in schools in very poor neighborhoods.

But all successful schools have followed the same proven formula: higher standards, more accountability, and extra help so children who need it can get it to reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, our national government invests more than \$15 billion in our schools. It is time to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

Now, as we demand more from our schools, we should also invest more 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 investments in after-school and summer school programs, which boost achievement and keep people off the streets and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every single child in every failing school in America -- everyone -- the chance to meet high standards.

Since 1993, we've nearly doubled our investment in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I ask you for another \$1 billion for Head Start, the largest increase in the history of the program.

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 size in the early grades. I thank you for that, and 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 charter schools provide real public school choice. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today, thanks to you, there are 1,700. I ask you now to help us meet our goal of 3,000 charter schools by next year.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet, and we're getting there. In 1994, only 3 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 Internet connection.

But we cannot finish the job when a third of all our schools are in serious disrepair. Many of them have walls and wires so old, they're too old for the Internet. So tonight, I propose to help 5,000 schools a year make immediate and urgent repairs; and again, to help build or modernize 6,000 more, to get students out of trailers and into high-tech classrooms.

I ask all of you to help me double our bipartisan Gear-Up program, which provides mentors for disadvantaged young people. If we double it, we can provide mentors for 1.4 million of them. Let's also offer these kids from disadvantaged backgrounds the same chance to take the same college test-prep courses wealthier students use to boost their test scores.

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 scholarships, which have already benefitted 5 million young people.

Now, 67 percent of high school graduates are going on to college. That's up 10 percent since 1993. Yet millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help. So I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut -- a middle class tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in college tuition costs. The previous actions of this Congress have already made two years of college affordable for all. It's time to make four years of college affordable for all. If we take all these steps, we'll move a long way toward making sure every child starts school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

We need a 21st century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, by giving every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all -- raising children. That means making sure every family has health care and the support to care for aging parents, the tools to bring their children up right, and that no child grows up in poverty.

From my first days as President, we've 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

coverage through their employers at least can get it for their children. So far, we've enrolled 2 million children; we're well on our way to our goal of 5 million.

But there are still more than 40 million of our fellow 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 children. Together with our children's initiative -- think of this -- together with our children's initiative, this action would enable us to cover nearly a quarter of all the uninsured people in America.

Again, I want to ask you to let people between the ages of 55 and 65 -- the fastest growing group of uninsured -- buy into Medicare. And this year I propose to give them a tax credit to make that choice an affordable one. I hope you will support that, as well.

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

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, it also provides funds 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 think of excluding coverage for prescription drugs. Yet more than three in five of our seniors now lack dependable drug coverage which can lengthen and enrich their lives. Millions of older Americans who need prescription drugs the most pay the highest prices for them. In

good conscience, we cannot let another year pass without extending to all our seniors this lifeline of affordable prescription drugs.

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

We also have to make needed investments to expand access to mental health care. I want to take a moment to thank the person who led our first White House Conference on Mental Health last year, and who for seven years has led all our efforts to break down the barriers to decent treatment of people with mental illness. Thank you, Tipper Gore.

Taken together, these proposals would mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare was created -- the largest investment in 35 years. That would be a big step toward assuring quality health care for all Americans, young and old. And I ask you to embrace them and pass them.

We must also make investments that reward work and support families. Nothing does that better than the Earned Income Tax Credit -- the EITC. The "E" in

the EITC is about earning, working, taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my very first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand this credit; and you did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way out of poverty toward the middle class. That's double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC: to reduce the marriage penalty, to make sure it rewards marriage as it rewards work -- (applause) -- and also, to expand the tax credit for families that have more than two children. It punishes people with more than two children today. Our proposal would allow families with three or more children to get up to \$1,100 more in tax relief. These are working families; their children should not be in poverty.

We also can't reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, the female unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in 46 years. Yet, women still only earn 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.

Many working parents spend up to a quarter -- a quarter -- of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide child care for about 2 million children. My child care initiative, before you now, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer and more affordable for another 400,000 children. I ask you to pass that. They need it out there --

For hard-pressed middle-income families, we should also expand the child care tax credit. And I believe strongly we should take the next big step and make that tax credit refundable for low-income families. For people making under \$30,000 a year, that could mean up to \$2,400 for child care costs. You know, 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 plans. We should do more to help all working families save and accumulate wealth. That's the idea behind the Individual Development Accounts, the IDAs. I ask you to take that idea to a new level, with new Retirement Savings Accounts that enable every low- and moderate-income family in America to save for retirement, a first home, a medical emergency, or a college education. I propose to match their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. And I propose to give a major new tax credit to any small business that will provide a

meaningful pension to its workers. Those people ought to have retirement as well as the rest of us.

Nearly one in three American children grows up 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 critical to lifting all children out of poverty. We've doubled child support collections since 1992. And I'm proposing to you 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, but need help to do it. Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota, wanted to do right by his son, and he got the help to do it. Now he's got a good job and he supports his little boy. My budget will help 40,000 more fathers make the same choices Carlos Rosas did. I thank him for being here tonight. Stand up, Carlos. Thank you.

If there is any single issue on which we should be able to reach across party lines, it is in our common commitment to reward work and strengthen families, similar to what we did last year. We came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. And I thank you for that. Thanks to overwhelming bipartisan support from this Congress, we have improved foster

care. We've helped those young people who leave it when they turn 18, and we have dramatically increased the number of foster care children going into adoptive homes. I thank all of you for all of that.

Of course, I am forever grateful to the person who has led our efforts from the beginning, and who's worked so tirelessly for children and families for 30 years now: my wife, Hillary. And I thank her.

If we take the steps I've just discussed, we can go a long, long way toward empowering parents to succeed at home and at work, and ensuring that no child is raised in poverty. We can make these vital investments in health care, education, support for working families, and still offer tax cuts to help pay for college, for retirement, to care for aging parents, to reduce the marriage penalty. We can do these things without forsaking the path of fiscal discipline that got us to this point here tonight.

Indeed, we must make these investments and these tax cuts in the context of a balanced budget that strengthens and extends the life of Social Security and Medicare and pays down the national debt.

Crime in America has dropped for the past seven years -- that's the longest decline on record -- thanks to a national consensus we helped to forge on community police, sensible gun safety laws, and effective prevention. But nobody -- nobody here, nobody in America -- believes we're safe enough. So again, I ask you to set a higher goal. Let's make this country the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire, in addition to the 100,000 community police we've already funded, 50,000 more, concentrated in high-crime neighborhoods. I ask your continued support for that.

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

Now, we have 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 he 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 at long last move this Congress to make common-sense gun legislation the very next order of business.

Tom Mauser, stand up. We thank you for being here tonight. Tom. Thank you, Tom.

We must strengthen our gun laws and enforce those already on the books better. Federal gun crime prosecutions are up 16 percent since I took office. But 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 them the enforcement tools that they need, tools to trace every gun and every bullet used in every gun crime in the United States. I ask you to help us do that.

Every state in this country already requires hunters and automobile drivers to have a license. I think they ought to do the same thing for handgun purchases. Now, specifically, I propose a plan to ensure that all new handgun buyers must first have a photo license from their state showing they passed the Brady background check and a

gun safety course, before they get the gun. I hope you'll help me pass that in this Congress.

Listen to this -- listen to this. The accidental gun rate -- the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in the other 25 industrialized countries combined. Now, 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 into smart gun technology, to save these children's lives. I ask responsible leaders in the gun industry to work with us on smart guns, and other steps to keep guns out of the wrong hands, to keep our children safe.

You know, every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I want to begin by thanking the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. But, frankly, the ratings are too numerous, diverse and confusing to be really useful to parents. So tonight, I ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge to develop a single voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment that is easier for parents to understand and enforce. The steps I outline will take us well on our way to making America the safest big country in the world.

Now, to keep our historic economic expansion going -- the subject of a lot of discussion in this community and others -- I believe we need a 21st century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, hire new workers right here in America -- in our inner cities, poor rural areas, and Native American reservations.

Our nation's prosperity hasn't yet reached these places. Over the last six months, I've traveled to a lot of them, joined by many of you, and many far-sighted business people, to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in communities from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, from Watts to the Pine Ridge Reservation. Everywhere I go, I meet talented people eager for opportunity, and able to work. Tonight I ask you, 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 let me ask you something -- if we don't do this now, when in the wide world will we ever get around to it?

So I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets they now have to invest in markets overseas. Tonight, I propose a large New Markets tax credit and other incentives to spur \$22 billion in private-sector capital to create new businesses and new investments in our inner cities and rural areas.

Because empowerment zones have been creating these opportunities for five years now, I also ask you to increase incentives to invest in them and to create more of them.

And let me say to all of you again what I have tried to say at every turn -- this is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. Giving people a chance to live their dreams is an American issue.

Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined Reverend Jesse Jackson and me 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. I want to thank you again, and to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you. This is a worthy, joint endeavor. Thank you.

I also ask you to make special efforts to address the areas of our nation with the highest rates of poverty -- our Native American reservations and the Mississippi Delta. My budget includes \$110-million initiative to promote economic development in the Delta, and a billion dollars to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for our Native American communities. In this new century -- we should begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to

empower the first Americans. And I want to thank tonight the leaders and the members from both parties who've expressed to me an interest in working with us on these efforts. They are profoundly important.

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

Opportunity for all requires something else today -- having access to a computer and knowing how to use it. That means we must close the digital divide between those who've got the tools and those who don't.

Connecting classrooms and libraries to the Internet is crucial, but it's just a start. My budget ensures that all new teachers are trained to teach 21st century skills, and it creates technology centers in 1,000 communities to serve adults. This spring, I'll invite high-tech leaders to join me on another New Markets tour, to close the digital divide and open opportunity for our people.

