

America Reads Challenge

Draft - January 14, 1997

"We ought to commit ourselves as a country to say by the year 2000, 8-year-olds in America will be able to pick up an appropriate book and say, 'I read this all by myself.'"

- Remarks by President Clinton to the Community of Fresno, CA, September 12, 1996

On August 28, 1996, President Clinton, recognizing that children are our nation's greatest asset and its future, announced the ***America Reads Challenge***. Working with parents and educators, this unprecedented initiative calls on all Americans - schools, libraries, religious institutions, universities, college students, the media, community and national groups, cultural organizations, business leaders and our nation's senior citizens -- to ensure that every American child can read well and independently by the end of 3rd grade. Reading is a skill, in particular, that is developed not only in the classroom, but also outside of school and in the home. America Reads will give students the extra help after school to be better learners inside the classroom.

- ▶ ***America Reads Challenge*** recognizes that 40% of America's fourth graders cannot read as well as they should. While students today read on average as well as ever, to keep up with the complexity of today's jobs and society, we must meet a higher standard. Research shows that if students cannot read well by the end of third grade, their chances for later success are significantly diminished, including a greater likelihood of dropping out and increased delinquent behaviors.
- ▶ ***America Reads Challenge*** is a broad scale, public commitment to helping our children read. Research supports the value that parents and other concerned individuals in local communities and the private sector can play by tutoring and mentoring. Also, teachers, libraries, and principals play a key role in strengthening reading in school and extending learning with after-school, summer and weekend programs.
- ▶ ***America Reads Challenge*** builds on the invigorating spirit of volunteer and community participation in tutoring and mentoring. Furthermore, the reading challenge takes advantage of the strength of AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve and the Senior Corps, and other community service and community-based organizations throughout America as well as promotes the involvement of 100,000 ***College Work-Study*** students.

There are five major parts to the ***America Reads Challenge***, which will be funded over 5 years when Congress passes the legislation.

- ▶ **America's Reading Corps.** This is the heart of the program that will be funded at almost \$2.5 billion. Almost \$1.5 billion in new education investments will provide after-school reading specialists to train the tutors and provide supervision and \$1 billion from the National Service budget will help recruit and organize the tutors. Together, these funds will provide 30,000 reading specialists and coordinators who will help mobilize 1 million tutors. The tutors, working with reading teachers, principals, libraries, and community-based organizations will provide individualized after-school, weekend, and summer reading tutoring for more than 3 million children a year in grades K-3 who want and need the extra help.
- ▶ **Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grants.** \$300 million in grants will be available to national and regional groups, as well as local communities and organizations. They would then foster effective programs to provide assistance for interested parents to help their children become successful readers by the end of 3rd grade.
- ▶ **Head Start Expansion.** One million 3- and 4-year olds will be reached through the expansion of Head Start programs, already earmarked in the President's balanced budget.
- ▶ **Title I/Even Start Strengthening and Expansion.** Additional investments are included in the President's balanced budget plan to expand efforts to strengthen teaching and learning during the regular school day.
- ▶ **Challenge to Private Sector to Work with Schools and Libraries.** Parents and private and non-profit groups will be actively encouraged to be a part of the President's ***America Reads Challenge*** as they have been in the U.S. Secretary of Education Riley's Partnership for Family Involvement in Education and the summer READ*WRITE*NOW! initiative.

Technology Literacy Challenge

December 12, 1996

"We know, purely and simply, that every single child must have access to a computer, must understand it, must have access to good software and good teachers and to the Internet, so that every person will have the opportunity to make the most of his or her own life."

-President Clinton, National Technology Plan, June 1996

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into the classroom. As a central element of the President's lifelong learning agenda, the Administration believes that technology can help expand opportunities for American children to improve their skills, maximize their potential, and ready them for the 21st century.

