

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. chart	Re: NFCAP: Universe of Players/Independent Living Contacts (partial) (1 page)	11/29/99	P6/b(6)
002. email	To Nicole R. Rabner from Robin Nixon re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth (partial) (1 page)	12/09/99	P6/b(6)
003. email	To Nicole R. Rabner from Robin Nixon re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth (partial) (1 page)	12/09/99	P6/b(6)
004. note	Re: possible attendees (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	P6/b(6)
005. chart	Re: Alumni: First Choices (partial) (2 pages)	n.d.	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 20366

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption and Foster Care/ILP [Independent Living Program] Bill Signing 12-14-99

2012-0565-S

ry1229

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.



● June Shih

12/14/99 04:43:26 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR FOSTER CARE BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 14, 1999**

Welcome to the White House. This is truly a great day. In a few minutes, the President will sign into law landmark legislation to strengthen our foster care system. It is a bill that will give help and hope to the thousands of young people who are struggling to make a safe transition to adulthood and independence. None of this would be possible without so many of the people in this room.

Acknowledgments: Sec. Donna Shalala and her team at HHS, including Mary Bourdette, Pat Montoya, former Commission Carol Williams; Members of Congress (list TK); Mayor Williams and his mother, Virginia, who welcomed him into her family when he was three and authorities were about to declare him unadoptable. They are among the best advertisements for the rewards and possibilities of adoption in America; the Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund, and all those tireless child advocates who worked to raise awareness about this issue. The Casey Family Program and

Annie E. Casey Foundation for their support of young people in transition.

And I'd very much like to thank someone whom I am sure is here with us in spirit, the late Senator John Chafee. On the Friday before he died, I called the Senator to wish him a happy birthday. I also managed to do a little lobbying for the Foster Care Independence Act, which had hit a few roadblocks in the Senate.

By the end of our conversation, we were both feeling re-energized and inspired to work even harder for the young people who were counting on this bill.

I understand that one of his last instructions to his staff was to set up meetings with the Senators he felt could be swayed to support the bill. We all know that, had he lived, John Chafee would not have rested until he had won over all the votes he needed. So we are all grateful today that his colleagues in the Senate have stepped forward to honor his final wish. I am pleased that Sen. Chafee's son, Sen. Lincoln Chafee, could join us today.

Since the President took office, we have seen a transformation in America's efforts to strengthen our foster care system. With the

Family and Medical Leave Act, we've helped adoptive parents – and all new parents -- take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance. We've put an end to racial discrimination in adoption, prohibiting agencies from denying qualified parents of one race to adopt a child of another. Most important, in 1997, we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which cut dramatically the amount of time a child can spend in foster care, and set an ambitious goal of doubling the number of annual adoptions by the year 2002.

And, as the President was able to announce in September, we are well on our way to meeting that goal.

But it wasn't long after we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act that we recognized the need to turn our efforts to a new challenge – helping those young people who never had the luck of finding a permanent family in childhood, fulfill their promise in adulthood.

For so many Americans, the 18th birthday is an important and happy milestone. Turning 18 means that you can vote. It means that you can go away to college or get a job. But it should never mean that you are on your own. For too many young people, turning 18 is just

the beginning of a lonely – and sometimes harrowing – journey toward adulthood. Just half of all young people who have aged out of foster care complete high school. Fewer than one in three have health care. One in four have been homeless.

Two years ago, I went to California to meet a group of young people who had “aged out” of foster care. They told me about being forced out of their foster homes on their birthdays, about staying in a cold dorm room, alone, during the holidays, about getting sick and having no insurance and no one to turn to for help. They also reminded me of so many of the smaller things those of us who have families take for granted long after we leave home.

It was late November – and I will never forget what one young woman said to me: “It’s almost Thanksgiving and I have no one to call and ask how to bake a turkey.”

I have been humbled by the resilience and determination I have seen in the young people I have met. I think of Joy Warren – who spent all of her teen years in foster care. And still, she found the will not only to continue her education in college, but to attend Yale Law School and become a powerful voice for foster children across America. I think of Terry Harak, whom I had the honor of meeting at the White House last January. On her eighteenth birthday, in the

middle of her senior year, Terry found herself without foster care, without a job, without a place to call home. But she didn't give up. She spent the night at teachers' and friends' houses, in metro terminals, in hospital emergency rooms. And every morning, she would wake up and go to school. Last June, she graduated. Today she is working -- and a student in college.

But for every Terry Harak, for every Joy Warren, how many more young people of promise are at risk of slipping through the cracks? That is why last winter, I was very proud to unveil a new proposal in the President's budget that would extend the foster care safety net to those young people who have aged out of the foster care system but still need our help to become good, productive citizens.

And today, I am very proud to see that this bill -- based largely on our proposal -- is about to become law. The Foster Care Independence Act recognizes one fundamental principle: All of us must take responsibility for helping these young people build lives worthy of their spirit and potential. We cannot allow the spark of possibility in any of our young people to be extinguished simply because America didn't do our part. From this day forward, we say to all Americans, no young person -- especially those who have never known the support of a safe, loving, permanent family -- should have to make the passage to

adulthood alone.

This has truly been a remarkable bipartisan achievement. But it also is the achievement of so many others: The former foster children who stepped forward to make their stories known, the newspapers and television stations who publicized their plight, the researchers who backed up the heartbreaking stories with hard statistics, the advocates and private citizens who lobbied Congress. In this season of giving, I can think of no better gift to our children – and our future.

Now I am proud to introduce two people who can tell us why this law is so important. Alfred Perez, one of the eloquent young people I first met two years ago in California, will speak first. He will be followed by Kristi Jo Frazier of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both of them will tell you more about their challenges – and more importantly

Nicole R. Rabner

12/14/99 04:26:27 PM

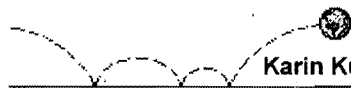
Record Type: Record

To: Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: bios for flotus

----- Forwarded by Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP on 12/14/99 04:26 PM -----



Karin Kullman

12/13/99 05:19:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: bios for flotus



flotus.fosterbill.bios.d Here's another version for you. I just added a sentence at the end of Alfred's bio to remind her that she met him in 1997.

FOSTER CARE YOUTH BIOGRAPHIES

Mr. Percy Bailey, St. Louis, MO

Percy Bailey, 24, is currently employed as a police officer in the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department in St. Louis, MO. At the age of 11 his mother passed away, and his father was unable to care for Percy and his five siblings. He and his siblings were placed in several temporary living situations, and were separated and reunited several times. Percy lived with various family members, in foster homes, and emergency shelters. Despite the instability in his life, Percy was an active high school student, participating on the track team, yearbook staff and in other organizations and clubs. However, during his junior year in high school he turned 18, and had no where to turn. His caseworker introduced him to the Independent Living Program (ILP). With help from the ILP, Percy found his own apartment, held a part-time job, and completed high school with honors and as his class Vice President.

Ms. Amy Clay, Washington, D.C

Amy Clay, 19, originally from Belleville, Illinois, is a sophomore at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She entered the foster care system at the age of 14, and is currently completing the Illinois Independent Living Program. During the last year and a half here in Washington, she has interned for the American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law and in the Public Policy Office at the Child Welfare League of America. Looking upon her own transition to independence, she values the positive support systems that she was able to build along the way in her foster parents, teachers and friends. She hopes to see this bill assist other foster youth in building similar support systems so that they too can realize their dreams and see success as they move into adulthood.

Ms. Ronee Collins, Auburn, WA

Ronee Collins, 19, entered the state foster care system at age 9 due to an abusive stepfather. She learned about The Casey Family Program and its services for foster youth through her own initiative, and joined the program at age 14. Prior to high school graduation, she participated in a Casey-sponsored transition program, which provided a safety net for her medical and dental needs. She also participated in the Community and Jobs Internship Network (CAJIN), a program that helped her find an internship (supported by Casey) at the Tacoma News Tribune where she worked as a photographer and advertising assistant. She did such a good job that the paper offered her a contracted position. She is a full-time student at Tacoma Community College and also works for the community college newspaper. Ronee is a self-confident person who knows the importance of having local programs to help foster youth make the transition from care to independence.

Ms. Kristi Jo Frazier, Cincinnati, OH

Kristi Jo Frazier, 19, is currently living on her own as part of the Lighthouse Youth Services Independent Living Program. Kristi spent several years in a foster home and completed a 30-hour training in self-sufficiency skills before entering independent living. Kristi graduated from St. Bernard High School in 1999 and is currently attending Cincinnati State University as a business major. Kristi also holds a full time job with the Keidel Supply company in the accounting department. In a few months Kristi will leave the child welfare system, and thanks to the Lighthouse program she is well prepared for life on her own.

Mr. John Gutierrez, Pasadena, CA

John Gutierrez, 20, was one of the first transitional foster youth to live in the United Friends of the Children Bridges to Independence transitional housing program. John entered the foster care system at the age of 12, and has no family. He has lived in group homes, foster homes and Los Angeles County's emergency shelter for abused and abandoned children. He attended eight high schools in four years. After graduating from high school, John entered the Bridges transitional housing program for 20 months, and learned how to become independent and self-sufficient by attending life skills classes. He credits his social worker for making a positive difference in his life. In July, John left the transitional housing program and is currently living and supporting himself successfully on his own. Over the last two years, he has been attending Santa Monica City College, majoring in Art, and has held two part time jobs, one at a law firm and the other as a teacher's assistant at a local middle school. John hopes to continue to make a difference in the lives of other foster youth by sharing both his struggles and his eventual success living as an independent adult.