I want to thank the high-tech companies that already are doing so much in this area. I hope the new tax incentives I have proposed will get all the rest of them to join us. This is a national crusade. We have got to do this, and do it quickly.

Now, again I say to you, these are steps, but step by step, we can go a long way toward our goal of bringing opportunity to every community.

To realize the full possibilities of this economy, we must reach beyond our own borders, to shape the revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations and individuals, and economies and cultures: globalization. It's the central reality of our time.

Of course, change this profound is both liberating and threatening to people. But there's no turning back. And our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other -- if we understand, and act on, the realities of interdependence. We have to be at the center of every vital global network, as a good neighbor and a good partner. We have to recognize that we cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

The first thing we have got to do is to forge a new consensus on trade. Now, those of us who believe passionately in the power of open trade, we have to ensure that it lifts both our living standards and our values, never tolerating abusive child labor or a race to the bottom in the environment and worker protection. But others must recognize that open markets and rule-based trade are the best engines we know of for raising living standards, reducing global poverty and environmental destruction, and assuring the free flow of ideas.

I believe as strongly tonight as I did the first day I got here, the only direction forward for America on trade -- the only direction for America on trade is to keep going forward. I ask you to help me forge that consensus.

We have to make developing economies our partners in prosperity. That's why I would like to ask you again to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

But globalization is about more than economics. Our purpose must be to bring together the world around freedom and democracy and peace, and to oppose those who would tear it apart. Here are 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 today from reaching their full potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, an economy in 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 in the past decade: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons taken out of commission; Russian soldiers actually serving with ours in the Balkans; Russian people electing their leaders for the first time in a thousand years; and in China, an economy more open to the world than ever before.

Of course, no one, not a single person in this chamber tonight, can know for sure what direction these great nations will take. But we do know for sure that we can choose what we do. And we should do everything in our power to increase the chance that they will choose wisely, to be constructive members of our global community.

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

And that's why I believe Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China as soon as possible this year.

I think you ought to do it for two reasons. First of all, our markets are already open to China; this agreement will open China's markets to us. And, second, it will plainly advance the cause of peace in Asia and promote the cause of change in China. No, we don't know where it's going. All we can do is decide what we're going to do. But when all is said and done, we need to know we did everything we possibly could to maximize the chance that China will choose the right future.

A second challenge we've got is to protect our own security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war and threaten our common humanity. We can't prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we should be, and we must be, peacemakers.

We should be proud of our role in bringing the Middle East closer to a lasting 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 these crises between India and Pakistan; in 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 people to return to their homes.

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 was shot 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 in Kosovo without losing a single American in combat. I want to introduce Captain Cherrey to you. We honor Captain Cherrey, and we promise you, Captain, we'll finish the job you began. Stand up so we can see you.

A third challenge we have is to keep this inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and potentially hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses. Keep in mind, the same technological 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 making effective agreements to restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea; curbing the flow of lethal technology to 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 ABM missile treaty with Russia. We must do all these things.

I predict to you, when most of us are long gone, but some time in the next 10 to 20 years, the major security threat this country will face will come from the enemies of the nation state: the narco-traffickers and the terrorists and the organized criminals, who will be organized together, working together, with increasing access to ever-more sophisticated chemical and biological weapons.

And I want to thank the Pentagon and others for doing what they're doing right now to try to help protect us and plan for that, so that our defenses will be strong. I ask for your support to ensure they can succeed.

I also want to ask you for a constructive bipartisan dialogue this year to work to build a consensus which I hope will eventually lead to the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I hope we can also have a constructive effort to meet the challenge that is presented to our planet 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, and the

rest live on the bare edge of survival. I think we have to do our part to change that -- with expanded trade, expanded aid, and the expansion of freedom.

This is interesting -- from Nigeria to Indonesia, more people got the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell. We've got to stand by these democracies -- including, and especially tonight, Colombia, which is fighting narco-traffickers, for its own people's lives and our children's lives. I have proposed a strong two-year package to help Colombia win this fight. I want to thank the leaders in both parties in both Houses for listening to me and the President of Colombia about it. We have got to pass this. I want to ask your help. A lot is riding on it. And it's so important for the long-term stability of our country, and for what happens in Latin America.

I also want you to know I'm going to send you new legislation to go after what these drug barons value the most -- their money. And I hope you'll pass that as well.

In a world where over a billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we also have got to do our part in the global endeavor to reduce the debts of the poorest countries, so they can invest in education, health care and economic growth. That's what the Pope and other religious leaders have urged us to do. And last year,

Congress made a down payment on America's share. I ask you to continue that. I thank you for what you did, and ask you to stay the course.

I also want to say that America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease. Last year in Africa, 10 times as many people died from AIDS as were killed in wars -- 10 times. The budget I give you invests \$150 million more in the fight against this and other infectious killers. And 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. We can save millions of lives together, and we ought to do it.

I also want to mention our final challenge, which, as always, is the most important. I ask you to pass a national security budget that keeps our military the best-trained and best-equipped in the world, with heightened readiness and 21st century weapons; which raises salaries for our servicemen and women; which protects our veterans; which fully funds the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war; which makes good on our commitment to pay our U.N. dues and arrears. I ask you to pass this budget.

I also want to say something, if I might, very personal tonight. The American people watching us at home, with the help of all the commentators, can tell from who

stands and who sits, and who claps and who doesn't, that there's still modest differences of opinion in this room. But I want to thank you for something, every one of you. I want to thank you for the extraordinary support you have given -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- to our men and women in uniform. I thank you for that.

I also want to thank, especially, two people. First, I want to thank our Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen, for symbolizing our bipartisan commitment to national security. Thank you, sir. Even more, I want to thank his wife, Janet, who, more than any other American citizen, has tirelessly traveled this world to show the support we all feel for our troops. Thank you, Janet Cohen. I appreciate that. Thank you.

These are the challenges we have to meet so that we can lead the world toward peace and freedom in an era of globalization.

I want to tell you that I am very grateful for many things as President. But one of the things I'm grateful for is the opportunity that the Vice President and I have had to finally put to rest the bogus idea that you cannot grow the economy and protect the environment at the same time.

As our economy has grown, we've rid more than 500 neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner air and water for millions of people. In the past three months alone, we've helped preserve 40 million acres of roadless lands in the national forests, created three new national monuments.

But as our communities grow, our commitment to conservation must continue to grow. Tonight, I propose creating a permanent conservation fund, to restore wildlife, protect coastlines, save natural treasures, from the California redwoods to the Florida Everglades.

This Lands Legacy endowment would represent by far the most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed in this House. I hope we can get together with all the people with different ideas and do this. This is a gift we should give to our children and our grandchildren for all time, across party lines. We can make an agreement to do this.

Last year, the Vice President launched a new effort to make communities more liberal -- livable -- (laughter) -- liberal, I know. Wait a minute, I've got a punchline now. That's this year's agenda; last year was livable, right? That's what Senator Lott is going to say in the commentary afterwards. To make our communities more livable. This is big business. This is a big issue. What does that mean? You ask

anybody that lives in an unlivable community, and they'll tell you. They want their kids to grow up next to parks, not parking lots; the parents don't have to spend all their time stalled in traffic when they could be home with their children.

Tonight, I ask you to support new funding for the following things, to make American communities for liberal -- livable. I've done pretty well with this speech, but I can't say that.

One, I want you to help us to do three things. We need more funding for advanced transit systems. We need more funding for saving open spaces in places of heavy development. And we need more funding -- this ought to have bipartisan appeal -- we need more funding for helping major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life. We need these things and I want you to help us.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. The scientists tell us the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium. If we fail to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, deadly heat waves and droughts

will become more frequent, coastal areas will flood, and economies will be disrupted. That is going to happen, unless we act.

Many people in the United States -- some people in this chamber -- and lots of folks around the world still believe you cannot cut greenhouse gas emissions without slowing economic growth. In the Industrial Age that may well have been true. But in this digital economy, it is not true anymore. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide even more growth.

For example, just last week, automakers unveiled cars that get 70 to 80 miles a gallon -- the fruits of a unique research partnership between government and industry. And before you know it, efficient production of bio-fuels will give us the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gasoline.

To speed innovation in these kind of technologies, I think we should give a major tax incentive to business 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 ask the auto industry to use the available technologies to make all new cars more fuel-efficient right away.

And I ask this Congress to do something else. Please help us make more of our clean energy technology available to the developing world. That will create cleaner growth abroad and a lot more new jobs here in the United States of America.

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 our fellow Americans to recognize that federal tax dollars have funded much of 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, diabetes, and certain kinds of cancer -- they are designed precision therapies that will block the harmful effect of these genes for good. Researchers already are 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. Scientists are also working on an artificial retina to help many blind people to see -- and listen to this -- microchips that would actually directly stimulate damaged spinal cords in a way that could allow people now paralyzed to stand up and walk.

These kinds of innovations are also propelling our remarkable prosperity.

Information technology only includes 8 percent of our employment, but now it counts for a third of our economic growth -- along with jobs that pay, by the way, about 80 percent above the private sector average. Again, we ought to keep in mind, government-funded research brought supercomputers, the Internet, and communications satellites into being. Soon researchers will bring us devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can talk; materials 10 times stronger than steel at a fraction of the weight; and -- this is unbelievable to me -- molecular computers the size of a tear drop with the power of today's fastest supercomputers.

To accelerate the march of discovery across all these disciplines in science and technology, I ask you to support my recommendation of an unprecedented \$3 billion in the 21st Century Research Fund, the largest increase in civilian research in a generation. We owe it to our future.