- ▶ **America's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- Leveraging State, local and private sector investments:** On February 15, 1996, the President and Secretary Riley proposed a five-year, \$2 billion fund that would support grassroots efforts at the state and local level to put the future at the fingertips of every child by the dawn of the new century -- with modern computers, high quality educational software, trained teachers, and connections to the information superhighway. \$200 million has been appropriated for fiscal year 1997. The fund will encourage and leverage efforts by states, communities, and the private sector to work in partnership with schools to reach the four goals.
- ▶ **The Technology Learning Challenge Grant Program -- High Quality Content:** In 1995 the Administration initiated a "Technology Learning Challenge," to challenge communities to form partnerships of local school systems, students, colleges, universities and private businesses to develop creative new ways to use technology for learning. 19 grants were awarded in FY95 involving 134 school districts in 23 states demonstrating the innovative uses of computers, networking and multi-media across the curriculum. In FY96 the Department received 586 applications and 24 new five year grants were awarded on October 2. \$57 million has been appropriated for fiscal year 1997 which means the Department of Education will be issuing approximately 14 new grants.
- ▶ **Education Rate for Telecommunication Services -- Affordable Access for All Schools and Libraries:** On February 8, 1996, the President signed a bold reform of the nation's telecommunications laws that will increase competition and lower prices for all consumers -- including schools and libraries. The Administration proposed that schools and libraries have universally available access to the Information Superhighway at a free or deeply discounted rate. This E-rate will ensure that no school (public, private or parochial) or library is left behind in the information age. On November 7, 1996 the Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service unanimously recommended that schools and libraries receive discounts for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections. The bipartisan and unanimous recommendation calls for discounts that range from 20-90% with an average discount of 60%. The FCC has until May 1997 to develop the rules for implementing the recommendations of the Joint Board.
- ▶ **NetDays 96 -- Wiring the Nation's Classrooms:** In March 1996 the President and Vice President joined more than 20,000 other volunteers to wire 3000 California schools in an "electronic barnraising." Companies contributed wiring kits, more than six million feet of cable, technical assistance, free Internet access, and free or discounted hardware and software. Over 40 states organized and participated in NetDays this fall, wiring over 25,000 schools, using over 250,000 volunteers and these efforts will continue. These efforts help us make significant progress in meeting our goal of wiring classrooms.

School Construction Initiative

January 22, 1997

"For the first time in the history of this country, I have proposed a program where the United States government will help communities who are willing to make an extra effort themselves to do more to provide facilities for their young people that are decent and clean and healthy and conducive to good learning." - Remarks to the Hillsborough Community, September 5, 1996

President Proposes A New Initiative to Help Local Communities and States Rebuild The Nation's Schools. Expanding and improving lifetime educational opportunities for all Americans is a key Clinton administration objective. As America moves into the 21st century, our schools should too. If our schools are in no shape for the future, our students won't be either.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE

- **Reduces the Total Costs of Financing New School Construction and Renovation.** This initiative would reduce interest, or other financing costs, on new school construction and renovation projects by up to 50%, depending on need.
- **Federal Funds Would Leverage Additional Spending on School Construction and Renovation.** One of the key criteria in distributing funds to projects will be the extent to which the spending is incremental -- above what would have occurred without this initiative.
- **Goal of 25% Increase in School Construction Over 4 Years.** National spending on school construction and renovation is currently about \$10 billion a year or \$40 billion over 4 years. By focusing on incremental or net additional construction projects, this initiative aims to ensure that **\$5 billion spent over four years spurs \$20 billion in school construction spending**. This would increase school construction by at least \$10 billion to a total of \$50 billion over 4 years -- increasing school construction by 25%.
- **Eligible projects** would include construction of elementary and secondary school facilities, renovations to ensure health and safety of students, improvements of the basic infrastructure (e.g. electrical, plumbing and heating systems), increases in energy efficiency, improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, construction that prepares facilities for installation of modern educational technology, or construction necessary for the establishment of charter and community schools.
- **State and Local Governments Maintain Responsibility and Control.** States will administer the subsidies, although a portion of the funds will be made available for school districts with the largest numbers of poor children to apply directly to the U.S. Department of Education. State participation would be voluntary.