Ms. Terry Harrak, Annandale, VA

Terry Harrak, 20 and originally from Vienna, VA, is a student at Northern Virginia Community College and currently works for both the Youth Law Center and the Child Welfare League of America. In foster care from age 15 to 18, Terry found herself homeless within a month of leaving the foster care system. Despite a lack of parental support or a permanent, stable living situation, she graduated from high school in June 1998. At 20, Terry is still looking for a sense of permanence and a place to call home. She believes that no young person can survive without a network of support, and that more transitional living programs, independent living services, and strategies to help young people establish good relationships and networks of support should be developed.

Ms. Cynthia Brunelle Ivon, Greenville, RI

Cynthia, 21, entered foster care at the age of fourteen. After numerous hospital stays due to bouts with depression and post-traumatic stress, her family placed her in the custody of the state. She spent her high school years in psychiatric hospitals, group homes, and intense residential treatment programs. When she was fourteen, she was told that she would never live off of medication or out of an institution. She entered an independent living program at the age of 18, and it changed her life. She is now a social work student, and has helped to coordinate conferences for the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families and the New England Network. She has served for two years as Chairwoman of the Rhode Island Youth Advisory Board, and with her colleagues on the Board was instrumental in the passage of the DCYF Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant program for Rhode Island's foster youth.

Mr. Craig Jaffe, New York, NY

Craig Jaffe, 21, was born in Colombia and immigrated to the United States when his family adopted him. He entered the foster care system as a young teenager, and stayed in care until the age of 21. Craig lived in the Green Chimneys Gramercy Life Skills Residence in New York City for two years, before transitioning to the Supervised Independent Living Apartment Program,

where he lived for an additional three years. Last June, Craig, at age 21, made the full transition from foster care to independence. Craig graduated from high school in 1995 and attended Pace College for two years. Currently, Craig is employed full time by the Stonewall Foundation in New York City as a grant specialist and resides in his own apartment in the East Harlem area of New York City.

Mr. Roberto Marte, New York, NY

Roberto Marte, 18, was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to the United States with his mother in 1987. Roberto entered the foster care system at age 14, and is currently a resident of the Green Chimneys Gramercy Life Skills Program in New York. In June of 2000, Roberto will graduate from the New York City Board of Education's Audre Lorde High School. Roberto currently works part-time after school in Manhattan, and plans to attend college after graduation.

Mr. Alfred Perez, Ann Arbor, MI

Alfred Perez, 23, was in foster care twice for a total of eleven years. During his last four years in care, he lived in eleven different placements, mostly in group homes. During that time, Alfred carried his belongings from place to place in a plastic garbage bag. At age 15, Alfred started participation in the Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) where he learned life skills and employment skills. Alfred also became a member of the California Youth Connection (CYC), an organization that empowers youth to advocate for their welfare at the local and State levels. Alfred graduated from San Jose State University in 1998, and worked full time at CYC. Currently, Alfred is in his first year of graduate school at the University of Michigan, studying social work. Through the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP), Alfred learned a variety of life skills, received job training, and received support for educational achievement. Alfred credits his involvement with California Youth Connection (CYC) with broadening his leadership skills, professional experiences in public policy, and learning the importance of public participation in the policy making process. Alfred participated in a roundtable with you in Berkeley, CA in 1997.

Ms. Ebony Thompson, Baltimore, MD

Ebony Thompson, 19, resides in a foster home in Baltimore, Maryland. In June 1999 Ebony secured employment as a part-time package handler at the UPS Burtonsville, Maryland Hub Facility, where she is still employed as a small sorter. She is a participant in the UPS School-to-Career Partnership for Youth in Foster Care, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and facilitated by the Living Classrooms Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. For the last half year, Ebony has been a peer leader and a consistent positive influence in the UPS Partnership. In January 2000, she will begin studying respiratory therapy at Baltimore City Community College, with the goal of becoming a respiratory technician.

Ms. Joy Warren, Berkeley, CA

Joy Warren, 26, originally from San Diego, California, is currently studying law at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Joy graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, and has worked on issues affecting foster youth for both the Youth Law Center and the California Youth Connection. She was in foster care from the age of 13 until she graduated from high school at 18, and has two younger sisters, Melody and Crystal, who also grew up in the

foster care system. Joy plans to become an attorney for foster youth and hopes to increase opportunities for these young people to participate in policy changes that will positively impact their lives.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LANDMARK LAW TO HELP FOSTER CARE YOUTH PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

December 14, 1999

President Clinton today will sign into law the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation, based on an initiative proposed by the President and the First Lady, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It empowers those leaving foster care by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling and other services. The new law is only the latest instance of the Administration's longstanding commitment to children and families.

FOSTER CARE YOUTH FACE CHALLENGES AS THEY ENTER ADULTHOOD. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth find themselves inadequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the women have given birth, and less than one in five are completely self-supporting.

NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES NEW HOPE FOR THESE YOUTH. Under previous laws, federal financial support for these young people ended just as they were making the transition to independence. The Act the President will sign today authorizes \$700 million over five years to help these young people cross this critical bridge:

- **Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program.** The Independent Living program, run through the states, helps older foster care children earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Today's new law doubles the program's funding to \$140 million per year, and invests \$350 million more over five years in these services. Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, enabling more young people to obtain a college education. It also enables states to provide time-limited financial assistance to help these youth with living expenses as they develop the skills and education needed to move successfully into the workforce. The Act the President will sign today also renames the program in honor of John Chafee, the late Senator who so effectively championed the needs of children.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The new law grants states the option for these young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. Today, HHS will issue guidance to all State Medicaid Directors encouraging them to take up this option.
- **Honoring America's Heroes.** In an unrelated provision, the Act provides a special monthly cash benefit to Filipino veterans who served under the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II if they were eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and later choose to move outside the United States. Previously, Filipino veterans who were eligible to receive SSI benefits would lose them if they were to return to the Philippines.

- **A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION.** With today's new law, the Administration adds to an unprecedented record of promoting the well-being of children and providing them permanent, loving homes. In 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent -- from 28,000 to 36,000 -- and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. Among the President's other steps to improve child welfare and encourage adoption:
- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** Last month the President secured in the budget agreement a 40 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents. The program will now be funded at \$20.7 million.
- **Enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.** Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, this landmark law made the health and safety of children a clear priority, provided the first-ever financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, tightened the time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed other barriers to adoption.
- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton enacted a \$5,000 tax credit for families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President provided more support for families who adopt with a \$500 per-child tax credit. And under the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time with a newly adopted child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed into law by the President ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** The Clinton Administration has given 25 states waivers to test innovative strategies for improving state child welfare systems. The Administration has provided states technical support to improve court operations and grants to support local adoption projects, and has also secured federal funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program to serve at-risk children and families.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

**FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999 BILL SIGNING
INTERNAL Q&A**

December 14, 1999

Q: Some have claimed that this bill undermines the goal of adoption, because it pours more resources into the very services that have failed these young people. Is this true?

A: No. This Administration is indisputably committed to promoting adoption, and has taken numerous steps toward that goal. In fact, in 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent – from 28,000 to 36,000 – and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. The bill the President will sign today will help those young people for whom adoption will not be possible – those who “age out” of the system by turning 18 without being placed with adoptive parents or another permanent relationship. These young people will benefit from the enhanced access to services that this bill provides. The bill recognizes, however, that young people in foster care, including older teens, continue to need and deserve opportunities for permanent, adoptive families. Therefore, the bill provides independent living services that can be provided concurrent with adoption services.

Q: How does this bill differ from the President's proposal in his FY 2000 budget?

A: The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 is largely based on the President's request in his FY 2001 budget – providing additional funding to the Independent Living program which offers older youth in foster care educational, vocational and employment training, daily living skills, substance abuse prevention, and connections to dedicated adults as mentors. The bill also adopts the President's plan, enabling the program for the first time to include support for room and board, and provide states with the option to offer these young people Medicaid until their 21st birthday. In addition, the bill increases the asset limit and allows youths to have \$10,000 in savings and still be eligible for foster care payments, so that they can save for college, an apartment or other needs that are critical for successful independence. Finally, the bill establishes accountability for states in implementing their programs by requiring data collection and evaluation.

Q: The bill the President is signing authorizes the program at \$140 million, but the budget agreement included only \$105 million. How do you plan to secure the additional resources?

A: The Administration plans to request the \$35 million in a supplemental appropriations bill when the Congress returns.

Q: What does our nation's child welfare system look like today? How many children are in it and how long do they stay in foster care on average?

A: Today, approximately 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. More than 100,000 of these children cannot return safely to their homes and need adoptive families. Our most recent data indicates that nearly half had been in care 24 months or longer. Of the children in care, the average age is 9 years old; 35 percent are white, 45 percent are black and 14 percent are Hispanic. Also, five percent of children turn 18 and leave the foster care system without having a permanent home.

Q: How much funding does the federal government invest in foster care and adoption services?