Now, these new breakthroughs have to be used in ways that reflect our values. First and foremost, we have to safeguard our citizens' privacy. Last year, we proposed to protect every citizen's medical record. This year, we will finalize those rules. We've also taken the first steps to protect the privacy of bank and credit card records and other financial statements. Soon I will send legislation to you to finish

that job. We must also act to prevent any genetic discrimination whatever by employers or insurers. I hope you will support that.

These steps will allow us to lead toward the far frontiers of science and technology. They will enhance our health, the environment, the economy in ways we can't even imagine today. But we all know that at a time when science, technology and the forces of globalization are bringing so many changes into all our lives, it's more important than ever that we strengthen the bonds that root us in our local communities and in our national community.

No tie binds different people together like citizen service. There's a new spirit of service in America -- a movement we've tried to support with AmeriCorps, expanded Peace Corps, unprecedented new partnerships with businesses, foundations, community groups. Partnerships, for example, like the one that enlisted 12,000 companies which have now moved 650,000 of our fellow citizens from welfare to work. Partnerships to battle drug abuse, AIDS, teach young people to read, save America's treasures, strengthen the arts, fight teen pregnancy, prevent violence among young people, promote racial healing. The American people are working together.

But we should do more to help Americans help each other. First, we should help faith-based organizations to do more to fight poverty and drug abuse, and help people get back on the right track, with initiatives like Second Chance Homes that do so much to help unwed teen mothers. Second, we should support Americans who tithe and contribute to charities, but don't earn enough to claim a tax deduction for it. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that would allow low- and middle-income citizens who don't itemize to get that deduction. It's nothing but fair, and it will get more people to give.

We should do more to help new immigrants to fully participate in our community. That's why I recommend spending more to teach them civics and English. And since everybody in our community counts, we've got to make sure everyone is counted in this year's census.

Within 10 years -- just 10 years -- there will be no majority race in our largest state of California. In a little more than 50 years, there will be no majority race in America. In a more interconnected world, this diversity can be our greatest strength. Just look around this chamber. Look around. We have members in this Congress from virtually every racial, ethnic, and religious background. And I think you would agree that America is stronger because of it.

You also have to agree that all those differences you just clapped for all too often spark hatred and division even here at home. Just in the last couple of years, we've seen a man dragged to death in Texas just because he was black. We saw a young man murdered in Wyoming just because he was gay. Last year, we saw the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children just because of who they were. This is not the American way, and we must draw the line.

I ask you to draw that line by passing without delay the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And I ask you to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

Finally tonight, I propose the largest-ever investment in our civil rights laws for enforcement, because no American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Protections in law should be protections in fact.

Last February, because I thought this was so important, I created the White House Office of One America to promote racial reconciliation. That's what one of my personal heroes, Hank Aaron, has done all his life. From his days as our all-time home run king to his recent acts of healing, he has always brought people together.

We should follow his example, and we're honored to have him with us tonight. Stand up, Hank Aaron.

I just want to say one more thing about this, and I want every one of you to think about this the next time you get mad at one of your colleagues on the other side of the aisle. This fall, at the White House, Hillary had one of her millennium dinners, and we had this very distinguished scientist there, who is an expert in this whole work in the human genome. And he said that we are all, regardless of race, genetically 99.9 percent the same.

Now, you may find that uncomfortable when you look around here. But it is worth remembering. We can laugh about this, but you think about it. Modern science has confirmed what ancient faiths has always taught: the most important fact of life is our common humanity. Therefore, we should do more than just tolerate our diversity -- we should honor it and celebrate it.

My fellow Americans, every time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with hope and expectation and excitement for our nation. But tonight is very special, because we stand on the mountain top of a new millennium. Behind us we can look back and see the great expanse of American achievement; and before us we can see even greater, grander frontiers of possibility. We should, all of us, be

filled with gratitude and humility for our present progress and prosperity. We should be filled with awe and joy at what lies over the horizon. And we should be filled with absolute determination to make the most of it.

You know, when the framers finished crafting our Constitution in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and he reflected on the carving of the sun that was on the back of a chair he saw. The sun was low on the horizon. So he said this -- he said, "I've often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know it's a rising sun." Today, because each succeeding generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning brightly, lighting those frontiers of possibility, we all still bask in the glow and the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun.

After 224 years, the American revolution continues. We remain a new nation. And 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.

END 11:08 P.M. EST



**Background on President Clinton's
Agenda for the Nation
State of the Union Address
January 19, 1999**



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21st Century Schools

- Accountability for Results
- Accountability for Results: End Social Promotion
- Accountability for Results: Turn Around Low Performing Schools
- Accountability for Results: Put Qualified Teachers in the Classroom
- Accountability for Results: Issue School Report Cards
- Accountability for Results: Adopt Discipline Policies
- A National Effort to Reduce Class Size in the Early Grades
- Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning
- Recruiting Outstanding New Teachers for Our Nation's Public Schools

21st Century Support for American Families

Labor

- Minimum Wage Increase
- Ensuring Equal Pay

Child Care

- Expanding the Child Care Block Grant
- Expanding After-School Opportunities
- Giving Greater Tax Relief for Child Care to Three Million Working Families
- Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home
- FMLA Expansion
- Prohibiting Discrimination Against Parents

Health Care

- Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs
- The Potential of New Biomedical Research
- Protecting Patients through a Strong, Enforceable Patients Bill of Rights
- Protecting Privacy of Medical Records
- Encouraging Small Businesses to Purchase Health Insurance
- Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 to Obtain Health Insurance
- Improving Economic Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities
- Improving Health Care Access for Uninsured Workers
- Providing Critical Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Services
- Protecting Our Children From Tobacco
- Largest Increase in Family Planning Grants in 15 Years

21st Century Economy

- Re-employment Initiative
- Helping Adults Who Lack Basic Skills
- Welfare Rolls Decline as More Recipients go to Work
- Additional Welfare-to-Work Assistance
- New Markets Investments Initiative
- Empowerment Zones
- Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI)
- Crop Insurance Program
- Information Technology Research
- Y2K

- Financial Architecture
- A Firm Commitment to Free and Fair Trade
- Traditional Trade Negotiating Authority
- Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement
- African Growth and Opportunity Act
- New WTO Round of Global Trade Negotiations
- International Labor Rights
- Child Labor
- U. S. Manufacturing Exports

A Strong America in a New World

- Bringing Hope to Northern Ireland
- Securing Peace in the Balkans
- Promoting Peace in the Middle East
- Defending Against New Threats to America's Security
- Cooperative Threat Reduction Initiative
- Containing and Opposing Saddam Hussein
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- Strengthening America's Military
- Strengthening Alliances and Promoting Freedom
- Payment of United Nations Arrears
- Hurricane Mitch Response
- U.S. - Africa Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity

21st Century Communities

Crime/Drugs

- 21st Century Policing Initiative
- Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision
- Making the Brady Waiting Period Permanent
- Preventing Violent Juveniles from Buying Guns
- Child Safety Locks for Handguns
- Helping Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free

Environment

- Climate Change
- Livability Agenda: Easing Traffic Congestion and Community Planning and Collaboration
- Livability Agenda: Better America Bonds
- Lands Legacy Initiative
- Clean Air Partnership Fund

Service

- AmeriCorps

Political and Government Reform

- Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform
- Reinventing Government

One America

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

Peroration: the Millennium

- Millennium Communities Program
- Save America's Treasures Program

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

Accountability for Results

In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton will announce a package of accountability measures designed to hold students, teachers, and schools to high standards, and to ensure that school districts and states provide students with a high quality education. These proposals will help to lift student achievement in every public school and close the achievement gap by giving special attention to disadvantaged students in low-performing schools.

The President's plan marks a sea change in national education policy -- for the first time holding states and school districts accountable for progress and rewarding them for results. While insisting that states and local governments retain primary responsibility for education, President Clinton will call on Congress to make sure federal dollars support what works and not what doesn't. His proposal emphasizes reforms that a growing number of states, cities, and schools across the nation are implementing and that are producing clear results.

Specifically, the President will announce that he will send Congress legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to ensure that schools end social promotion; teachers are qualified to teach the subjects they are assigned; states turn around their lowest-performing schools; parents get annual report cards on school performance; and schools institute effective discipline policies.

Accountability for Results: End Social Promotion

The President's ESEA proposal will require states and school districts to end social promotion -- the practice of promoting students from grade to grade regardless of whether they have mastered the appropriate material and are academically prepared to do the work at the next level. Students who are promoted without regard to their achievement fall even further behind their classmates, and are more likely to lack basic skills upon graduating from high school.

To ensure that this requirement helps more students succeed, rather than simply increasing the number held back, states and school districts would have to show how they will help students meet promotion standards on time by (1) strengthening learning opportunities in the classroom with clear standards, small classes with well-prepared teachers, high quality professional development, and use of proven instructional practices; (2) identifying students who need help at the earliest possible moment; (3) providing extended learning time, including after-school and summer school for students who need extra help; and (4) developing an effective remedial plan, with intensive intervention, for students who still do not meet the standards, so they can get back on track in their schooling.

In 1996 President Clinton challenged every state and school district to adopt policies to end social promotion and require students to pass high school graduation exams. Twenty six states now have high school exit exams, and last year four states adopted policies to stop promoting unprepared students from grade to grade. A growing number of urban school districts, including Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington D.C. are adopting similar policies. In Chicago, which three years ago ended the practice of social promotion in a way that gives students who need it substantial extended learning time, citywide math and reading scores have gone up every year, with the largest gains among the most disadvantaged students. President Clinton's FY 2000 budget proposes to triple federal funding for after-school and summer school programs (from \$200 million to \$600 million) to help schools ending social promotion give students the extra help they need to succeed.