There is compelling evidence of the need for this initiative:

- **One-Third of All School -- Serving 14 Million Students -- Need Extensive Repair Or Replacement.** According to a recent General Accounting Office report, about 60 percent of schools have at least one major building feature in disrepair, such as leaky roofs and crumbling walls. Over 50 percent have at least one environmental problem, such as poor indoor air quality. [Source: General Accounting Office Report: "School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions," June 14, 1996]
- **Schools Do Not Have The Physical Infrastructure To Allow Our Students To Meet The Challenges Of The 21st Century.** Many schools do not have the physical infrastructure to make the best use out of computers, printers, and other equipment. Almost half (46 percent) of the schools report inadequate electrical wiring for computers and communications technology, and over half (52 percent) of schools report six or more insufficient technology elements (such as fiber optics cabling, phone lines for modems, and wiring for computers). [Source: General Accounting Office, "School Facilities: America's Schools Not Designed or Equipped for 21st Century"]
- **Expected Enrollment Growth Imposes Additional Burdens.** Many school districts also face the need to build new schools to accommodate enrollment growth. Public school enrollment in grades k-12 is expected to rise 20% between 1990 and 2004. [Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1995, p. 151]

College Accessibility - America's HOPE Scholarship & Education Tax Deduction

December 4, 1996

"I want to make a community college education, two years of education after high school, just as universal in four years as a high school diploma is today."

- Remarks to the Hillsborough Community, September 5, 1996

HOPE Scholarship

- The America's **HOPE Scholarship** proposal builds upon the President's comprehensive program to guarantee that a college education is accessible and affordable to all Americans at any time in their lives.
- The **HOPE Scholarship** will make at least two years of college the standard for all Americans by providing a tax credit of up to \$1,500 to full-time, first-year postsecondary students and to full-time, second-year students who earn at least a B average. Students who attend half-time will receive a \$750 tax credit.
- The tax credit could be applied to tuition and fees at any college or one-year noncollegiate certificate program eligible to participate in Education Department student aid programs.
- Students receiving tax credits would also be eligible for other Federal student aid, including student loans, Pell Grants, and Work-Study. However, the maximum tax credit would be limited to \$1,500 minus any Pell Grant awarded to the student.
- Costs: FY 1997-2002, \$25.1 billion.

Education Tax Deduction

- The President has also proposed an up to \$10,000 tax deduction per family for tuition and fees at colleges and other postsecondary institutions for full-time or part-time study. Phase in: the maximum deduction would be \$5,000 in FY 1997 and 1998, and \$10,000 thereafter. Eligibility would be reduced by the amounts of both Federal and non-Federal student aid grants.
- Relationship between the tax credit and tax deduction: Students eligible for both the tax credit and tax deduction would choose between the two. Students who benefit from the tax credit in the first two years would still be eligible for the tax deduction in later years.
- Income Limits: Eligibility for both the tax credit and the tax deduction will be phased out for joint tax filers with incomes between \$80,000 and \$100,000 and for individual filers with incomes between \$50,000 and \$70,000.
- Costs: FY 1997-2002, \$17.8 billion. Combined costs for both tax benefits: FY 1997-2002, \$42.9 billion.
Balanced Budget: Both the tax credit and tax deduction could be enacted within the President's balanced budget plan.

"I want to build a bridge in which every single young person in America who wants to do it can go to college".

College Work-Study

January 16, 1997

As part of the President's "America Reads" Challenge to mobilize an army of tutors to ensure that every child can read well by the end of 3rd grade, President Clinton announced today a proposal to dedicate at least half of new college work-study funds to community service, including 100,000 work-study slots for reading tutors.

President Clinton's "America Reads" Challenge: The President's America Reads Challenge, announced on August 27, 1996, is designed to address the fact that 40% of children are not reading well enough by the end of third grade. Study after study finds that sustained individualized attention and tutoring after school and over the summer can raise reading levels when combined with parental involvement and quality school instruction. To address this issue, the President's America Reads Challenge called for 30,000 reading specialists and tutor coordinators — including 11,000 AmeriCorps members — to help mobilize an army of reading tutors to give our children individualized attention.

100,000 Work-Study Students to Tutor Children to Read: The President has taken a major step in fulfilling the America Reads Challenge and promoting his national service agenda by calling upon colleges to invest a significant portion of the new increases in college work-study funding toward tutoring children to read independently by the end of the third grade.