A: The federal government provides over \$5.5 billion to states to run their foster care, adoption and child welfare programs. The funding provides a variety of supports to states which include: preventive services, investigations of child abuse and neglect, caseworkers and administrators, foster care adoption benefits to families, training, recruitment of foster and adoptive families, demonstration grants to test innovative programs, services for teenagers who are leaving foster care to be on their own, and supports for children with special needs. States must provide matching funds in order to access a majority of these funds.

Q: What does this Act do with respect to veterans receiving benefits under the Social Security Act?

A: Previously, Filipino World War II veterans were not qualified for most veteran's benefits, including pensions, but many Filipino World War II veterans were eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and such veterans would lose these benefits if they were to return to the Philippines. This Act (H.R. 3443) amends the Social Security Act to allow such veterans to be eligible to receive a special monthly cash benefit if they were eligible for SSI during the month of this bill's enactment and later choose to move outside the United States.

We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. Today, the President is signing important legislation to assure that Filipino Veterans are eligible for assistance under the Social Security Income system. This legislation builds on the Presidential Proclamation and Congressional Resolution that the President signed in 1996 that recognized the valor and service of the Filipino World War II veterans.

Background: During World War II, the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines which was a territory of the United States at the time, were drafted to serve in the United States Armed Forces by Presidential Executive Order. However, in 1946, Congress passed legislation to deny benefits to Filipino World War II veterans. As a result, Filipino World War II veterans have been fighting to restore benefits that were

denied to them under this law. In Immigration Act of 1990, gave Filipino World War II veterans an opportunity to emigrate and naturalize as United States.

Q: Does the Administration support legislation, H.R. 1594 proposed by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) to provide Veterans health benefits to Filipino World War II veterans?

A: We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. In the Administration's budgets for FY 1999 and 2000, the Administration proposed equitable compensation for those Filipino World War II Veterans with service-connected disabilities from 50 percent to 100 percent. We are pursuing a similar proposal for the upcoming budget. We do not have a formal position on H.R. 1594 but are currently reviewing this proposal.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
HELPING FOSTER CARE YOUTH PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

December 14, 1999

"Hillary and I, and this Administration, have made it a priority to help America's most vulnerable children...We cannot afford to give up on the future, and these young people are America's future – and our shared responsibility."

President Bill Clinton

December 14, 1999

Today, at the White House, President Clinton, joined by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, will sign a landmark law to help foster care youth prepare for independent living. The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 will help ensure that young people leaving foster care will get the tools they need to make the most of their lives by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other services. This new law, based on an initiative proposed by the President and the First Lady, is the latest example of the Clinton-Gore Administration's longstanding commitment to children and families.

Challenges Faced by Foster Care Youth. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or guardian. Without the emotional, social, and financial support that families provide, many of these youth find themselves unprepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half of these young people have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of females have given birth, and fewer than one in five are completely self-supporting.

Providing New Hope. Under previous laws, federal financial support for young people in foster care ended just as they were making the transition to independence. The new law President Clinton will sign today authorizes \$700 million over five years to help these young people cross this critical bridge. The law:

- * Doubles funding for the Federal Independent Living Program, which helps older foster care children earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills, and renames the program in honor of John Chafee, the late senator who championed the needs of children;
- * Requires states to serve youth up to 21 years old, enabling more young people to obtain a college education;
- * Enables states to provide financial assistance to these youth as they learn skills to enter the workforce; and
- * Allows states to extend health insurance coverage under Medicaid for foster care youth to age 21.

A Record of Commitment to Foster Care and Adoption. Today's new law adds to the Administration's record of promoting the well-being of children and providing them permanent, loving homes. Other actions by the President to improve child welfare and encourage adoption include:

- * A 40% increase in the Transitional Living Program, which funds support services for homeless adolescents;
- * Enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, which removed adoption barriers and provided the first-ever financial incentives for states to increase adoptions;
- * Making adoption affordable by offering tax credits for families adopting children;
- * Allowing parents to take time off with a newly adopted child without losing their jobs or health insurance;
- * Removing racial and ethnic barriers to adoption through new provisions which ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays due to race, culture, or ethnicity;
- * Giving states flexibility and support to test innovative strategies for improving their child welfare systems;

and

- * Using the Internet to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care.

129 total
98 on this list

Foster Care
Independent Set of 99999

4¹⁵ pm: open doors
445-530

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS PROJECT

Universe of Players Independent Living Contacts

Index:

- Alumni - 10
- Child Advocate Organizations - 25
- Child Welfare Administrators / State - 15
Leaders 116A / State Council
- Corporations - 5
- Education Organizations
- ~~Entertainers~~
- Faith-Based Organizations - 2
- Foster Parents - 5
- Foundations - 23
- ~~Independent Living Coordinators/
Foster Care Managers~~
- Judges / Legal Advocates - 8
- Media Representatives - 2
- Researchers - 6
- Resource Center / Organizations - 5
- Service Providers / Organizations - 9
- State Legislators / Governors - 1
- Think Tanks - 3
- ~~Unions~~
- Youth Development Specialists - 3

Alumni ¹	Comments
10 TO COME	
Child Welfare Administrators / State Agency CEOs	Comments
ALL STATE INFO TO COME FROM HHS.	
15 TOTAL	
Child Advocate Organizations	Comments
25 TOTAL <i>in 25</i>	

¹ Additional alumni contacts are available through most of the service provider organizations listed below.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. chart	Re: NFCAP: Universe of Players/Independent Living Contacts (partial) (1 page)	11/29/99	P6/b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 20366

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption and Foster Care/ILP [Independent Living Program] Bill Signing 12-14-99

2012-0565-S
ry1229

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

UP TO 5 TOTAL WAIT TO CALL THIS GROUP Michael Potin, Co-Director Shirley Marcus Allen, Co-Director Kathy Barbell, Director of Foster Care Robin Nixon, Director of Youth Services Karabelle Pizzigati, Director of Public Policy Elizabeth Meitner, Sr. Policy Analyst Maria Garin, Youth Development Training Coordinator Child Welfare League of America 440 First Street NW, Third Floor Washington, DC 20001 202-638-2952	NFCAP organizational member Kathy Barbell, Robin Nixon – NFCAP committee member
Marian Wright Edelman, President and CEO Mary Lee Allen Director, Child Welfare Division Children's Defense Fund 25 E Street NW Washington, DC 20001 202-628-8787	
Jim Clark, Executive Director National Independent Living Association 4203 Southpoint Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32216 904-296-1038	NFCAP organizational member
David Liederman, CEO Council on Accreditation 120 Wall Street, 11th Floor New York, N.Y. 10005 212-797-3000	Former Executive Director, CWLA
Della Hughes, Executive Director National Network for Youth 1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401 Washington, DC 20004 202-783-7949	NFCAP organizational members Rebecca Lane, NFCAP committee member
Carol Williams University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work [001] [redacted] - H 215-898-2507 - W	

Karin Pittman International Youth Foundation 301-270-6250	
Terry Cross Director National Indian Child Welfare Association 3611 SW Hood Street, Suite 201 Portland, OR 97201 503-222-4044	
Tamara Copeland, President Director, Child Welfare Project National Association of Child Advocates 1522 K Street NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20005 202-289-0777	NFCAP committee member
Nan Roman, President National Alliance to End Homelessness 1518 K Street, NW Suite 206 Washington, D.C. 20005 202-638-1526	
Mary Ann Gleason, Executive Director Bob Reeg, Health Policy Analyst National Coalition for the Homeless 1012 14 th Street, NW Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20005 202-737-6444	NFCAP organizational member Bob Reeg, NFCAP committee member
Peter Goldberg President and Chief Executive Officer Alliance for Children and Families 1701 K Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20006 202-223-3447	The National Association of Homes and Services for Children recently merged with the Alliance for Children and Families.

Betsy Krebs Executive Director Youth Advocacy Center, Inc. 281 Sixth Avenue New York, NY 10014 212-675-6181	
Jennifer Klein 202-965-4234	
Joe Kroll Executive Director North American Council on Adoptable Children 970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106 St. Paul, MN 55104 651-644-3036	
Daniel Ritter Preston Gates Ellis and Rouvelas Meeds LLP Suite 500 1735 New York Avenue Washington, DC 20006 202-628-1700	
Mrs. Matilda Cuomo, Chairperson Mentoring USA 113 East 13th Street New York, N.Y. 10003 212-253-1194	Strong advocate for inclusion of foster youth in mentoring programs.
Fred Kammer, Executive Director Sharon Daly Catholic Charities USA 1731 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703-549-1390	

Michael Piraino, Chief Executive Officer National Association of Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA) 100 West Harrison North Tower, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98199 206-270-0072	
Corporations	Comments
2 MORE TO COME STARBUCKS AND MCKAW CELLULAR 5 CORPORATIONS TOTAL	
Jim Gann Red Lobster 228 E. Duffy Norman, OK 73069 405-329-2413	Mr. Gann is leading an effort in Oklahoma and within his company to reach out to foster youth as employees.
Kevin Garvey Training Development Manager District Human Resources, Metro D.C. District United Parcel Services 14841 Sweitzer Lane Laurel, MD 20707 301-604-4548	NFCAP committee member Among the work Mr. Garvey oversees: school-to-work programming for Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC that specifically includes recruitment of youth in foster care.
Kent C. (Oz) Nelson Chief Executive Officer – Retired United Parcel Service 55 Glenlake Parkway, NE Atlanta, GA 30328 401-547-6600 (Annie E. Casey Foundation)	Mr. Nelson is Chairman of the Board of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
Education Organizations (K-12 and Higher Education)	Comments
5 ED ORGS TOTAL	