Accountability for Results: Turn Around Low Performing Schools

The President's ESEA proposal will require states to identify the schools with the lowest achievement levels and least improvement and take corrective action to turn them around. These corrective actions, based on a careful assessment of each school's needs, would include steps such as intensive teacher training, support to improve school discipline, and the implementation of proven approaches to school reform. If these actions do not result in improved student achievement within two years, the proposal would require states to take additional corrective actions, such as permitting students to attend other public schools; reconstituting the school, by fairly evaluating the staff and making staff changes as appropriate; or closing the school and reopening it as a charter school or with an entirely new staff. Nineteen states currently take similar actions to help improve low-performing schools, and experience demonstrates that when these interventions are carefully implemented and accompanied by the resources to support change, schools improve and student achievement increases. The President's FY 2000 budget contains \$200 million to help states begin taking these steps immediately.

Accountability for Results: Put Qualified Teachers in the Classroom

According to the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, one of the most important factors in improving student achievement is the knowledge and skills teachers bring to the classroom. Yet every year, approximately 50,000 individuals teach on "emergency" certificates, which means they do not meet the standards the state has set for certification. In addition, numerous teachers teach subjects for which they lack adequate preparation, with fully one quarter of secondary school teachers lacking even a minor in their main teaching field. Students in schools with the highest concentrations of poverty -- those who often need the most help from the best teachers -- are most likely to be in classrooms with teachers who are not fully qualified: for example, in schools with the highest minority enrollment, students have a less than 50 percent chance of having a math or science teacher with a license and degree in the field.

The President's ESEA proposal will require states to adopt performance examinations for all new teachers, requiring them to demonstrate both subject-matter knowledge and teaching expertise. The proposal also will require states and school districts to phase out, over five years, the use of teachers with emergency certificates and the practice of assigning teachers to subjects for which they lack adequate preparation. To support these new teacher quality standards, the proposal will provide resources to help states strengthen teacher certification standards, test new teachers, provide training to current teachers, and give incentives to recruit more highly qualified teachers.

Accountability for Results: Issue School Report Cards

The President's ESEA proposal will require states to distribute to all parents annual report cards for each school and school district, as well as the state as a whole. The report cards will include information on student achievement, teacher professional qualifications, class size, school safety, and other factors that will help parents to judge the performance of the schools. Where appropriate, the report cards also will show the academic achievement of ethnic and racial subgroups, to ensure accountability for helping all students achieve. Thirty-six states currently publish or require local school districts to publish school report cards, and five additional states will begin the practice in the next two years. A recent report by Public Agenda, however, shows that only 31 percent of parents had seen these report cards. The President's ESEA proposal will help ensure that all parents in all states have access to the information they need to evaluate the quality of their schools and identify the areas in which improvement is needed.

Accountability for Results: Adopt Discipline Policies

Schools must be a place of learning. President Clinton already has challenged states, communities, and

schools to take a number of steps to restore order and safety, such as adopting school uniforms, enforcing truancy laws, and imposing curfews. But in some schools, the breakdown of classroom discipline remains one of the biggest obstacles to learning and one of the greatest concerns for teachers, students, and parents alike. The President's proposal will require states and school districts to adopt discipline policies to make sure students have the chance to learn and teachers have the chance to teach.

A National Effort to Reduce Class Size in the Early Grades

In his 1998 State of the Union address, President Clinton proposed to help local school schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Studies show that smaller classes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; this helps students to learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In these studies, minority and disadvantaged students showed the largest achievement gains. Last year, Congress provided a down payment on the President's seven year, \$12.4 billion proposal by appropriating \$1.2 billion to help local communities hire about 30,000 teachers. Now Congress must finish the job by providing the next installment of funds for local schools to continue progress toward hiring 100,000 new teachers over seven years.

Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning

For students to learn, schools must be well-equipped and be able to accommodate smaller class sizes. In 1998, the American Society of Civil Engineers said that school buildings represent the nation's most pressing infrastructure need. To address this critical need, President Clinton is proposing federal tax credits as incentives to help states and school districts to build and renovate public schools. Half of the bond authority will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income children, and the other half will be allocated to the states.

Recruiting Outstanding New Teachers for Our Nation's Public Schools

With more than 2 million teachers to be hired in the next ten years to accommodate record student enrollments and an aging teaching force, the nation must not only recruit an adequate *number* of teachers, but ensure a *quality* teaching force through effective teacher recruitment and preparation. The President's budget will contain a series of new initiatives and funding increases to help recruit well prepared individuals to teach where they are needed the most, in high poverty urban and rural communities. In particular, the President's FY 2000 budget will increase funding for his teacher recruitment effort enacted in last year's Higher Education Act — to \$35 million from \$7.5 million — to recruit 7,000 outstanding new teachers into high need public schools by giving them scholarships in exchange for a commitment to teach. The President will announce other initiatives to improve teacher quality at an event later in the week.

21ST CENTURY SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

LABOR

Minimum Wage Increase

The President called on Congress to pass an increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and struggling to make ends meet. The President believes that parents who work hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. The President's proposal would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15 over two years -- through a 50-cent increase on September 1, 1999 and a 50-cent increase on September 1, 2000 -- helping to restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was when President Reagan took office in 1981. This increase will help ensure that -- as costs continue to increase -- parents who work hard and play by the rules can bring up their children out of poverty. For someone who works full-time, this minimum wage increase will mean an additional \$2,000 per year. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 12 million hourly paid workers would benefit directly from this pay raise.

Ensuring Equal Pay

According to the Department of Labor, the average woman who works full-time earns just 74 cents for each dollar that an average man earns. For women of color, the gap is even wider. This gap is, in part, attributable to differing levels of experience, education, and skill. However, even after accounting for these factors, a significant pay gap still remains between men and women in similar jobs. Recognizing this wage disparity, the President is proposing a \$14 million equal pay initiative for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Labor. Additional details of this initiative will be announced at a later date. The President also will continue to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which improves the enforcement of wage discrimination laws and provides for research, education, training of EEOC staff, and outreach on this important subject.

CHILD CARE

Expanding the Child Care Block Grant

The President is proposing to expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care. The President's proposal will: (1) increase funding for child care subsidies by \$7.5 billion over five years, enabling the program to serve an additional 1.15 million children by FY 2004; (2) provide \$3 billion over five years to promote early learning; and (3) provide \$173 million to improve child care quality. Additional funds for subsidies are necessary because millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs currently do not receive any help: in FY 1997, states provided child care assistance to only 1.25 million of the 10 million low-income children eligible. Additional funding to improve early learning through challenge grants to communities for children ages zero to five responds to research showing that children's experiences in the earliest years are critical to their development and ability to reach school ready to learn. Finally, increased investment in improving child care is needed to support quality enhancement efforts such as performing inspections of child care facilities, providing resource and referral services for parents, assisting providers with training and scholarships, and creating networks for family day care providers.

Expanding After-School Opportunities

The President is committed to triple funding for the 21st Century Learning Center Program, which supports the creation and expansion of after-school and summer school programs throughout the country. Experts agree that school-age children who are unsupervised during the hours after school are far more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, commit crimes, receive poor grades, and drop out of school than those who are involved in supervised, constructive activities. The program increases the supply of after-school care in a cost-effective manner, primarily by funding programs that use public school facilities and existing resources. In awarding these new funds, the Education Department will give priority to school districts that are ending social promotion by requiring that students meet academic standards in order to move to the next grade. The President's budget will include \$600 million in FY 2000 to help roughly 1.1 million children each year participate in after-school and summer school programs.

Giving Greater Tax Relief for Child Care to Three Million Working Families

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides tax relief to taxpayers who pay for the care of a child under 13 or a disabled dependent or spouse in order to work. The credit is equal to a percentage of the taxpayer's employment-related expenditures for child or dependent care, with the amount of the credit depending on the taxpayer's income. The President's proposal increases the credit for families earning under \$60,000, providing an additional average tax cut of \$354 for these families and eliminating income tax liability for almost all families with incomes below 200% of poverty (\$35,000 for a family of four) that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. The President's budget will include \$5 billion over five years to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for nearly three million working families paying for child care. The President's plan also includes a new tax credit to businesses that provide child care services for their employees.

Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home

The President believes that we should support parents in whatever choice they make for the care of their children. He therefore is proposing to enable parents who stay at home with children under one year old to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. The President's budget proposal will provide an average tax credit of \$178, at a cost of \$1.3 billion over five years, which will benefit 1.7 million families.

FMLA Expansion

The President is proposing again to extend the benefits of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law -- to ten million more American workers. Today, workers are eligible for up to 12 weeks of FMLA-protected leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse -- if they work at a business with 50 or more employees. By covering workers in businesses with 25 or more workers, 10 million more American workers will be covered by the FMLA. The President is also calling for expanding the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers to take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations. Leave could be taken to: (1) participate in school activities, such as parent-teacher conferences; (2) accompany one's child to routine dental or medical appointments; and (3) accompany an elderly relative to routine medical appointments or other professional services.

Prohibiting Discrimination Against Parents

The President proposed new federal legislation to protect parents from discrimination in the workplace. Building on laws in Alaska, Michigan, New Jersey and other states, this legislation would protect workers

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from unfair assumptions about their commitment to their job that can affect hiring, advancement, and other employment decisions. This law would not prohibit employers from making hiring and promotion decisions on the basis of job performance, but would ensure that workers are not unfairly discriminated against simply because they are parents.