- ▶ **Reach 1 Million College Work-Study Participants:** In FY1996, college work-study received \$617 million and went to 713,000 students. In FY1997, college work-study received a 35% increase and will reach over 900,000 students — a major step toward the President's State of the Union promise of 1 million students earning their way through college under the Work-Study program by FY 2000.
- ▶ **At Least Half of College Work Study Increase Dedicated to Community Service:** Currently, schools are required to dedicate only 5% of their work-study slots to community service. The President called on colleges and universities to dedicate at least half of all increases beyond the FY1996 level be committed to community service — particularly to tutoring children to read. By committing at least half of their increases, schools will be able to use these funds for community service and tutoring children without disrupting any existing commitments.
- ▶ **Work-Study Dedicated to Employing 100,000 Tutors:** The President's initiative asks that the public service work-study slots be used to mobilize 100,000 work-study students to tutor children in reading by FY1999.
- ▶ **Waive Match for Work-Study Funds Spent on Tutoring:** In current work-study programs, employers use Federal funds to pay up to 75% of the wages for a work-study student, but must match the remaining 25%. In regulations published recently, the President has allowed schools to waive the employer match where work-study students are placed as tutors for children.

Promoting Excellence and Accountability in Teaching

Draft - January 12, 1996

"Every child needs-- and deserves-- dedicated, outstanding teachers, who know their subject matter, are effectively trained, and know how to teach to high standards and to make learning come alive."

-Memorandum for the Secretary of Education, September 12, 1996

In the President's memorandum to the Secretary of Education, he stresses the following:

In order to make sure every child has the teachers he or she deserves, as a Nation we must:

- Recruit and retain the most talented people into teaching
- Require tougher licensing and certification standards for teachers, invest in high-quality preparation and ongoing training to help teachers meet the demanding standards set by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.
- Remove incompetent teachers quickly, fairly, and at less cost than at present.
- Create systems for identifying and rewarding good teachers for achieving outstanding levels of knowledge and skills.

To ensure excellence and accountability in the Public School system the President has made the following recommendations:

- ▶ The Secretary of Education is to notify State and local education officials within 90 days of September 12, 1996 of the **Federal resources available** to address promoting excellence and accountability in teaching challenges.
- ▶ The Secretary of Education is to identify and disseminate by March 1997 **promising State and local practices** responding to each of his established challenges for teacher excellence.
- ▶ President Clinton supports **public school choice** believing that any parent not satisfied with either their child's performance or the school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will serve their needs better.
- ▶ The President called on all 50 states to enact **charter school laws** to provide for the creation of charter schools which are public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. Charter schools have greater flexibility, but are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state or other public institution.

Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS)

Raising Achievement in Math and Science:

The President and Secretary of Education are committed to raising achievement in math and science so students have the knowledge and skills to compete in the global economy. To meet the challenges identified by the **Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)**, the Education Department is developing guides to assist districts in strengthening their standards, assessment, curricula, and instruction, and is working with communities and states and the nation's math and science teachers to share best practices to boost student achievement.

***Strong Families, Strong Schools:
Initiatives to Support Family and Parental Involvement***
December 17, 1996

Thirty years of research clearly shows that family involvement is the key to children's success in school. When both parents in a family work, or a family is headed by a single working parent, the "time crunch" can make it hard for family members to get involved in their children's learning.

To help alleviate the problem, the U.S. Department of Education has urged businesses to be family-friendly and help their employees find the time to help their children learn. Many businesses have signed the "Employer's Promise for Learning" -- a pledge to support family involvement in education.

Many of these businesses offer leave time to employees so they can volunteer in school. Others allow flex-time so family members can attend school conferences during the day.

The Department has also asked schools to become more family-friendly -- and community-friendly too. Out annual initiative, America Goes Back to School: Get Involved!, offers family members and citizens food ideas for supporting their local schools. And it helps schools to reach out and break down the barriers that often separate them from families and communities.