Nancy Safer Executive Director Council for Exceptional Children 1920 Association Drive Reston, VA 20191-1589 703-620-3660	
Robert Chase, President National Education Association 1201 – 16 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 202-833-4000	
Sandra Feldman President American Federation of Teachers 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 202-879-4400	
Dr. Donald Beless Executive Director Council on Social Work Education 1600 Duke St. Suite 300 Alexandria, VA 22314 703-683-8080	
David Pierce President and CEO American Association of Community Colleges One Dupont Circle, N.W. Suite 410 Washington, D.C. 20036 202-728-0200	
Entertainers	Comments
REMOVED ALL ENTERTAINMENT	
Faith-Based Organizations	Comments
2 FAITH BASED TOTAL	

Sister Mary Rose McGeady President Covenant House 346 West 17 th Street New York, NY 10011 212-727-4000	
Patricia O'Neal-Williams National One Church, One Child, Inc. 2811-2E Industrial Plaza Drive Tallahassee, FL 32301 904-488-8251	National One Church, One Child, Inc. is an initiative that informs African-American church congregations about the role other congregations and the larger community can play in ensuring permanency for African-American children in foster care systems.
Foster Parents²	Comments
5 FOSTER PARENTS TOTAL	
Shirley Hedges President National Foster Parent Association 608 Hanson Street Madisonville, KY 42431 502-825-0097	NFCAP organizational member
Karen Jorgenson Administrator National Foster Parent Association PO Box 81 Alpha, OH 45301 800-557-5238 937-431-9377 (fax)	NFCAP committee member
3 MORE TO COME	
Foundations	Comments
23 FOUNDATIONS TOTAL	
Charles Benton, President and Chairman Benton Foundation 1634 Eye Street, NW, 12 th Floor Washington, DC 20006 202-638-5770	NFCAP committee member The Benton Foundation publishes the Kids Campaigns web site, which includes a special section on foster care and the <i>Take This Heart</i> project.

² Additional foster parent contacts are available through the National Foster Parent Association and most of the service provider organizations listed below.

Maxine Baker Stokes Executive Director Freddie Mac Foundation 8200 Jones Beach Dr. McLean, VA 22102 703-903-2214	
Julia Calhoun President Laurel Foundation 655 S. Orcas, Suite 210 Seattle, WA 98108 206-763-4900	
Ruth W. Massinga, Chief Executive Officer Richard Ford, President, Board of Trustees Gary Severson, Trustee Susan Weiss, Director of Advocacy Robin Freedman, Sr. Communications Officer The Casey Family Program 1300 Dexter Avenue N. Seattle, WA 98109 206-282-7300	NFCAP co-convenor Ms. Massinga was Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources prior to Casey. She also served as a Congressional Appointee to the National Commission on Children.
Eileen McCaffrey Executive Director Orphan Foundation of America 380 Maple Avenue W. Vienna, VA 22180 703-281-4226	The Orphan Foundation of America provides college scholarships to foster care alumni.

CUT OUT 3 <i>WAIT TO CALL THIS LIST</i> Douglas W. Nelson, President Ralph Smith, Vice President Donna Stark, Senior Associate Talmira Hill, Program Associate John Mattingly, Senior Associate Stan Wellborn, Director, External Affairs The Annie E. Casey Foundation 701 St. Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21202 410-547-6600	NFCAP co-convenor
Susan Notkin, Director of Children's Programs Pam Stevens, Youth Development Program Director Edna McConnell Clark Foundation 250 Park Avenue, #900 New York, NY 10017 212-551-9100	
Christine DeVita, President DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation Two Park Avenue, 23rd Floor New York, NY 10016	The Dewitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation provides funding for youth development work to the Child Welfare League of America.
Theodore E. Lobman, President Stuart Foundation 188 The Embarcadero, Suite 420 San Francisco, CA 94105 415-495-1144	Stuart is NFCAP committee member
Lorraine Zippiroli, Director of the Children, Families, and Communities Program The David and Lucile Packard Foundation 300 Second Street, Suite 200 Los Altos, CA 94022 650-948-3696	NFCAP organizational member Lucy Salcido Carter, NFCAP committee member
Sandra Rudnick, Chairman of the Board Nancy Daly Riordan United Friends of Children 5721 West Slauson Avenue, Suite 120 Culver City, CA 90230 310-338-3646	

Joan Morgan Executive Director New Yorkers for Children 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1400 New York, NY 10036 212-899-5436	
Karen Hein, M.D., President William T. Grant Foundation 570 Lexington Avenue 18 th Floor New York, N.Y. 10022 212-752-0071	
Inca Mohamed Program Officer The Ford Foundation 320 East 43 rd Street New York, N.Y. 10017 212-573-4719	Program officer for youth development but has not traditionally funded child welfare
Ruby Takanishi , President Foundation for Child Development 345 East 46 th Street Room 700 New York, N.Y. 10017 212-697-3150	
Independent Living Coordinators / Foster Care Managers	Comments
(sending complete list of all state IL coordinators under separate cover)	
HHS TO INCLUDE IN LIST OF 15 STATE PEOPLE	
Judges / Legal Advocates	Comments
8 LEGAL TOTAL	

Howard Davidson, Director Kathi Grasso ABA Center on Children and the Law 740 – 15 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-662-1750	
The Honorable Richard Fitzgerald Chief Justice Jefferson Family Court 600 West Jefferson Street Louisville, KY 40202 502-595-4736	
The Honorable Ernestine Gray Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Section A 421 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, LA 70112 504-565-7326	Judge Gray has a strong interest in transition and independent living issues. She serves on the Board of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
Mary Mentaberry Project Director National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges PO Box 8970 Reno, NV 89507 702-784-441	
Abigail English Staff Attorney Adolescent Health Care National Center for Youth Law University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 211 N. Columbia Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514 919-968-8850	

Carol Shauffer Youth Law Center 114 Sansome Street, Suite 950 San Francisco, CA 94104 415-543-33379	
Mark Solar Executive Director 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 1020 Youth Law Center Washington, DC 20005 202-637-0377	
Media-Related	Comments
2 MEDIA TOTAL	
Judy Butler, Principal Podesta Associates 1001 G Street, NW, Suite 900E Washington, DC 20001 202-393-1010	NFCAP committee participants
Keith Hefner Youth Communications/New York Center, Inc. 224 W. 29 th Street, 2 nd Floor New York, NY 10001 212-242-3270	Youth Communications was founded in 1980 to train, inform and provide a voice to New York City teens through print journalism. They publish a magazine for youth in care entitled <i>Foster Care Youth United</i> .

Researchers	Comments
6 RESEARCHERS TOTAL	
Dr. Ronna Cook Westat, Inc. 1650 Research Blvd. Rockville, MD 20850 301-251-1500	Dr. Cook conducted an evaluation of the Title IV-E Independent Living Program between 1990 and 1991.
Dr. Richard Barth Frank A. Daniels Professor University of North Carolina School of Social Work 301 Pittsboro Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3550 919 962 6516	Dr. Barth's work in the area of child welfare is quite well-known and respected. He was formerly the director of the Child Welfare Research Center at UC-Berkeley. He conducted a study of the well-being of youth after leaving care in the San Francisco area.
Dr. Mark Courtney University of Wisconsin School of Social Work 1350 University Avenue Madison, WI 53706 608-263-3669	Dr. Courtney is currently conducting a three-phase longitudinal study of the well-being of youth who have aged out of the Wisconsin State foster care system.
Dr. Gary Mallon Associate Executive Director, NYC Program Green Chimney's Children's Services 327 E. 22 nd Street New York, NY 10010 212-677-7288 ext. 216	Associate Professor, Hunter College School of Social Work
Marty Zanghi University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service PO Box 15010 Portland, ME 04112 207-780-5852	

Dr. Anthony Maluccio Professor Boston College of Social Work McGuinn Hall Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 617-552-4042	
Resource Centers / Organizations	Comments
5 RESOURCE CTRS	
Cynthia Diehm Director National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth P.O. Box 13505 Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505 301-608-8098	
Karolyn Gould Executive Director South Bronx Human Development Organization One Fordham Plaza, Suite 900 New York, NY 10458 718-295-5501	The South Bronx Human Development Organization serves as a central independent living resource center for the City and State of New York.
Joan Morse Human Services Consultant 69-45 – 108 th Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 718-793-2356	Ms. Morse works with Dorothy Ansell on competency-based life skills assessment training. Has been involved in IL since the 70's and is currently a major support to numerous programs in NYC.
Sarah Greenblatt, Director National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning Hunter College 129 East 79 th Street New York, NY 10021 212-452-7049	