HEALTH CARE

Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs

Over five million Americans, most of whom are elderly, have significant limitations due to illness or disability and thus require long-term care. The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options: by 2030, the number of elderly Americans will have doubled, so that one in five Americans will be elderly. President Clinton has proposed an historic new \$6.2 billion initiative to support elderly and disabled Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of family members who care for them. This initiative includes over five years a \$5.5 billion investment in a \$1,000 tax credit to compensate for the cost of long-term care services; a new \$625 million National Family Caregiver Program; a \$10 million national campaign for FY 2000 to educate Medicare beneficiaries about long-term care options; and \$15 million to allow the Federal government to offer long-term care insurance to its employees at group rates.

The Potential of New Biomedical Research

Advances in biomedical research have captured the imagination of all Americans, with scientists now poised to make advances that could revolutionize the way we treat diseases. The President's new \$320 million investment in NIH will allow us to make progress in preventing the complications of diabetes, combating diseases associated with aging, like Alzheimers and Parkinson's, and developing vaccines for tuberculosis, malaria, and AIDS.

Protecting Patients through a Strong, Enforceable Patients Bill of Rights

Once again, the President is calling on Congress to pass a strong federally enforceable patients' bill of rights. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed specialists, access to emergency room services when and where the need arises, access to a meaningful independent and external appeals process for consumers to resolve differences with their health plans, and the right to be compensated when a health plan's decision causes a patient to be harmed or die. The President is already doing everything he can to implement these protections, by extending them to the 85 million Americans covered by Federal health plans.

Protecting Privacy of Medical Records

The President is challenging the Congress to pass strong bipartisan legislation to protect the privacy of medical records. The President also pledged that if Congress does not pass this legislation this summer, he will take action to implement protections for electronic medical records under the authority given to him by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Encouraging Small Businesses to Purchase Health Insurance

Many small businesses cannot offer health insurance because of their higher administrative costs and premiums relative to large businesses. As a result, workers in small firms are less likely to have access to affordable, job-based health insurance. Nearly half of uninsured workers are in firms with fewer than 25 employees (relative to 30 percent of all workers). The President is proposing a new \$44 million initiative to encourage small businesses to offer health insurance to their workers by developing and/or joining coalitions for purchasing health insurance. This three-part initiative would provide a tax credit to small businesses that

decide to offer coverage by joining coalitions; encourage private foundations to support coalitions by allowing their contributions towards these organizations to be tax exempt; and offering technical assistance to new small business coalitions.

Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 to Obtain Health Insurance

Americans ages 55 to 65 are one of the fastest growing groups of uninsured Americans. They are also extremely difficult to insure: they have less access to and a greater risk of losing employer-based health insurance; and they are twice as likely to have health problems as the population generally. The President's \$1.4 billion proposal gives this vulnerable population three new ways to gain access to health insurance by: (1) allowing Americans ages 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare, through a mechanism that preserves the Medicare trust fund; (2) assisting vulnerable displaced workers 55 and over by offering those who have involuntarily lost their jobs and health care coverage a similar Medicare buy-in option; and (3) giving Americans 55 and over who have lost their retiree benefits access to their former employers' health insurance.

Improving Economic Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities

Since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office, the American economy has added 17.7 million new jobs. However, the unemployment rate among working-age adults with disabilities is still nearly 75 percent. People with disabilities can bring tremendous energy and talent to the American workforce, yet institutional barriers often limit their ability to work. The President's budget proposes a historic new \$2 billion initiative that removes significant barriers to work for people with disabilities. It includes the Work Incentives Improvement Act, which invests \$1.2 billion in providing options for workers with disabilities to buy into Medicaid and Medicare; a new \$700 million investment in a \$1,000 tax credit for workers with disabilities; and more than double the government's current investment, an increase of \$35 million, in assistive technologies that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to work.

Improving Health Care Access for Uninsured Workers

This new initiative invests \$1 billion over 5 years in local communities to integrate providers that traditionally provide services to the uninsured, such as public hospitals and clinics, into networks that provide a comprehensive range of services to uninsured people. Providers will receive funds to develop the financial, information, and telecommunication systems necessary to monitor and manage patient needs, as well as funds to expand the range of services they deliver.

Providing Critical Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Services

Approximately 44 million adults and 14 million children suffer from a mental disorder each year. The Clinton/Gore Administration's new FY 2000 budget includes a \$70 million increase -- the largest ever -- in the mental health block grant. This 24 percent increase, totaling \$358 million, will enable states to enhance and expand their efforts to assist people with mental illnesses, by targeting particularly-hard-to-reach adults and children with severe mental illnesses, improving school violence abatement programs, helping states provide new effective medications for people with mental illnesses, and providing services to older Americans who are reluctant to reach mental health services in traditional mental health settings. This spring the Administration will also hold the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health.

Protecting Our Children From Tobacco

Every day, 3000 children become regular smokers and 1000 have their lives shortened because of it. Almost 90 percent of adult smokers began smoking by age 18 and today 4.5 million children -- 37 percent of all high school students -- smoke cigarettes. The state tobacco settlement is an important step in the right direction, but the President believes additional measures must be taken to reduce youth smoking and hold the tobacco

industry accountable: 1) raise the price of cigarettes, so fewer young people start to smoke; 2) reaffirm the Food and Drug Administration's full authority to keep cigarettes out of the hands of children; 3) fund critical public health efforts to prevent youth smoking and hold the tobacco industry accountable for reducing youth smoking; and 4) protect farmers and farming communities. The President's budget will use all the funds resulting from this plan to help reimburse the federal government for its annual tobacco-related health costs.

Largest Increase in Family Planning Grants in 15 Years

The President's FY 2000 budget proposal will call for a substantial increase in Title X Family Planning grants, which helps provide women with vital services, including contraception, pregnancy testing, STD screening and treatment. Further details of this increase will be announced later this week.

21ST CENTURY ECONOMY

Re-employment Initiative

In 1995, President Clinton proposed a G.I. Bill for America's Workers to reform our employment and training system for the 21st-century economy by empowering individuals, streamlining services, enhancing accountability, and increasing flexibility. For over three years, President Clinton repeatedly pressed Congress to pass job-training reform based on his original proposal. Last year, the Congress finally passed and the President signed comprehensive job training reform. This year, the President proposes a long-term commitment to ensuring that Americans who are displaced from their jobs can get the training and re-employment services they want and need to get new jobs.

Helping Adults Who Lack Basic Skills

President Clinton will soon announce a major effort to help the more than 44 million adults who perform at the lowest level of literacy to obtain the skills they need to succeed in today's economy and to help immigrants more fully integrate into our civic and social life. This effort includes the 10% tax credit for employers who provide workplace education programs for their employees and a new award to recognize "High Skills" communities for their outstanding achievement in promoting adult education as announced by the Vice President on January 12. Later this month, the President will announce the other parts of this initiative.

Welfare Rolls Decline as More Recipients go to Work

The President announced that welfare is at its lowest level in 30 years and the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since he took office. The percent of welfare recipients working has tripled since 1992, and all states met the first work overall participation rates required under the welfare reform law. Two years ago the President challenged the business community to create jobs so that people can move from welfare to work. Today, 10,000 companies of all sizes, industries, and from all regions have joined the Welfare to Work Partnership and are successfully hiring and retaining hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients.

Additional Welfare-to-Work Assistance

The President announced that he will propose \$1 billion for his Welfare-to-Work program to ensure that those remaining on the welfare rolls who face the greatest challenges can succeed in the workforce and to increase the employment of fathers of children on welfare so they can better support their children. This funding will help 200,000 people move from welfare to work and will help increase child support collections, which have gone up 80 percent since 1992. The President will announce further details of this proposal next week.

New Markets Investments Initiative

One of the great still unmet challenges for the start of the 21st century is building economically vibrant communities in those places that our prosperity has not yet reached -- inner cities and distressed rural areas. These new markets here at home have great potential. We must build a bridge between Wall Street and our great untapped markets. The President's new markets initiative will spur \$15 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these underserved areas through a package of tax credits and guarantees.

Specifically:

- **New Markets Tax Credit:** A billion dollars of tax credits over five years worth up to 25% of the amount of equity invested in a variety of vehicles for providing equity and credit to businesses in

underserved areas.

- ***America's Private Investment Companies (APICs):*** Modeled after the Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) successful investment fund program, this program would create, each year, five new private investment partnerships of up to \$300 million. For each new APIC, HUD and the SBA would provide up to \$200 million in loan guarantees to match \$100 million in private investment, creating a fund of \$300 million for investment in mid-sized firms expanding or relocating into underserved areas.
- ***New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs):*** SBA will match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20 new investment partnerships selected to provide both patient growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.
- ***SBICs targeted to new markets:*** Over 40 years, the SBIC program has helped more than 85,000 small companies grow, some from start-ups to household names like AOL; but the program has not done enough to help spur growth in underserved areas. SBA will provide more flexibility and new financing terms, along with aggressive outreach, to promote investment in low-and moderate-income areas by SBICs.
- ***New Market Lending Companies (NMLCs):*** SBA will approve approximately 10 new non-bank lenders who have a strategy to target their lending to underserved areas.
- ***Other:*** Other elements include seed money to expand BusinessLINC partnerships to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets and reforms to the Specialized Small Business Investment Company (SSBIC) tax credit to make it easier to use.

Empowerment Zones

Last week, Vice President Gore named 20 economically distressed communities as new Empowerment Zones (EZs). Tonight, the President is reaffirming his Administration's commitment to securing full funding of flexible grant funding for the new EZs. If Congress approves full funding for the EZs, federal investment is expected to help create and retain about 90,000 jobs and stimulate \$20.3 billion in private and public investment in the next 10 years.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI)

In 1994, the President proposed and Congress established the CDFI Fund. This Fund further expands the availability of credit, investment capital, financial services, and other development services in distressed communities. The President is proposing to expand funding for the CDFI program to \$125 million -- a \$30 million increase from FY 1999.