To help more parents and family members take an active role in school and children's learning, the Administration has recommended an expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

- ▶ Family members would be allowed to take up to 24 hours of unpaid leave per year to attend parent-teacher conferences or PTA meetings, volunteer for school activities, take children to the doctor, or participate in other educational or child-rearing activities.
- ▶ Family members who work overtime would also be allowed to choose between getting paid or taking time off. They could take 1-1/2 hours off for each hour of overtime they work, up to 80 hours of overtime per year. They could use this time for family matters, including getting more involved in their children's education. In effect, workers would be able to choose between money in the bank, or time on the clock. This would require a change in the labor laws.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 25, 1995

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

President Clinton is fighting for better education and training -- from Head Start and school lunches to safe schools, higher standards, and student loans -- in order to allow young people to make the most of their lives, and to provide to every American the chance to realize the American Dream. While supporting deficit reduction, open trade, and job creation, and while fighting violence that threatens our society, the President has recognized that nothing is more critical to our nation's future than ensuring that all Americans have the education and skills they need to navigate these changing times. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to strengthening teaching and learning -- expanding and improving early childhood education, assisting local communities in improving their schools, instituting bold new reforms of adult education and training programs, and expanding financial aid for deserving college students.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO REALIZING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Improving education is important for families, the revival of civic institutions, and economic growth. In an economy where technology is constantly changing, trade is expanding, and capital is mobile, education has become the fundamental fault-line in our standard of living. Most Americans have seen their incomes stagnate over the last 15 years; the real income of the typical family has actually declined. Yet those with the most education and training have bucked the trend. In 1979, a male college graduate earned 39% more than a man with only a high school degree. By 1993, this gap had doubled, and a male college graduate out-earned his high school graduate counterpart by 80 percent. In addition, the availability of health coverage, pension plans, and other work-related benefits has become closely correlated with education levels.

A BIPARTISAN EDUCATION RECORD

While bringing the deficit down by historic amounts -- over \$600 billion so far -- President Clinton has also made investing in education a top priority. During the last Congress, Republicans and Democrats together enacted a historic series of initiatives to assist families, communities, schools, and colleges to have expanded educational opportunity in America. Landmark legislation includes:

-- Head Start Amendments of 1994 (signed 5/18/94; passed House 393-20; Senate 98-1).

-- Goals 2000: Educate America Act (signed 3/31/94; passed House 306-121; Senate 63-22).

-- Improving America's Schools Act (signed 10/20/94; passed House 362-132; Senate 77-20).

-- School-to-Work Opportunities Act (signed 5/4/94; passed House 339-79; Senate Voice Vote)

-- National and Community Service Trust Act (signed 9/21/93; passed House 275-152; Senate 57-40)

-- Direct Lending and Pay-as-You-Can Loans (signed on 8/10/93 as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act)

This year, President Clinton went a step further by proposing incentives -- through expansion of IRAs of up to \$10,000 -- for families to save for their children's college education. In addition, the President has sought to consolidate 70 programs and put Skill Grants directly in the hands of workers seeking to upgrade their education and skills.

DRAWING THE LINE ON EDUCATION

Despite the bipartisan efforts last year to expand the quality and effectiveness of education, the current budget debate points to a divide between the President and the Republican Congress over education -- the foundation of our democracy and free enterprise system. Both the President and Republicans believe we must reduce the budget deficit and balance the budget, and both propose deep cuts in discretionary spending to reach this goal. But the President also believes that in order to create more opportunity, we must reduce the education deficit by expanding investment in quality education. Most Republicans disagree. Thus, while the President's balanced budget proposal launches an all-out effort to expand educational opportunities, the GOP budgets drastically decrease educational opportunity.

THE EDUCATION GAP BETWEEN THE BUDGETS

The Republican budget resolution slashes education and training by \$36 billion for 1995 to 2002 (including \$10 billion in loan benefits to students). On July 24, the House Appropriations Committee took the first step towards making this budget resolution a reality, by cutting key education and training initiatives. By contrast, the President's budget increases investment in these same areas by \$40 billion over seven years. As a result, there is a major education gap between the President's proposal and the Republicans'.