James Walker, Director Peter Correia, Associate Director National Resource Center for Youth Services 202 West 8 th Street Tulsa, OK 74119 918-585-2986	NFCAP organizational member Peter Correia and Dottie Ansell, NFCAP committee members NRCYS offers resources and support for child welfare, youth services, juvenile justice, and other professionals whose focus is youth, children and families. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life of our nation's at-risk youth and their families by improving the effectiveness of human services.
Service Providers / National Organizations	Comments
9 SVC CTRS	
Sue Cherney Executive Director Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth 1900 North West Street, Suite 105 Jackson, MS 39202 601-354-0983	
Janis Gurney, Assistant Director American Academy of Pediatrics 601 13 th Street NW Suite 400N Washington, D.C. 20005 202-347-8600	
Phillip Coltoff Executive Director The Children's Aid Society 105 E. 22 nd Street New York, NY 10010 212-949-4800	The Children's Aid Society is a leader in developing community schools in New York working in conjunction with child welfare and education systems.
Janet Knipe, Statewide Coordinator California Youth Connection 114 Sansome Street, #921 San Francisco, CA 94101 415-398-9036	NFCAP organizational member

Bob Mecum, Executive Director Lighthouse Youth Services 1527 Madison Road, 3 rd Floor Cincinnati, OH 45206 513-475-5680	Lighthouse is a national leader in delivering independent living services.
Paul Gitelson Executive Vice President Jewish Child Care Association of New York 120 Wall St. New York, NY 10005 212-425-3333	
Joseph Whalen Executive Director Green Chimneys Children's Services Caller Box 719, Putnam Lake Road Brewster, NY 10509 914-279-2995	
Nan Dale, Executive Director The Children's Village 1 Dassen Drive Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 914-693-0600	

Ray Torres, Executive Director Casey Family Services 1 Corporate Drive Shelton, CT 06484 203-929-3837 203-926-0775 (fax)	NFCAP organizational member Lee Mullane, NFCAP committee member
State Legislators/Governors/ Policymakers	Comments
1 LISTED – THE REST TO COME FROM HHS	
(reflects only some suggested governors and not intended to be exhaustive)	
Sheri Steisel NCSL 444 North Capitol Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20001 202-624-5400	
THE REST WILL BE INCLUDED IN LIST OF 15 FROM HHS	
Think Tanks	Comments
3 THINK TANKS TOTAL	
Margaret Dunkle, Director, Policy Exchange Institute for Educational Leadership 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 310 Washington, DC 20036 202-822-8405	
Marion Pine Director Sar Levitan Center for Social Policy Studies Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy studies Wyman Park Bldg., 5 th Floor 3400 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21218 410-516-7169	

Gary Walker President Public/Private Ventures One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street, Suite 900 Philadelphia, PA 19103 215- 557-4402	
Unions	Comments
NONE LISTED	
Youth Development Specialists	Comments
3 YOUTH DEV TOTAL	
Michele Cahill Vice President Youth Development Institute Fund for the City of New York 121 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10013 202-925-6675	Ms. Cahill was one of the founders of the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research. She later started the Youth Development Institute, which provides technical assistance, advocacy and policy development in the field of youth development.
Richard Murphy Director Center for Youth Development and Policy Research 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20009 202-884-8270	The Center is located in the Academy for Educational Development and has been a major national voice for promoting youth development as the framework for youth services. Mr. Murphy is also a foster parent and has a long history of involvement with foster care.
Miriam Rollins Director of Advocacy National Network for Youth 1317 F Street, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20004 202-783-7949	The National Network for Youth plays a major role in advocacy on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, as well as promoting youth development in all youth programs.
B-List	

B-list only

ADVOCATE Alan A. Watahara, President The California Partnership for Children 1121 L Street, Suite 304 Sacramento, California 95814 916-444-7477	Leading statewide public education effort in California regarding young people transitioning out of foster care
Milton A. Gordon President California State University, Fullerton P.O. Box 34080 Fullerton, CA 92634-9480	
FNDTN Cindy Ballard Executive Director Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth 1000 Broadway, Suite 302 Kansas City, MO 64105 816-842-4246/ Austin office: 512-328-7850	
MEDIA Judy Ravitz, President Outreach Extensions 7039 Dume Drive Malibu, CA 90265 310-589-5180	Outreach Extensions designed and coordinated the <i>Take This Heart</i> public television outreach campaign.
William Waldman, Executive Director American Public Human Services Association 810 First Street, N.E. Suite 500 Washington, DC 20002 202-682-0100	
Jan Heffner The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Dublin, Ohio 614-764-3319	

Adele Douglas Director of Washington Office American Humane Association 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Suite 202 Washington, D.C. 20002 202-543-7780	
FNDTN Carol Goss Program Officer The Skilman Foundation 600 Renaissance Center, Suite 1700 Detroit, MI 48243 313-568-6360	

SUBTOTAL: 130

ADDING TO THE LIST:

10 HHS STAFF
10 LEG AFFAIRS
10 PHILIPINO

TOTAL: 167

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. email	To Nicole R. Rabner from Robin Nixon re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth (partial) (1 page)	12/09/99	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 20366

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption and Foster Care/ILP [Independent Living Program] Bill Signing 12-14-99

2012-0565-S
ry1229

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Nicole R. Rabner

12/09/99 06:14:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth

----- Forwarded by Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP on 12/09/99 06:14 PM -----



Robin Nixon <rnixon@cwla.org>

12/09/99 05:19:08 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth

Hi Nicole--I didn't want to bug you anymore, so I just wanted to double check on a couple of names for tues., for adults who will be accompanying young people.

1. Mark Kroner, Lighthouse Youth Services in Cincinnati (accompanying Kristi Jo Frazier)
2. Gary Mallon, Green Chimneys, NY (accompanying Roberto Marte)
3. Kathi Crowe, Consultant, RI (accompanying Cynthia Ivon)
4. Joan Morse, Consultant, NY (accompanying Craig Jaffe)

They are all adults who were on our original list (so we are not adding names), but who are also the adults who would be coming with some of the young people. I just don't know if they got cut off the list during your final deliberations.... I know it may seem strange for adults to be accompanying young adults, but this is such an overwhelming event for the young people that they need to have someone that they know with them. If you could just email & let me know, I would appreciate it. Thanks so much for all your hard work! Also, please feel free to call me at home if you need any other info. or to work out any logistical stuff for the kids. P6(b)(6) Robin

p.s. we may be hosting a small reception for the young people after the bill signing...I know you'll be totally wiped out at that point, but I would love to have you come by if you can. Talk to you soon.

[002]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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003. email	To Nicole R. Rabner from Robin Nixon re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth (partial) (1 page)	12/09/99	P6/b(6)

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Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
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Nicole R. Rabner

12/09/99 03:50:05 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth

Please add ...

----- Forwarded by Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP on 12/09/99 03:50 PM -----



Robin Nixon <rnixon@cwla.org>

12/09/99 03:32:18 PM

Record Type: Record

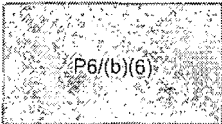
To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Tuesday's event: adult accompanying youth

Hi Nicole--Here's the info. as requested:

Kathi Crowe



P6/(b)(6)

[003]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. note	Re: possible attendees (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	P6/b(6)

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

If at all possible:

Carol Williams - University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Work - recent Associate Commissioner for Children's Bureau [REDACTED] P6(b)(6) (h); (215) 898-2507(o)

[004]

Karin Pittman -- International Youth Foundation. (301) 270-6250.

- Jenn
klein

If there's extra room:

Dr. Delbert S. Elliott - University of Colorado - premier researcher in the areas of adolescent development, juvenile justice and public policy. (303) 492-1266

David Gruber - Workforce Strategy Center - Member of National Foster Care Awareness Project which focuses on high-tech job training and placement for youth in care. (718) 434-4790



Child Welfare League of America Public Policy Department

440 First Street, NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

Fax

To: Nicole Rabner From: Public Policy Department

Date: 12/8/99 ☒ Karabelle Pizzigati, Director

Agency: ☐ Ellen Battistelli ☐ Tim Briceland-Betts

Fax: 202-456-2878 ☐ Liz Meitner ☐ Beth Zagorski

Number of pages (including cover sheet): 1

COMMENTS:

Per my voice mail:

→ Daniel Ritter
Preston Gates Ellis and Ravelas Meeds LLP
Suite 500
1735 New York Ave
DC 20006

202-628-1700

Thank
AP

fa.com

Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: 12/1/99

CODE: 122

TO: Nicole Rabner

FAX: 456-2878

PHONE:

FROM: Lady Butler

PHONE: 202.393.1010

FAX: 202.393.5510

Number of pages, including cover sheet: 2

MESSAGE

These people are leaders in the
National Foster Parent Association
and should be added to the White
House event invitation list.

Thanks so much for all your help!

Man's leg list

INDEPENDENT LIVING - WHITE HOUSE SIGNING CEREMONY

Representatives

Gephardt
Rangel
Cardin
Stark
Matsui
Coyne
Jefferson
Archer
Johnson
Camp
DeLay
McCrery

Staff

Andi King
Nick Gwyn
Susanne Walsh

Ron Haskins/Cassie Bevan

Senators

Daschle
Moynihan
Rockefeller
Breaux
Landrieu
Kerrey
Mikulski
Reed

Joan Huffer
Doug Steiger
Barbara Pryor, Sue Badeau

Roth
Lincoln Chafee
Grassley
Jeffords
DeWine
Bond
Lott
Nickles

Alexander Vachon
Laurie Rubiner

Stacy Hughes



Sue_Badeau@rockefeller.senate.gov (Sue Badeau)
11/30/99 12:52:30 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: welcome back & signing ceremony

Nicole - Welcome back from Thanksgiving break. Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving - we definitely did.