Crop Insurance Program

In the midst of the strongest economy we have enjoyed in decades, many farmers are suffering and others are at risk through no fault of their own. Natural disasters, coupled with declining demand abroad (exports have accounted for roughly a third of our farm products) brought historic losses last year. The President fought for and got an additional \$6 billion in emergency aid for farmers in 1998. But this is not an unexpected or one-time-only problem. When the President signed the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, he called for additional work to be done to create an adequate safety net for farmers. In his State of the Union, he pledged to work

with Members of both parties to achieve the needed reforms --both in the crop insurance program and in farm income assistance --this year.

Information Technology Research

President Clinton and Vice President Gore will propose at least \$366 million, an increase of approximately 30 percent, for the government's investment in information technology research. The Vice President will announce the specifics of this initiative later this week.

Y2K

The year 2000 problem results from a computer programming practice that for over 30 years designated a year by its last two digits, such as "99" for "1999." When the program has to deal with the year 2000, or "00," malfunctions may occur in software applications or operating processes because the program stops, reads the year as "1900," or otherwise produces erroneous information. The President and Vice President have been leading the attack on this problem by establishing a goal for all Federal programs to be year 2000 compliant by March 31, 1999 and by establishing the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. The December quarterly report from the Office of Management and Budget indicated that 61% of the Federal Government's mission critical systems, such as those for issuing Social Security checks, were already year 2000 compliant and 90% of the work to repair such systems had been completed with testing of the fixes underway. The Council's mandate is to coordinate the work of Federal agencies as they correct their own systems and to reach out to governments at all levels as well as internationally and to the private sector to help facilitate their efforts to meet the challenge of crossing into the next century without noticeable difficulty.

Financial Architecture

As the world's strongest economy and largest exporter, we have a major interest in addressing the global financial crisis and in designing a global financial architecture for the 21st century. Starting last year, the President laid out a strategy working with key emerging and industrial economies to address the current crisis and restore recovery, by providing the IMF expanded resources and new tools, strengthening social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable, developing systemic approaches to rebuilding financial and banking sectors, and establishing "precautionary" means for assisting countries with strong policies ward off contagion. Longer term, we must prevent the disruptive cycle of boom and bust by increasing openness and accountability, strengthening national financial systems and international surveillance, providing more orderly mechanisms for crisis response, and ensuring the participation of the private sector in crisis prevention and mitigation. This work will culminate in the meeting of G-7 leaders in Cologne Germany in June.

A Firm Commitment to Free and Fair Trade

The global financial crisis has touched the lives of many Americans. The surge in low-priced steel imports into the United States has adversely impacted our steel companies, workers and communities. This Administration is taking forceful steps to vigorously enforce our trade laws, to engage major exporting and importing nations to trade fairly and to bear their fair share of the import burden, to help crisis-stricken countries achieve recovery, and to provide American steel communities, workers and companies with the resources they need to adjust to the forces of globalization. Japan accounts for almost half of the surge in steel imports into the United States, and has increased exports of hot rolled sheet steel by 400 percent from 1997 to 1998. We have informed Japan it must trade fairly, and we expect its exports to fall to appropriate pre-crisis levels. We are prepared to take appropriate WTO-consistent actions under our trade laws to ensure that happens including, if necessary, self-initiated actions under section 201 and our anti-dumping laws. The

President has made clear that open, rules-based trade is essential for both global economic recovery and continued U.S. prosperity.

Traditional Trade Negotiating Authority

The President called for a new consensus granting him "fast track" trade authority to expand America's opportunities in the global economy while ensuring that expanded trade benefits all citizens, promoting prosperity, respecting worker rights, and protecting the environment. With a global round of trade negotiations just around the corner and with the global financial crisis threatening America's hard won economic gains, it is more important than ever to give the President traditional trade authority to break down trade barriers that put American products made by American workers at a disadvantage. This authority has been given to every president since 1974 in order to pursue America's national interest in the global economy. Without trade authority, America's role as the largest exporter in the world could be put in jeopardy and America's ability to continue creating higher-paying jobs for more Americans could be undermined.

Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement

The President will work with Congress toward swift passage of legislation expanding Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) trade ties with Caribbean and Central American countries. This trade legislation will create opportunities for American companies and workers even as it provides enhanced market access and economic stimulus for countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The Administration is strongly committed to the negotiations to conclude the Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005, and expects to achieve commercially-meaningful outcomes by the end of the year, which will expand U.S. export opportunities in Latin America.

African Growth and Opportunity Act

In the State of the Union, President Clinton called upon Congress to pass the African Growth and Opportunity Act, an important and groundbreaking piece of legislation which recognizes African countries' efforts to institute sound economic policies and reform. The philosophy of this bill is simple: America stands ready to help those African countries that undertake difficult reforms to build a better future. Effective aid, combined with strong reforms and increased trade and investment, will help bring Africa into the global economy and create new markets for U.S. exports. American businesses, farmers, and workers all stand to benefit from expanding our trade with the largest underdeveloped market in the world.

New WTO Round of Global Trade Negotiations

The President is calling for the launch of an ambitious new WTO Round when world trade ministers meet in the United States this November to shape the world trading system in the 21st century. The President is calling for a new type of Round for the new century, which could yield concrete early results in key areas, ensure that labor and environmental standards are fully protected so that trade opening does not lead to a race to the bottom and result in a more open and accountable WTO system. The United States must play a leadership role: as the world's largest exporter, we have the most at stake. A successful accelerated Round of negotiations will create important new opportunities for America's world class farmers and ranchers, manufacturers, and service providers to increase sales in foreign markets. We will see new opportunities to sell our goods and services (such as express delivery, environmental and energy services, electronic commerce and professional services) where the preponderance of global trade is not subject to WTO rules, and further removal of tariffs because many of our trading partners in Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere retain far higher tariff rates than the United States. We will also seek to further open government procurement practices, ensure fair global competition, and protect intellectual property rights (IPR) in areas where the United States leads the world (software, film/video, music, pharmaceuticals). The U.S. Trade Representative will chair the 1999 meeting of WTO trade ministers in the United States.

International Labor Rights

The global economy holds the promise of a higher standard of living for more people in more countries, but we must ensure that spirited competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom on labor standards. President Clinton's FY 2000 budget will provide \$40 million for the first time ever to help developing countries implement core labor standards and build social safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and pensions. Specifically, the United States will provide: \$25 million to establish a new multilateral program at the International Labor Organization (ILO) to provide technical assistance to core labor standards efforts; \$9.5 million to the Department of Labor to help our trading partners strengthen their implementation mechanisms; and \$5 million to the Department of State to encourage cooperative efforts to eliminate international sweatshops.

Child Labor

Last year the President fought for and obtained a ten-fold increase in the U.S. contribution to the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor -- a \$30 million contribution making the U.S. the world's leader in the fight to reduce the most intolerable forms of child labor. This year, we will insist on maintaining that level of IPEC funding while adding a new \$10 million program -- "School Works" -- through U.S. AID to improve access to education to make it easier to get kids out of hazardous workplaces. In addition, the proposal calls for additional agents for the U.S. Customs Service to enforce the ban on the importation of goods made with forced or indentured child labor (almost doubling the enforcement budget from \$3 million to \$5 billion) and an increase of \$4 million (above last year's \$3 million) for domestic enforcement of labor laws in industries vulnerable to child labor -- garment and "salad bowl" farms.

U. S. Manufacturing Exports

Manufacturing exports have been a key engine of America's sustained economic expansion. However, the global financial crisis has put that progress at risk. To help American manufacturers safeguard their hard-won gains in foreign markets and expand into new growth areas, the Administration is launching a \$108 million initiative to spur nearly \$2 billion in additional U.S. exports, which will sustain or create 16,000 high-wage American manufacturing jobs. First, the initiative boosts funding for the Export-Import Bank by 10 percent (\$81 million) to keep U.S. products -- from aircraft parts to capital equipment to environmental technology -- flowing to emerging markets where commercial banks have withdrawn. Second, the Trade Development Agency will receive an additional \$4 million for feasibility studies to enable U.S. companies to participate in major export-generating infrastructure projects overseas. Third, the initiative provides \$14 million for the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) to increase resources for export advocacy and service delivery to small manufacturers. Finally, the initiative provides \$9 million for ITA and Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology to help developing countries establish a legal and regulatory infrastructure to make it easier for U.S. firms to export.

A STRONG AMERICA IN A NEW WORLD

Bringing Hope to Northern Ireland

President Clinton's intensive diplomatic efforts helped achieve the landmark Good Friday Accord last spring, bringing new governing structures and a new era of cooperation to Northern Ireland. By an overwhelming margin, the people of Northern Ireland and Ireland have chosen a peaceful future after a generation of bloodshed. President Clinton reaffirmed his support for full implementation of the agreement, so Northern Ireland can pursue a prosperous, democratic course, free of violence and terror. The U.S. will also continue to support the International Fund for Ireland, which promotes reconciliation through economic regeneration projects targeting disadvantaged Irish border counties and Northern Ireland.

Securing Peace in the Balkans

The U.S. continues to help its European allies in consolidating the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through 1999, our priorities will be to accelerate Bosnia's transition to a market economy, increase the momentum on refugee returns, improve the rule of law, reinforce central institutions and press ahead with media and education reform. The NATO-led Stabilization Force, which continues to play a vital role in implementing Dayton, will continue to draw down. This will allow a further reduction in the U.S. troop contribution, which is already one-third the size of the U.S. contribution to the previous Implementation Force. The U.S. is also leading efforts to end the repression and a peaceful solution to the Kosovo crisis.