President Clinton will fight to expand investments in quality education, and he will fight against efforts to reduce, gut, or eliminate key investments in education and job training. Following is a brief outline of the fundamental differences between the President's approach to education and the Republican approaches to education -- from pre-school through post-secondary education.

I. EXPANDING HEAD START

President Clinton has made expanding and improving pre-schooling the starting point for helping families give their children a good start on the right course. Republicans would slash these investments.

-- HEAD START. President Clinton Adds 50,000 Children; Republicans Cut Up To 180,000 Children.

President Clinton already expanded investment in Head Start by \$760 million from 1993 to 1995. Now, he proposes to increase annual funding by \$1.5 billion by 2002 to reach another 50,000 children. At the same time as he has expanded Head Start, he has also reformed the way the program works to improve teaching and facilities for all the children who participate.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee has approved reducing FY 1996 funding for Head Start to over \$100 million below the FY 1995 level and over \$500 million below the President's request. Up to 45,000 children would be cut off Head Start in 1996 if HHS is to maintain program quality. Freezing funding at the reduced level would cut off up to 180,000 children in 2002 compared to 1995.

II. IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

President Clinton has lent national support to local schools and communities working to improve the quality of their education by rigorously teaching the basics, making schools safe and drug-free, promoting increased parental involvement, raising student achievement and discipline, getting technology into the classroom, and providing opportunities to go from school to college or work. Republicans would eliminate national support for local educational improvement, leaving students without crucial resources and assistance they need to succeed.

-- THE GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT: ASSISTING LOCAL SCHOOLS.

President Clinton Helped To Create This Initiative And Would Provide \$896 Million by 2002 To Upgrade 85,000 Schools for 44 Million Children; Republicans Would Eliminate It.

President Clinton helped create Goals 2000, which supports state, community, and school efforts to raise standards of achievement and discipline and encourage students to work hard meet them. Forty-eight states are already participating in this program. In his 1996 budget, the President calls for nearly doubling the program, to almost \$700 million, with the total level rising to \$896 million by 2002. That's enough to support improvements for all 44 million children in the over 85,000 public schools.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee has approved eliminating Goals 2000 entirely--undermining what was once a bipartisan effort to spur bottom-up school improvement in schools across the nation.

-- TITLE I: HELPING CHILDREN LEARN THE BASICS. President Clinton Would Expand It Each Year; Republicans Would Freeze Funding, Depriving Over One Million Children of Aid.

President Clinton supports Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies, designed to provide needed resources to help students learn the basic subjects in school. The program has been reoriented to give schools more flexibility to support effective innovations that help all students read and write well and meet challenging standards. The President has already increased Title I funding by \$573 million over two years, and he proposes an increase of \$302 million this year, enough to serve 300,000 additional children, with further increases every year in the future.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee approved a reducing funding by \$1.1 billion in 1996, cutting as many as 1.1 million children from the program. These children from our poorest communities would be denied the opportunity they need to reach their full potential.

-- SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS. President Clinton Has Consistently Supported It; Republicans Would Gut It.

President Clinton supports this initiative to make our schools safe from drugs and violence. The program funds everything from innovative anti-violence education and after-school programs to metal detectors and security personnel. The President would maintain funding at \$500 million per year.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee cut this program by 60 percent to \$200 million, depriving over 23 million students of services in 1996 alone.

-- TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION: GETTING COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM. Republicans Would Gut This Clinton Initiative Which Leverages Private Money for Technology in Public Schools.

President Clinton has helped initiate this challenge to the

private sector to join with schools and colleges to raise student achievement through the use of computers and new learning technology in the classroom. A \$50 million federal investment in 1996 will leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in private support.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee cut this program in half to \$25 million in FY 1996, denying school districts across the country the ability to participate in this initiative, and drastically slowing the effort to leverage millions more from the private sector.

-- SCHOOL-TO-WORK OPPORTUNITIES. President Clinton Has Supported A New 50-State Movement; Republicans Would Stop It In Its Tracks.