My whole family was so thrilled that "our" foster care bill passed. As I think I told you, of our 22 kids, 9 were already teenagers when we adopted them, and 3 had already "aged out" of foster care and have some pretty awful horror stories about their experiences with homelessness, etc. before joining our family.

6 of those 9 are now in their twenties and leading stable, productive lives. A lot of the energy I put into the foster care independence bill came directly from my experiences with them.

I am looking forward to the signing ceremony - hoping to hear details soon. As you know, our oldest 5 kids (including our 3 who "aged out" of foster care) were not able to join us for the ASFA signing ceremony as they live in Vermont and we had no way to get them to DC at that time in such short notice. I am hopeful that you may be able to include the 3 who had the "aging out" experience or all 5 of those who were not able to come last time on the list of participants for this signing ceremony. It would mean a lot to me and to them. Please let me know.

And if there is anything else I can do to be helpful, please tell me. I am here and I do have some time now that the session has ended and things are a bit quieter!

Thanks again for all your hard work on this bill. It is so important to the kids and families it does effect - I know from deep personal experience.

Hope you are having a great holiday season.

Sue Badeau

*I think we
should include
these 3 &
Sue (who
is on
Mary's
leg list)*



Sue_Badeau@rockefeller.senate.gov (Sue Badeau)
12/06/99 05:51:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Sen Bond's office and the IL signing ceremony

Hi Nicole - I know from Barbara that you still have not settled on the date/time and details for the signing ceremony for the Independent Living bill. However, I wanted to share some thoughts with you about Senator Bond's office. As you know, he was one of the key and lead Republican co-sponsors of the bill early on and was quite active in garnering support and media attention for the bill. A young man from Missouri, Percy Bailey (see brief bio below) was one of the former foster youth who spoke at the special event we held with the Senators in Senator Chafee's hideaway this fall and again at the hearing. He was quite impressive in both instances. Senator Bond's staff person, Dreama Towe has been very helpful throughout the process. Therefore, if possible, it might be very nice to include Percy at the signing - he is very articulate, well-spoken (and good looking!), and Senator Bond to accompany him. Just a thought. But, anyway, Dreama has been calling me almost daily to see if I had any updates on the plans, so I thought I'd pass this on to you.

he is on
the longer
list, too.

Here is Percy's bio:

Percy Bailey, age 23, from St Louis, Missouri. Percy's struggles began when he was eleven, his mother passed away and he spent his teen years in kinship and foster care settings that were very challenging for him. When he turned 18, he became involved with the Independent Living Program at the Epworth Children and Family Services agency in St. Louis. A 1995 graduate of Epworth, Percy is a police officer with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Dept.

Dreama's direct phone line is 224-2842

She will be in her home state of Missouri part of this week, but I do have contact information for her if you need it. I also have contact info for Percy.

Thanks, Nicole,

Sue Badeau



Julie Bosland <jbosland@acf.dhhs.gov>
12/08/99 02:14:36 PM

Please respond to jbosland@acf.dhhs.gov

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: New Names

Nicole:

Here are the names of the additional folks who were added. I'll fax you the Exec. Summary and fact sheet, and will call you at 3:00 for the conference call.

Dr. Delbert Elliott - University of Colorado - premier researcher in the areas of adolescent development, juvenile justice and public policy

David Gruber - Workforce Strategy Center - Member of National Foster Care Awareness Center which focuses on high-tech job training and placement for youth in care.

Carol Williams - University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Work - recent Associate Commissioner for Children's Bureau

Kathi Crowe -- Independent Living consultant in State of Rhode Island

Karin Pittman -- International Youth Foundation

Lorenzo Harrison -- Administrator, Youth Employment, ETA, US Dept. of Labor

Julie Bosland
Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
phone: 202-401-2887
fax: 202-205-9721

Draft

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS THE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999

December 13/14, 1999

Today, President Clinton signs into law the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 to provide new support for young people who leave our nation's public foster care system at age 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. The Act is based on the initiative of the President and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton proposed in the FY 2000 budget.

Foster Care Youth Reaching Adulthood Face Tough Challenges. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Under the previous law, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

The Foster Care Independence Act Delivers on New Hope and Support For Youth Leaving Foster Care. The Act authorizes a total of \$700 million over five years for federal support to these young people:

- **Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program.** The Act changes the name of Independent Living Program to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program in honor of the late Senator who so effectively championed the needs of children. The program, run through the states, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. The new law doubles the program to \$140 million per year, investing \$350 million more over five years in these services. Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, which can enable young people to obtain a college education. Also, many young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. With this new law, states can use funding to provide time-limited financial assistance for these young people to help with living expenses as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The new law grants states the option to have these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. President Clinton and HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala encouraged all states to provide this critical coverage.
- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** The budget agreement also includes an increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21.

An Unprecedented Record of Accomplishment for Foster Care and Adoption. With today's new law for foster youth, the Clinton administration has capped an unprecedented record of achievement to ensure the safety of children, promote their well-being and provide them permanent loving homes. These efforts culminated with a record number of 36,000 adoptions from foster care in 1998, the first significant increase in the history of the program. Since taking office in 1993, the President has taken the following steps:

- **Enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.** Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, the landmark law made clear the health and safety of children, provided the first-ever financial incentives to increase adoptions (the first bonuses were awarded to 35 states in November), tightened the

time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed barriers to promote adoption.

- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton signed into law a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit. Also, with the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed by the President into law ensure that adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare systems, the Clinton administration has granted waivers to 25 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with technical support to improve court operations, grants to support local innovative demonstrations to promote adoption, and secured federal funding for the "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" program to serve children and families at risk.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

DRAFT - NOT FOR RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3443, the "Foster Care Independence Act of 1999", which builds on proposals in my FY 2000 Budget to ensure that young people in foster care can make the successful transition to independent adult living. I am particularly pleased that this bill pays tribute to a chief sponsor of this Act, the late Senator John Chafee. The Senator was a champion of children, particularly of our Nation's most vulnerable youth, and H.R. 3443 is an especially fitting memorial to his service to this country.

The number of young people ages 16 and over in foster care has increased from approximately 62,000 in Fiscal Year 1992 to 77,000 in Fiscal Year 1998. Furthermore, each year, nearly 20,000 youth who have reached age 18 leave the foster care system and must assume the full responsibilities of adulthood without the benefit of the emotional and financial support that a family provides.

H.R. 3443 expands the resources available to the States to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their independent living programs, which provide educational, vocational, practical, and emotional supports to youth in foster care. For example, the bill will enable these youth to complete a high school diploma, receive post-secondary education, find employment, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse. In addition, for the first time, H.R. 3443 will allow funds to be used to help pay for the housing costs of former foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who no longer qualify for foster care maintenance payments.

Of particular importance, H.R. 3443 will allow States to extend health care coverage to young people "aging out" of foster care who have not yet reached the age of 21. This provision will help to ensure that such youth retain the good health necessary to

make the most of their lives. I urge States to avail themselves of this option.

I am also pleased that H.R. 3443 authorizes additional funds for adoption incentive payments, which reward States that increase the number of children adopted from public foster care. This additional funding will enable States to receive, in full, the bonuses they have earned for outstanding performance.

H.R. 3443 also includes several of my proposals to improve the integrity of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs, while ensuring that privacy protections are maintained. For example, the bill will enable the Social Security Administration (SSA) to identify unreported income, assets, and living arrangements sooner so that SSI overpayments can be prevented. It also will close loopholes and strengthen provisions that currently allow individuals to qualify for SSI benefits by disposing of resources for less than their fair market value or by transferring their assets to trusts. In addition, H.R. 3443 will authorize SSA to impose specified periods of ineligibility for Social Security and SSI benefits on any individual who provides false or misleading information to qualify for such benefits.

I am heartened that H.R. 3443 contains a provision designed to honor certain veterans who served under the United States Armed Forces during World War II, including Filipino veterans. Specifically, the bill will create a special cash benefit for SSI beneficiaries who are qualifying World War II veterans and wish to leave the United States to return to their homelands. The benefits provided by this legislation are a special recognition of the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of those who fought for our Nation's Armed Forces during the Second World War.

In closing, I would like to thank the House and Senate Leadership, as well as Representatives Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, Chairman Roth, and Senators Rockefeller, Moynihan, Grassley, Breaux, Jeffords, Reed, and Collins for their committed efforts to secure passage of H.R. 3443. I am happy to sign this legislation that will help youth leaving foster care forge a path to living securely and successfully on their own.

THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Vice President
(Athens, Greece)**

For Immediate Release

November 20, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Hillary and I are very pleased that the Congress today approved H.R. 3443, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation helps ensure that young people in foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It builds on proposals in my budget to empower those leaving foster care, by providing them access to health care, better educational opportunities, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other support and services. We cannot let these young people walk their tough road alone.

Each year, approximately 20,000 18 year-olds leave our nation's foster care system without an adoptive family or other permanent family relationship. Without the emotional, social, and financial support that families provide, many of these young people are not adequately prepared for life after foster care. Unfortunately, federal financial support ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. This bill addresses that problem and will help these youth in their effort to become successful, independent adults.

I am also pleased that the Act provides additional funds for the adoption incentive payments, which are bonuses to the states for increasing the number of children adopted from public foster care. This additional funding will enable states to receive the full amount of the bonuses they have earned through outstanding performance.