Promoting Peace in the Middle East

President Clinton believes that the best long-term strategy for Israeli security includes a secure peace with the Palestinians, recognition of their legitimate rights, and a comprehensive, secure peace in the Middle East. The President's efforts at Wye River helped put the peace process back on track after eighteen months of stalemate. At a time when the U.S. is calling on Israel and the Palestinians to meet the commitments they undertook at Wye, the U.S. must meet its responsibilities. The President's supplemental request would bolster Israel's security, strengthen the Palestinian economy and lend a hand to a trusted friend of peace, Jordan.

Defending Against New Threats to America's Security

In an era of rapid technological change, Americans are faced with new challenges to our national security from biological and chemical attacks, and attacks on our computer networks. President Clinton has taken the lead in addressing these threats by developing new strategies to combat terrorism, prepare for weapons of mass destruction attacks, and protect our critical infrastructure. To prepare for the threat of biological and chemical weapons, President Clinton has called for an increase in funding for vaccine research and public health surveillance in his FY 2000 budget. He has also established a National Domestic Preparedness Office, which will provide a integrated federal program to train and equip those who would first respond to a biological or chemical weapons attacks, and develop emergency plans for 120 metropolitan areas nationwide. To protect our computer networks from cyber terrorism, he has called for an initiative to train and hire information technology experts to safeguard government computer networks, and an initiative to integrate systems designed to monitor computer intrusion. The President has also launched new public-private information sharing centers to foster better preparation for cyberattacks and a computer security initiative aimed at safeguarding networks from covert installation of destructive computer code.

Cooperative Threat Reduction Initiative

President Clinton announced an enhanced effort to work with Russia and other former Soviet countries to reduce the risk that materials, technologies, and expertise for weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles will fall into the hands of rogue nations or terrorists -- and to help former Soviet countries implement

existing arms control agreements. The President's five year budget plan calls for a 70% expansion of threat reduction programs. Our initiative emphasizes engaging weapons scientists and institutes in civilian research, promoting nuclear security by dismantling and destroying warheads and dangerous materials, tightening export controls, and accelerating Russian efforts to withdraw troops stationed outside Russia. None of these funds will be available to entities that engage in dangerous missile or nuclear assistance to Iran. The Administration will continue to help Russia to develop an effective export control system that keeps dangerous technologies away from Iran and others. And we will continue to apply penalties against Russian entities that violate international nonproliferation standards.

We will also continue our efforts to restrain North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, halt a nuclear and missile race between India and Pakistan, and press China to play a more constructive role in efforts to contain the spread of mass destruction weapons and missiles. And we will move forward with international negotiations on the President's proposal to strengthen our ability to determine whether nations are complying with the Biological Weapons Convention.

Containing and Opposing Saddam Hussein

President Clinton stressed that we will continue to contain Iraq as long as it poses a threat to its neighbors and continues to conceal its weapons of mass destruction programs. Saddam Hussein's actions demonstrate that he does not intend to comply with UN security council resolutions, even in the face of international pressure. We therefore are pursuing a two-track policy: advancing initiatives aimed at increasing availability of food and medicine for the Iraqi people while actively supporting efforts by Iraqi opposition groups to replace Saddam's regime.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

The President's call for the Senate to act without delay to give its advice and consent to ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) will help prevent a new arms race and make it more difficult for non-nuclear states to develop these devices of destruction. The CTBT will allow America to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent while constraining the proliferation of nuclear material and technology to rogue states' weapons programs. CTBT will improve America's ability to detect and deter nuclear explosive testing. CTBT's global network of sensors will strengthen America's ability to monitor nuclear explosive testing across the globe, as well as deter any nation from believing it can conduct a nuclear explosive test undetected by the international community. If the United States fails to ratify before September, we will undercut our own efforts to strengthen the global nonproliferation regime and curb further nuclear arms development, particularly in South Asia.

Strengthening America's Military

President Clinton proposed a six-year, sustained increase in defense spending to ensure that America's armed forces are fully prepared to meet the challenges of the next century and remain the world's best-trained, best-equipped fighting force – reversing a trend begun a decade ago. The President's budget for next year will provide \$12 billion more than we had planned last year for FY 2000 to meet readiness and modernization needs. These funds will strengthen recruitment and retention programs; enhance training, unit operations and flight hour programs, and provide additional spare parts. Funds will also be devoted to modernizing weapons programs, by replacing aging equipment with more technologically advanced systems, taking advantage of cutting edge computer technology, and developing defense systems against both theater and strategic ballistic missiles. Finally, the President's defense spending proposal will improve pay and benefits for America's men and women in uniform, ensuring that they enjoy the quality of life they deserve.

Strengthening Alliances and Promoting Freedom

Promoting freedom by strengthening our alliances and building partnerships in Europe, Asia, and Latin America is central to President Clinton's foreign policy agenda. President Clinton will convene a NATO Summit in Washington this April to commemorate its first fifty years and to chart a course for the next century. Unprecedented in size and scope, this golden anniversary summit marks a milestone in President Clinton's efforts to strengthen the alliance and build a more integrated, democratic and peaceful Europe. It will reaffirm NATO's commitment to building its relationships with Russia and Ukraine and to the continuing evolution of the Partnership for Peace as a pillar of transatlantic security. Forty-four leaders from both sides of the Atlantic will come to Washington to welcome its newest members -- Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic -- and to forge a new consensus about the need for joint action to face new challenges to our shared security, including regional conflicts and the growing threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. NATO will also develop a new Strategic Concept, the blueprint guiding the Alliance's defense planning and policies, and take steps towards ensuring that NATO's door remains open to prospective new members.

Payment of United Nations Arrears

President Clinton highlighted the need for congressional action to meet U.S. financial obligations to the United Nations. From critical peacekeeping operations to life sustaining relief and development efforts in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and around the globe, the United Nations is an essential institution for the promotion of U.S. objectives across a broad spectrum of issues. Our interests abroad -- from maintaining political stability, to averting human rights and humanitarian catastrophe, to promoting international standards in areas such as aviation safety -- demand that we meet our international obligations and increase our leverage in international organizations.

Hurricane Mitch Response

President Clinton reaffirmed our commitment to assist in the reconstruction of those Central American countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch. Over the past three months, more than 5,000 of our armed forces have provided critical relief and rehabilitation assistance to the people of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. This has included the initial response -- in which U.S. troops rescued many hundreds of Central Americans and delivered food, medical equipment and other essential supplies -- as well as more recent reconstruction efforts that have included bridge building and road repair. In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have provided food, medical aid, reconstruction material and other support. The U.S. contribution to the relief effort has totaled \$300 million thus far, and President Clinton intends to increase substantially our aid to longer term reconstruction in the weeks and months to come.

U.S. - Africa Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity

The United States has important and growing strategic interests in Africa. Africa supplies over 13% of our oil imports and represents the largest untapped market in the world. Unfortunately, conflict still undermines Africa's vast potential and our own strategic interests. That is why we aim to build a stable and prosperous Africa -- a strong partner for security and peace, and an ally against drug trafficking, international crime, terrorism, the spread of disease and environmental degradation. President Clinton's historic trip to the continent last year highlighted the new opportunities for partnership between our nation and the nations of Africa.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITIES

CRIME/DRUGS

21st Century Policing Initiative

In order to keep crime coming down to record low levels and the number of officers walking the beat at an all-time high, the President is committing nearly \$1.3 billion for a new 21st Century Policing Initiative. The new 21st Century Policing Initiative builds on the President's successful COPS program by: (1) helping communities to hire and redeploy between 30,000 and 50,000 more law enforcement officers over five years, with an effort to target new police officers to crime "hot spots" and to help retain those officers recently hired; (2) giving law enforcement access to the latest crime-fighting technologies, such as improved police communications, crime mapping software, laptop computers, and crime lab improvements; and (3) making an unprecedented commitment to engage entire communities in the hard work of preventing and fighting crime -- by funding new community-based prosecutors, and partnerships with probation and parole officers, school officials, and faith-based organizations.

Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision

Numerous studies confirm that the vast majority of prisoners report drug use and that many prisoners commit their crimes to buy drugs or while high. To help break this iron link between crime and drugs, the President will propose \$215 million for Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision that works to keep offenders drug- and crime-free. This initiative will provide new funds to help states and localities implement tough new systems to drug test, treat, and punish prisoners, parolees, and probationers. In addition, this initiative provides increased funds for innovative drug courts throughout the country and intensive drug treatment for state prisoners with the most serious drug problems.

Making the Brady Waiting Period Permanent

The Brady Law, which requires background checks of all prospective firearms purchasers, has stopped well over a quarter of a million illegal handgun sales since its enactment in 1993 -- proving itself to be one of the most effective law enforcement tools ever. But the Brady Law's "cooling off" or waiting period recently expired, and handguns can now be purchased on the spot in some states. To make sure that local law enforcement officers have enough time to conduct the best background check possible, the President will call for a new national waiting period of up to five days before the purchase of a handgun.

Preventing Violent Juveniles from Buying Guns

Violent juveniles should be treated as adults for their adult crimes, and stopped from getting weapons to hurt again. The President will propose legislation to ban violent juveniles from buying guns for life. The President's proposal would extend the Brady Law to violent juveniles, closing the loophole under current law which permits youths convicted in juvenile court for certain violent and drug offenses to buy handguns on their 21st birthday.