President Clinton, with bipartisan support, signed into law the most important national program ever to help states and localities set up systems to link Federal, state, and local resources in new effective ways that ensure that all young people -- including the 70 percent of young Americans who don't get four-year degrees -- get the education they need to obtain good jobs with a future. All states have received planning funds, and eight "leading edge" states are using implementation grants to create systems that are getting positive reviews from companies nationwide. Twenty more states will begin implementation this year. President Clinton has proposed increasing support by 60 percent for FY 1996 to \$400 million, bringing to 43 the number of states implementing school to work systems. Remaining states would start up the following year.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee approved slashing the President's request by over 50 percent to \$190 million. This would seriously hamper efforts of 28 states to complete the reforms they started in 1994 and 1995; twenty-two additional states would be denied the chance to implement their reform plans to raise student skills.

-- SUMMER JOBS. President Clinton Supports Work Experiences for Youth; Republicans Would Eliminate These Jobs.

President Clinton recognizes that the summer jobs program is an important first opportunity to get work experience for many low-income youths, especially those in inner cities where jobs are scarce. Without these opportunities, these young people might not otherwise have any chance to learn skills and workplace behavior during their formative years. The President has proposed financing over 550,000 jobs in the summer of 1996 alone.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee has approved eliminating this program, with an \$872 million cut from the President's request. In the summer of 1996 alone this would eliminate this valuable work experience for over 550,000 urban and rural at-risk youth.

III. INCREASING ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Assistance with financial aid to deserving college students is an investment in America's future and helps families give their children a chance to make the most of their lives. Now more than ever, post-secondary education and job training are the gateway to America's middle class. Studies show that for every year of training a person gets after high school, his or her earnings rise by 6 to 12 percent. After 15 years in which college costs increased far faster than inflation but family incomes stagnated, President Clinton has initiated historic efforts to expand college access. Republican proposals would devastate access to post-secondary grants and loans, and to job training, setting back college access by years if not decades.

-- AMERICORPS: HELPING STUDENTS WHO HELP THEIR COMMUNITIES.

President Clinton Offers Opportunities to Nearly 50,000 Young People in AmeriCorps Next Year Alone plus over 1 Million Other Service Opportunities Each Year for People of All Ages; Republicans Would Eliminate All of AmeriCorps and More Than 750,000 of the Service Opportunities for People of All Ages.

President Clinton created AmeriCorps to enable young people to earn money for education by serving their communities -- teaching, caring for the sick, making the streets safer. Already 20,000 Americans are serving in AmeriCorps, and nearly 50,000 are expected next year. He also fully supports an additional 1 million service opportunities in Learn and Serve, VISTA, Foster Grandparents, and other programs.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee approved eliminating AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service and cut opportunities in other service programs. Over 4.3 million service opportunities for youth in their communities would be abolished over the next seven years. In FY 1996 alone nearly 50,000 young Americans from hard-working, middle class families will lose the opportunity to serve their communities through AmeriCorps in locally-identified areas of crucial need such as health care, social service, and crime prevention, and to earn an educational award to help pay for college or other training.

-- PELL GRANTS: PROVIDING THE LIFELINE TO COLLEGE FOR WORKING FAMILIES. President Clinton Raised the Maximum Grant to a Record High and Would Increase Annual Funding by \$3.4 Billion by 2002; Republicans Would Eliminate Up To 300,000 Students From The Program.

President Clinton has supported the Pell Grant program, and increased the maximum Pell Grant in his 1996 budget by 12 percent to its highest level ever, \$2,620. In his new budget, he would increase annual funding by \$3.4 billion by 2002 -- enough to reach 960,000 more recipients and increase the maximum award to \$3,128.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee approved an increase in the maximum Pell Grant by only \$100, to \$2440. Furthermore, the committee approved eliminating about 300,000 students from the program who would receive awards between \$400 and \$600 under the President's proposal. For millions of students, grants make the difference between going to college and not going, between staying in school and dropping out. For example, \$250 equals approximately 25% of tuition and fees of community colleges.

-- IN-SCHOOL INTEREST EXEMPTION: HELPING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES PAY FOR COLLEGE. Republicans Would Raise College Costs for Up to 4 Million Students.