Today's legislation is a fitting tribute to the late Senator John Chafee, who was a chief sponsor of the Act. A fierce champion of children, Senator Chafee paid particular attention to our nation's most vulnerable young people. I am pleased that the bill renames the Independent Living Program in his honor.

I would also like to thank the House and Senate Leadership, as well as Representatives Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, Chairman William Roth, Jr., and Senators Jay Rockefeller, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Charles Grassely, John Breaux, James Jeffords, Jack Reed, and Susan Collins for their hard work and dedication to this issue. I look forward to signing this bill into law.

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December 13/14, 1999

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 24, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT ADOPTION EVENT

Presidential Hall

10:00 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, and please be seated. And welcome to the White House for a celebration and a wonderful announcement for so many children and families around our country.

I'm delighted that we've been joined by members of Congress, including Senator Carl Levin and Representative Dave Camp and Representative Nancy Johnson and Representative Tom DeLay and Representative Ben Cardin and Representative Maxine Waters.

This is an issue that has been at the real heart of our efforts in the last several years to do what we could to give every child a chance to have a permanent loving home. And there are many people who have played a role in bringing us to this day. I want to acknowledge Olivia Golden and Pat Montoya, from HHS. I want to acknowledge the Brown, the Manis, the Keane and the Vasquez family. Carol Williams, the former Children's Bureau director and a champion of adoption; the many adoption advocates who are here.

And there's one very special champion of foster children who I would like to introduce to you. She is an eight-year-old girl who heard about how many foster children could not afford to use anything but garbage bags for luggage when they were told they had to move. So she decided to collect suitcases for them, and so far she has collected 1,000. And I'd like to ask MacKenzi Snyder to stand, please. (Applause.)

This summer I saw a photograph that reminded me why the work we're doing to promote adoption in our country is so vitally important. It was a picture of a young woman in a green silk evening gown, with high heels and a lace shawl, and you could see the anticipation and excitement in her eyes. That was a picture of 17-year-old Deanna Collins. It was taken by her parents, her adoptive parents, on the night of her high-school prom.

Looking at that picture, it was difficult for me to believe that the smiling, confident young woman was the same girl I had welcomed to the White House just four years ago. Back then, she was 13, and she'd already spent eight years in foster care. With her shoulders slumped forward, and her eyes downcast, she told the audience gathered in the East Room for National Adoption Month about her dreams of living in a place she could call home, with a room of her own and a family she could love.

Not long after that visit, Deanna's dream came true. And it's been my privilege to watch this young woman's life transformed by her adoption. With the love of her parents and the confidence that comes from knowing that, indeed, she always will have a place to call home, no matter what else happens to her in life, she is thriving. She's a senior in high school, now, and plans to go to college and major in social work.

Every time I need inspiration for our fight to strengthen and increase adoption in America, I think of Deanna. I think of so many of the other children whom I've know. I think of the adult adoptees, who are telling us their stories, including Washington D.C.'s own Mayor, Tony Williams, who told us at another Adoption Month commemoration last year how, at the age of three, he was about to be declared unadoptable, and institutionalized by the state, when Virginia Williams opened her arms and welcomed him into her family.

Mrs. Williams is here today, and all of us are grateful for the love you gave that young three-year-old boy, and the second chance you gave to him. And I'd like to ask Mrs. Williams to please stand. (Applause.)

But we can't gather today and celebrate Dianna or Mayor Williams without thinking of the thousands of foster children in America who are still waiting for the same chance, either to go back safely to their own families where they will be given the love and the attention and the discipline that every child needs, or be given the chance in a new family.

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have tried to work with so many others to address the challenges of foster care and adoption. I've represented perspective parents in court. I've represented foster children. I've worked on behalf of changes in legislation. I've listened to the frustrations that social workers and judges and police officers and parents and others feel about the red tape that so often keeps them from sharing their lives with children who badly need their love.

I've met foster children who have spent childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home. Children such as the teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago. When we asked him where he lived, he looked down and he said, "All over Fairfax County."

In many ways, giving more of our children the chance to know the love and support of a family is a personal crusade for us. I know that many of you have been at the meetings and the roundtables and the celebrations of National Adoption Month that we've held here at the White House. And I've been very pleased and grateful to work with so many

advocates like Wendy's founder, or Dave Thomas, who as an adopted child himself has dedicated much of his time and personal resources to promoting adoption.

With each meeting I became, along with all of you, more and more convinced that it was past time to reform our foster care system, to identify and eliminate the obstacles to change the placement procedures so that we could expedite the movement of children either home or into new homes.

We've made a lot of progress. We've helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents -- including adoptive parents -- to take time off and care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance.

We've put an end to racial discrimination in adoption. The President signed and strengthened the Multiethnic Placement Act, prohibiting adoption agencies from keeping children of one race from the safe and loving arms of parents of another. We have made adoptions more affordable, putting in place tax credits for new adoptive families. And we're taking steps to use the Internet to help match waiting children with loving homes.

And most importantly, we've crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of time a child spends in foster care. We've said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months -- down from 18 months -- before the court considered his or her permanent placement. For the first time, we have offered states financial incentives to move more children out of foster care and into permanent homes. And we have given states the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal.

And we set an ambitious national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually, from 28,000 to 56,000, by the year 2002. And though there were some moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, we fought hard to make the Adoption and Safe Families Act the law of the land in 1997. In a few minutes, the President will offer new evidence of our continued success.

But we still have more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people, who were aging or had already aged out of foster care. They told me about their struggles -- about being forced out of foster homes on their 18th birthdays; about living in homeless shelters, seeking sleep in emergency rooms while trying to finish school; about getting sick and having no one to turn to for medical care or comfort. These young people are our responsibility. We cannot ignore the potential of any one of these children.

One of the young women I met that day in California is now a student at the Yale Law School. And that's why I was pleased to announce a new proposal in the President's balanced budget, to help former foster children make the transition to independence. And I'm very happy that the House, under the bipartisan leadership of Representative Nancy Johnson and Representative Ben Cardin, both of whom are with us today, has passed the bill that will allow

former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21 and will -- (applause) -- and will give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live.

Now I would call on the Senate to take action on the companion bill that is sponsored by Senators Chafee and Rockefeller. There is no reason we cannot pass this bill this year for the good of all of our children. And I hope every one of us here will do everything we can to make sure that the Senate does that, and then we can have, I think, another celebration to sign a bill that will make such a difference in the lives of older children in foster care.

The progress we celebrate today is due to the work of countless people, and many of you are here, and others are working on the front lines around our country and others are caring for children who are newly adopted in their homes.

I remember very well that a few years ago on Mothers Day, we had a roundtable for mothers and their adopted children. And at the end of the discussion, I went around the room asking the children if they had anything else to say, because some of them had not yet spoken up, and I didn't want them to leave and not have been heard. The final boy to speak looked up at the woman sitting next to him and said quietly, "I just want to thank my mother."

With that simple statement, and that adoring look, he summarized what all of us had been trying to say all afternoon. So, to all of those of you who have been the mothers and fathers that have helped move our children into homes, and into a sense of love and security, we say thank you -- for opening your homes and your hearts.

And now it's my privilege to introduce someone who has done just that -- who with her husband, Steven, and her son Sean, have just finalized the adoptions of Sarah and Brian. Please join me in welcoming Dawn Keane. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. When we have events here in this room, with people who have come to share their experiences, very often I feel like a fifth wheel. I think everything that needs to be said has already been said. (Laughter.) But I want to begin by thanking Dawn Keane for her wonderful statement; her husband, Steve; and Sean, Brian and Sarah. They're beautiful children. They did a good job at the microphone, didn't they? (Laughter.) I want to thank Olivia Golden and Pat Montoya for their work at HHS on this important issue.

I'd like to thank this remarkable bipartisan delegation from the House of Representatives here -- Dave Camp and Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin and Maxine Waters, Sandy Levin and Congressman DeLay. This may be the only issue all six of these people agree on. (Laughter.) And -- Tom's nodding his head up and down. (Laughter.)

I'll tell you a funny story -- this is a true story. The other day I was reading a profile of Tom DeLay in the newspaper. And I got about halfway through, and he was giving me the devil for something; you know, he's very good at that. (Laughter.) And he started grinding

on my golf game and saying that I didn't count my scores and all this, and I was getting really angry. (Laughter.) And then I get to the next part of the story, and it talks all about his experience and his commitment to adoption and to foster children, and the personal experience that he and his wife had. And my heart just melted. And all of a sudden, I didn't care what he said about my golf game. (Laughter.)

And I say that to make this point: The Keane family -- the Manis, the Brown, the Vasquez families who are behind me today -- they represent what we all know is basic and fundamental about our families and our country -- more important than anything else we can think of. And they open their homes and their hearts to children, and they open our hearts to them -- and to each other as we work for more stories like those we celebrate today.

I'd also like to say a special hello to the Badeau family. Some of you may remember this. Two years ago, almost, Sue and Hector Badeau joined us at the White House when I signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. They brought 18 of the 22 children they have adopted. Now, you need to know that, as if they didn't have enough to deal with, this summer they also welcomed into their home a family of eight Kosovar refugees. So if you ever need proof that there's no limit to human goodness, you can look at Sue and Hector Badeau.