Child Safety Locks for Handguns

Child safety locking devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. And many youths have to look no further than their own home to get access to a gun: a third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. To address this problem, the President's proposal would require federally-licensed firearms dealers to sell a child safety lock with every handgun -- to help prevent youths from hurting themselves or each other.

Helping Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free

President Clinton is proposing a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program to provide more effective prevention programs for the reduction of drugs and violence in schools, more accountability for results, and better targeting to those schools that need the most assistance.. Under the President's proposal, schools would be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

On the heels of the announcement that 1998 surpassed 1997 as the warmest year on record, the President's FY 2000 budget will propose a package of investments and tax cuts to help address global climate change. It includes start-up funding for a new Clean Air Partnership Fund (discussed below) and tax incentives to promote the purchase of energy-efficient cars, homes, and appliances, spurring the swift movement of innovative technologies into the market. Proposed increases in Federal spending would help foster a new generation of clean, energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy, as well as support research to identify and quantify carbon sinks in forests and farmlands. This package complements the other elements of the Administration's climate change plan, which include working cooperatively with industry sectors on initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening efforts to incorporate energy efficiency goals into Federal procurement and energy use, working with Congress to reward companies taking early, voluntary action to reduce their emissions, and restructuring the electricity industry. In addition, the Administration will continue its vigorous diplomatic efforts to fill in key details of the Kyoto Protocol in areas such as international emissions trading, as well as to encourage the meaningful participation of developing countries in efforts to address global warming.

Livability Agenda: Easing Traffic Congestion and Community Planning and Collaboration

To help communities across America grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing a comprehensive Livability Agenda providing new tools and resources for state and local governments. The initiative includes: a record \$6.1 billion for public transit, plus \$2.4 billion for other innovative programs to promote improved transportation planning and ease traffic congestion so commuters can spend less time in traffic and more with their families; \$50 million in matching grants to help neighboring communities develop collaborative "smart growth" strategies; and \$10 million to encourage citizen participation in the design of schools as centers of their communities, provide communities with new information tools so they can grow according to their values, and improve public safety by sharing crime data among communities. By delivering tools and resources to the local level, where issues of growth are most appropriately addressed, this initiative helps empower citizens to build more "livable communities" for the 21st century.

Livability Agenda: Better America Bonds

To help communities reconnect with their land and water, preserve green space for future generations, and provide attractive settings for economic development, the Administration is proposing a new financing tool generating \$9.5 billion in bond authority for investments by state, local and tribal governments. The President's budget will propose tax credits totaling almost \$700 million over five years -- to support Better

America Bonds, which can be used to preserve green space, create or restore urban parks, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields (abandoned industrial sites). The program will be coordinated through an interagency process.

Lands Legacy Initiative

To meet the conservation challenges of a new century, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative -- the largest one-year investment ever proposed for the protection of America's land resources. This FY 2000 budget proposal -- a 125 percent increase over FY 1999 -- expands federal efforts to save America's natural treasures, and provides significant new resources to states and communities to protect local green spaces. To sustain these efforts in the new century, the President commits to work with Congress to create a permanent funding stream beginning in FY 2001. In addition, the President calls on Congress to extend permanent wilderness protection to more than 5 million acres within 17 national parks and monuments. This landmark initiative charts a new conservation vision for the 21st century, preserving irreplaceable pieces of our natural legacy within easy reach of every citizen.

Clean Air Partnership Fund

To help protect public health and ease the threat of global warming, President Clinton is proposing \$200 million in FY 2000 funding for a new Clean Air Partnership Fund supporting state, local and private efforts that achieve early reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level air pollutants. The Fund, to be included in the President's FY 2000 budget proposal, will direct new resources to state and local governments to provide financing for public and private sector projects that accelerate pollution reductions. This new financing will support demonstration projects that go beyond legal requirements and enable communities to achieve clean air goals sooner. Targeting the financing to projects that reduce both carbon emissions and health-threatening pollutants -- such as smog, soot or air toxics -- will stimulate integrated, cost-effective pollution control strategies. In addition, the Fund will spur technological innovation, encourage public-private partnerships, and leverage substantial non-federal investment in improved air quality. The Fund will be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency under existing authority.

SERVICE

AmeriCorps

President Clinton called on Congress to increase support for AmeriCorps. When he came into office, the President outlined a vision for a national service program which would allow young people to serve our nation while earning funds for college. Since 1994, more than 100,000 Americans have served their country and community through AmeriCorps. Serving in more than 4,000 communities, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored or mentored more than 2.6 million children, operated after-school programs for more than 500,000 at-risk youth, recruited or organized more than 1.7 million volunteers, and operated more than 40,000 neighborhood safety patrols. In the FY 2000 budget, the President is proposing a \$133 million dollar increase over FY 1999 for the Corporation for National Service in order to expand AmeriCorps and support other national service programs.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

The President remains committed to the enactment of bipartisan campaign finance reform. Tonight he is

challenging the Congress to pass bipartisan reform early this year. Acceptable campaign finance reform legislation must meet five criteria: 1) it must be bipartisan; 2) it must be comprehensive; 3) it must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections; 4) it must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents; and 5) it cannot favor one party over the other.

Reinventing Government

We have already cut the size of the Federal civilian work force by more than 333,000 people, creating the smallest work force in 35 years and, as a share of total civilian employment, the smallest since 1933. But can be done. As part of its reinvention effort to create a government that works better and costs less, the administration will propose legislation creating new buyout authorities for agencies to reduce the further the size of government. To improve customer satisfaction, the 32 agencies that serve over 90% of the government's customers will participate in a government-wide customer satisfaction survey that will compare the quality of their services to the private sector's. To produce better results for children, the federal government will enter into ten partnerships with state and local governments that will increase their flexibility in using federal program dollars using key indicators that reliably chart measurable improvements in the lives of children. Finally, to assist Federal agencies to provide better customer service and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent to produce results, President Clinton is proposing significant civil service improvement initiatives. These improvements, which will result in the most dramatic change in the Federal workplace in 20 years, will increase the link between pay and good performance, and provide agencies with flexibilities to hire, reward, and retain the high-quality, diverse workforce they need to meet their mission and respond to increasing customer and workplace demands.

ONE AMERICA

English Literacy/Civics Initiative

President Clinton is proposing an initiative to help states and communities provide expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction, linked to practical instruction in civics and life skills including how to navigate the workplace and public education system. This initiative is designed both to help meet the extraordinary demand for English and civics instruction in immigrant communities and to demonstrate our shared commitment to fully integrating new Americans into our social and civic life. The initiative is part of a broader effort to reduce adult literacy. Further details of this initiative will be provided at a later date.

Civil Rights Enforcement

The Clinton Administration's Fiscal Year 2000 budget contains \$663 million for civil rights enforcement agencies and offices -- an increase of \$84 million, or 15 percent, over last year's funding. This budget maintains the President's commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans: that no one should be denied such essentials as a job, a home, or a chance at an education because of the color of their skin, a disability, their gender, or their religion. Highlights of the President's package include: (1) a \$13 million increase for the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice -- the largest increase in nine years -- to permit the Division to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes), fair housing and lending cases, and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act; (2) a \$14 million Equal Pay Initiative at the EEOC and the Department of Labor; (3) a \$33 million overall increase for the EEOC -- from \$279 to \$312 million; (4) an \$11 million overall increase for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP) at the Department of Labor to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance; (5) a \$7 million overall increase from last year -- from \$40 million to \$47 million -- for HUD's efforts to reduce

housing discrimination, including funding for the second year of a three-year audit-based enforcement initiative; and (6) \$5 million to the Department of Justice for the creation of a Civil Rights Enforcement Partnership that will provide competitive grants to help build the capacity of States to address specific enforcement issues within their jurisdictions by hiring additional staff.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA")

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

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

This measure expands the principal federal hate crimes statute. The current statute prohibits any use of force that is based on a person's race, color, religion, or national origin and that is intended to interfere with certain specified federally protected activities. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department to prosecute hate crimes by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes. Further, it would give Federal prosecutors the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. President Clinton originally announced his support for the bill on November 10, 1997 at the first-ever White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

PERORATION: THE MILLENNIUM

Millennium Communities Program

The President invites community leaders and all Americans to be part of our national Millennium program, using the millennium as an opportunity to engage in meaningful activities that mark this milestone in human history. Millennium Communities is a new program of the White House Millennium Council in partnership with major intergovernmental associations which represent local elected officials and Native American leaders. The special designation of "Millennium Community" will be awarded to those communities which propose plans to carry out the national theme, "Honor the Past -- Imagine the Future." Elected officials will submit plans that preserve their history and prepare citizens for the 21st century, and their respective associations will recommend the official designation. Millennium Communities will receive the use of the national millennium logo and motto, register their projects on a new web site and be honored in other ways.

Save America's Treasures Program

Save America's Treasures is a national millennium program, designed as a public-private partnership, to preserve our deteriorating historic sites, art, artifacts, documents and monuments, so that they may inform future generations of the American story. President Clinton requested, and Congress appropriated \$30 million to Save America's Treasures in FY99. The private sector partner, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, created the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures, with Hillary Rodham Clinton as the Honorary Chair. That group has sparked attention and raised contributions which already surpass the federal commitment. Mrs. Clinton has visited over twenty historic sites and collections since last July, bringing recognition and support to the places and objects that embody our heritage and culture. Some of the preservation projects underway are the conservation of the Star-Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian Institution, the re-encasement of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution at the National Archives, and the new exhibition space at the Thomas Edison National Historic Site. The Administration's forthcoming budget will propose additional funding for Save America's Treasures.

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