

DATE: October 8, 1999

TO: John Podesta
Chief of Staff
The White House

FROM: Charlotte Fraas
Director, Federal Legislation
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

RE: Presentation before AFT's Government Relations Conference

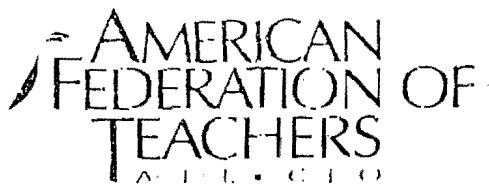
Thank you for agreeing to speak at AFT's Government Relations Conference on October 21, 1999 at 9:00 AM. This is to provide you with information on the purpose of the conference, the attendees, and what we would like you to cover in your presentation.

The conference is designed to equip AFT leaders throughout the country with information they will need to mobilize for political action as we approach the 2000 elections. The three-day conference will focus on techniques of mobilization, the political scene, and important legislative issues for AFT's membership that will guide the union's support for national candidates. About 200 state and local leaders and political activists will attend.

We would like you to offer the White House's perspective on key issues before Congress as we end the first session and head into the election year. Specifically,

- What is the status of the "big picture" -- the budget situation generally, the appropriations fight, the "endgame" for this year? AFT has lobbied hard against the Republican budget agenda focused on tax cuts. Members support the Social Security "lock box" and will want to know how our priorities—Medicare, Social Security, education and other discretionary funding-- will be accommodated in the larger budget picture.
- Where does the Administration's education agenda stand, particularly the school modernization and class size initiatives. Many of AFT's activists have been involved in recent grassroots efforts to focus national attention in these areas, particularly school modernization. AFT was a major player in designing the Norfolk, VA and New York City school modernization events attended by the President and First Lady, respectively. The class size program has crept in to the ESEA and education budget debates—how do we most effectively lobby to keep a discrete program?
- How do you see the Patients' Bill of Rights legislation playing out—do you expect to see an effective bill become law or do you think this will end up being an election issue? What is the prospect for Medicare reform, including the prescription drug benefit, as your Administration goes into its last year? AFT represents over 50,000 nurses and we were very active in promoting patients' rights legislation. Medicare reform also has implications for the hospitals employing our nurses as well as AFT retirees.

We would like you to touch on these and any other issues you believe will be of interest to our attendees and leave some time for questions during the hour we have allotted for your presentation October 21. You should know that attendees' afternoon that day will be spent lobbying on Capitol Hill so your thoughts will be particularly timely and helpful to them.



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SANDRA FELDMAN
President

EDWARD L. McELROY
Secretary-Treasurer

NAT LACOUR
Executive Vice President

9/22 memo

Schedule
RSVP'D

YES
9/28

by FM

September 8, 1999

John D. Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
First Floor, West Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Podesta:

On behalf of AFT President Sandra Feldman, I am writing to invite you to speak at this year's AFT Government Relations Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, October 20-22, 1999.

The conference hosts about 250 of AFT's key political activists from across the country and is designed to provide information and discussion on a variety of issues, including successful strategies for participation in the year 2000 elections.

We hope you will be able to accept our invitation to speak on Thursday, October 21st from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. We would like you to update our leaders and members on the status of key domestic policy discussions between the White House and Capitol Hill affecting education, the budget, taxes and Medicare. We would be particularly interested in hearing your perspective on both the process and potential outcomes as you approach the end-of-session negotiations. We would also like to build in a short time at the end of the hour for questions from the audience.

If you have any questions or need any additional details, please contact me at 202-879-4422.

Sincerely,

Gigi Georges

Assistant to the President for Government Relations



Date: 9/29/99

TO: Fern for Mr. Podesta

Fax:() 456-1907

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FROM: American Federation of Teachers
Office of Government Relations
Political and Legislative Department
Tel: 202-879-4454
Fax: 202-879-4726

- ☐ Juanita Dunlap Smith
- ☐ Kim Moran
- ☐ Foster Stringer
- ☐ Bill Tammelleo
- ☒ Jodie Fingland
- ☐ Sue Huff

Message:

We are so pleased that Mr. Podesta will be able to join us on Thursday morning, October 21st. As you can see from the attached agenda, we are using the morning program to provide information that will be useful to our members during their visits to the Hill later that day. Mr. Podesta's insight on the budget process will be particularly helpful in preparing them to discuss budgetary matters with their congressional members.

Mr. Podesta's portion of the program will be in the Yorktown/Valley Forge room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, located on 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. and will begin at 9:00 a.m. Please call me at 202-879-4454 if you have any questions.

Jodie

Preliminary Agenda
Government Relations Conference
Hyatt Regency Hotel
October 20-22, 1999

Wednesday, October 20th

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Address/Speaker: AFT President Sandra Feldman
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Panel Discussion/2000 Elections and Labor 2000 Invited Speakers: Donna Brazile, Political Director, Gore 2000; Steve Rosenthal, Political Director, AFL-CIO; Rob Engel, Executive Director, Democratic National Committee; Moderator: Nat LaCour, AFT Executive Vice President
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Luncheon and Speaker
2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Workshops: Fundraising Strategies; Political/Legislative Infrastructure; Utilizing Technology; Delegate Selection; Key Races in the States; Lobbying Strategies; Census 2000
3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Workshops Repeat

Thursday, October 21st

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Briefing on Reconciliation Package/Invited Speaker: John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Issues Briefing/Speaker: Charlotte Fraas, AFT Legislative Director
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Lobbying on the Hill
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Reception on the Hill

Friday, October 22nd

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Seated Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Regulations: It's Not Over 'Til It's Over/Speakers: Jerry Morris, AFT Legislative Research Director; Mary Cross, AFT Legislative Research Associate Director
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Winning Back the House/Speaker: House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Retaining the White House/Invited Speaker: Tony Coelho, Chair, Gore 2000
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Wrap-up/Speaker: Ed McElroy, AFT Secretary-Treasurer



Office of Government Relations

Gigi Georges, Assistant to the President and Secretary-Treasurer for Government Relations
 Juanita Dunlap Smith, Director, Political & Legislative Mobilization Department
 Charlotte Fraas, Director, Legislation Department
 Gerald Morris, Director, Legislative Research Department
 Liz Smith, Director, Political Department