President Clinton supports the in-school interest exemption, under which four million need-tested students with Stafford loans do not have to pay interest while enrolled in school and during the grace period (six months) between leaving school entering repayment.

Republicans in their budget resolution propose \$10 billion in cuts in student loans. In order to achieve that level of savings and preserve unnecessary payments to banks, secondary markets, and guaranty agencies, they will not only have to eliminate any subsidy for graduate or professional students, but also hit college students with higher fees--for example, eliminating the six month grace period for interest after college or raising the origination fees that every student must pay to get their loans.

-- DIRECT LENDING AND INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION ACCOUNTS: MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE. President Clinton Supports Expanding These Initiatives; Republicans Want To Raise the Cost to Students and Reduce Access.

President Clinton supports expanding the new direct lending program and individual education accounts. Direct lending eliminates billions of dollars in unnecessary payments to lenders and others and makes student loans cheaper and more efficient for students, schools, and taxpayers. With the passage of the Student Loan Reform Act, 104 schools and over 252,000 students initiated the program in 1995. On July 1, 1995, more than 1,400 schools -- representing about 40 percent of all loans and the maximum allowed under this year's authorization -- began the second year on schedule. The President would expand the program to all schools and students. This program is already saving \$6.8 billion for taxpayers, lowering interest rates for students, and allowing borrowers to choose flexible repayment arrangements, including pay-as-you-earn plans through Individual Education Accounts. In time, 20 million current borrowers and 6 million new borrowers per year will benefit.

Republicans have proposed legislation to reduce funds available for direct lending, prevent more schools from choosing to participate in the initiative, and cap participation at 40 percent of all loans. The committee mark also approved a reduction in direct loan administration funds by over 40 percent in order to cripple implementation and to deny the benefits of direct lending to low and middle income students. These actions will stop the growth of cost-effective, efficient direct lending in order to keep unnecessary payments flowing to wealthy banks and unnecessary middlemen.

-- EDUCATION AND TRAINING TAX DEDUCTION: REWARDING PARENTS WHO INVEST IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION. President Clinton Supports A Deduction; With All the Tax Breaks for the Wealthy, Republicans Don't.

President Clinton supports a tax deduction for middle-class families with education and job training expenses up to \$10,000. This deduction would provide tax-favored treatment to education similar to the benefits for other investments like housing and equipment. It invests in those who invest in themselves and in America.

Republicans do not support the education and training tax deduction. With its \$20,000 tax cut for the wealthiest 1 percent, the Contract with America includes tax breaks for capital gains, gifts and inheritances in excess of \$600,000, and the depreciation of business purchases--but not for education.

IV. LIFELONG LEARNING

In order to maintain good job prospects throughout their lives in a fast-changing economy, Americans need the opportunity to upgrade their education and skills regularly. President Clinton wants to support lifelong learning by reforming job training programs and putting resources and information directly into workers' hands. Republicans just want to slash job training.

-- G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS FOR WORKERS (SKILL GRANTS). President Clinton Supports Skill Grants for America's Workers; Republicans Want a 25 Percent Cut in Job Training Funds.

President Clinton: Under the adult reform proposal, low-income or dislocated workers (and others) could go to a One-Stop Center for help to get jobs, and learn about the services and track records of job training programs. Then, they could use Skill Grants at their own choice among those institutions. The President would provide 800,000 Skill Grants in 1996 alone. For youth training programs, the President proposes to build on and intensify the national reform out-of-school youth. Youth programs would be streamlined and funding would be consolidated in a \$2.9 billion State grant, replacing current fragmented efforts under the Perkins Vocational Educational

and Job Training Partnership Act. In total, the President proposes to increase funding (excluding Pell Grants) by over \$2 billion by 2002.

Republicans: The House Appropriations Committee cut funding by 50 percent below the President's request, and 25 percent below the FY 1995 level.

These cuts would deny reemployment services to 506,100 dislocated workers and deny training opportunities to 84,000 disadvantaged adults compared with the President's request. Republicans also eliminate over 550,000 job opportunities for disadvantaged youth by not funding the Summer Youth Employment Program. Millions of young people will lose the opportunity to develop adequate work preparation skills and obtain good first jobs.