I'd like for them to stand. Where are they? There you go. They've got some of their kids here. Stand up. (Applause.) Thank you. God bless you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I would also like to say just a very brief word to Hillary. You heard her tell the story of her involvement in this, but when we were in law school together, before we were married, she was talking to me about how messed up the foster care and adoption laws were in the country, how many ridiculous barriers there were. And not long after we moved to Little Rock and I became Attorney General of our state, she took a case for a young couple who had had a child from foster care for three years that they desperately wanted to adopt -- this is over 20 years ago. And together they changed the law in our state so that foster parents could be considered for adoption, something that used to be verboten in most states in the country.

So I've watched her work on these issues now for almost 30 years, and I am very grateful that one of the many blessings of our time in the White House has been the chance to make a difference on these adoption and foster care issues, and I thank her for making it possible. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say, again, I want to say a special word of thanks to the members of Congress in both parties who have come to this event today. We have had a raging, often stimulating, occasionally maddening, debate on what should be the role of government over the last five years in this town. But we have all agreed that government has a role to try to protect children, but to facilitate the most rapid, reasonable, orderly process for both foster care and for transition to adoption.

Hillary said that the House had adopted this provision to let kids coming out of foster care keep their Medicaid until they're 21. I'll just give you one more example of how these issues unify us. Within a 36-hour period, about six months ago, my cousin, who runs the public

housing unit in the little town where I was born in Arkansas -- which has 8,000 or 10,000 people -- came up to a HUD conference. And she spent the night with me and were having breakfast, drinking coffee, and she says, you know, you've got to do something about these foster kids. They keep going out of the -- they come out of the foster homes and they've got no money and they need to do some things. And then the next day, literally within 36 hours, I'm talking to these people from New York City who tell me it's maybe the biggest social problem they have now, with all these kids coming out of foster care.

So this is an issue that spans the experience of America, the whole sweep of it. And I'm very grateful -- I'm grateful that we have this consensus and I'm grateful that they've acted on it. I urge the Senate to follow suit.

Now, you've already heard about the things that we're doing to try to double the number of children we help move into permanent homes. We have new evidence that these efforts are bearing fruit. The Department of Health and Human Services has just given me a report that tracks our progress in meeting our adoption goals. It shows that the number of adoptions from the foster care system increased from 28,000 in 1996, to 36,000 in 1998. That is the first significant increase in adoptions since the National Foster Care Program was created almost 20 years ago.

Now, that's an amazing thing. That's more than -- it's about a 30-percent increase. That's a very impressive increase in two years. And we are well on our way to meeting our goal of 56,000 in 2002, doubling the number. For all of you that had anything to do with that, I say thank you. You should be very proud of yourselves.

Now, if you look at this HHS report -- and I urge those of you who are interested in it to actually get it and scan it, at least -- you will see how much this bipartisan cooperation I talked about and the work that's being done by people in the trenches to clear away the barriers is making a difference -- a stunning example of what we can do when we put our children first. You will see that we have acted on each and every one of the 11 recommendations set forth in the original Adoption 2002 report. Breaking down barriers to adoptions, ensuring accountability, rewarding innovation, supporting adoptive families themselves.

One of the key recommendations we adopted into law in 1997 was to give states, for the first time, financial incentives to help children move from foster to adoptive homes. Under the new bonus system, states are entitled to up to \$4,000 or \$6,000, depending on whether the child has special needs, for each adoption above their previous average.

Today, I have the honor of presenting the first round of these awards, worth \$20 million, to 35 of our 50 states. The good news is that these states did this, using creative new approaches and exceeding their own high goals. Illinois, for example -- listen to this -- the state of Illinois increased its options by 112 percent -- 112 -- yes, you can clap for Illinois. That's good. (Applause.)

Now, the bad news, if you can call it that, is that even though we believed this would work, we didn't think it would work this well this quickly -- (laughter) -- and we didn't put enough money in to give all the states all the money to which they're entitled. So I hope we can

rectify that, because I think we all think that we want to give the states the incentives to figure out how best to do this.

But the fact is, I think all of us are very proud of what these states have done for some of their most vulnerable citizens. And I look forward to working with the Congress to make up this shortfall and get the other 15 states above their goals as well.

Today, I am also awarding \$5.5 million in adoption opportunity grants to outstanding public and private organizations in 16 of our states to help fund research and new ways of increasing inter-state adoptions, and adoptions of minority children. Together these efforts will help to accelerate the remarkable progress we've seen.

Now, again let me say, I think the big goal we ought to have for this legislative session is to get the Senate to follow the lead of the House, and schedule a vote on the Chafee-Rockefeller bill to ensure that the foster children are not cast out in the cold when their time in foster care ends. I hope -- I know if we can get it up and get it on the calendar, it will pass with the same overwhelming bipartisan support that we've seen in the House. So I urge all of you to do what you can to make sure that that is a big priority for the Senate, and I will do my part.

Together, we can help our foster children -- all of them -- first grow up in good homes, and, if they turn 18 as foster children, to make a good transition from transit to independence -- with health care, education, counseling and housing.

Now, ultimately, let me say the credit in all this does not really belong to all of the political leaders, even though they've worked very hard, all of us have together. It does not belong to all the public servants, even though there is a real new attitude, I think, in the organizations, the social services organizations, to try to do the right thing and move this along.

But none of this will work if there aren't good people in every community like the Keanes, the Manises, the Browns, the Vasquezes, the Badeaus, who are willing to give a child unconditional love and a good upbringing. They are the proof of the unlimited goodness of the human heart. All the rest of us are trying to do is to unleash it. And we need to keep right on doing that.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

10:30 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES FIRST ADOPTION BONUS AWARDS TO STATES AND UNVEILS REPORT THAT SHOWS ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IS WORKING

September 24, 1999

Today, the President and First Lady will announce bonus awards of \$20 million to 35 states that have increased the number of children adopted from the public foster care system. These bonuses, awarded for the first time today, were first proposed by President Clinton's Adoption 2002 initiative and included in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

The President also will announce \$5.5 million in grants to innovative programs that remove barriers to adoption, and he unveiled a national progress report on adoption that documents the success of the Administration's strategy. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent - from 28,000 to 36,000 - and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

INCENTIVE AWARDS SUCCEED IN INCREASING ADOPTIONS. In the Administration's Adoption 2002 proposal and the adoption law of 1997, the President created the first-ever financial incentive for states to increase adoptions of children from the foster care system. Today, the President will release \$20 million in bonus awards to 35 states that in 1998 exceeded their average adoption rate from 1995 to 1997. The \$20 million in bonuses provide for up to \$4,000 per adopted child, and \$6,000 for each child with special needs. In fact, the states' performance in 1998 was so strong that it would have entitled them, under the law, to an additional \$22.5 million.

INNOVATIVE GRANTS REDUCE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION. The President today also will announce \$5.5 million in new awards under the Adoption Opportunities program. This program provides grants to public and private organizations to eliminate barriers to adoption, particularly for children with special needs. This year's grants reward a variety of initiatives, including efforts to increase adoptions of minority children, targeted field research, and awards for collaborative planning to increase adoptions across jurisdictional lines.

REPORT SHOWS CLINTON ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IS WORKING. Since taking office, the President has championed efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption. Today, the President will receive a progress report from the Department of Health and Human Services that documents the effectiveness of the Administration's strategy.

- **Reforming the Child Welfare System.** In 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. This landmark law was based largely on recommendations from the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which the President requested by executive memorandum in order to meet his goal of doubling adoptions by 2002. The law expedited permanent placement decisions for children, ensured health insurance coverage for all special-needs children in subsidized adoptions, and created the bonus awards released today.

- **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, signed by the President in 1996, provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision helps middle class families for whom adoption - particularly of children with special needs - might have been prohibitively expensive.

- **Giving States More Flexibility and Support.** The Administration has granted waivers to 20 states and the District of Columbia to test innovative strategies for improving child welfare systems. In addition, it has secured new funds to support state implementation of the 1997 law and has, through the Adoption Opportunities program, supported local initiatives to promote adoption and provide post-adoptive services.

- **Using the Internet to Make Adoption Easier.** In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop Internet tools to link children in foster care more quickly to possible adoptive families. Secretary Shalala reported that HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001 to break down geographic barriers to adoption.

- **Removing Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, help ensure that the adoption process is free of delays and discriminatory practices driven by race, culture and ethnicity. These provisions strengthened the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, which the President signed in 1994.

- **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** The Family and Medical Leave Act, signed by the President in 1993, enables working parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The 1996 welfare reform law signed by the President also maintains child protection and adoption guarantees.

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS. To follow through on this record of achievement, the President and First Lady today will urge Congress to provide new support for young people leaving foster care. Under the current system, federal financial assistance for young people in foster care ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. The President's FY 2000 budget request increases funding by nearly \$300 million to help these youth secure health care, life skills training, and educational opportunities. With the Administration's strong support, the House has already passed bipartisan legislation to address these needs. The President today urged the Senate to take prompt action on the companion measure and to safeguard the interests of vulnerable young people leaving foster care.

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOSTER CARE EVENT
The White House - East Room

(First part of speech was cut off. The following remarks are similar to her speech as delivered, but may not be exact. Please do not quote from this section.)

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Jeffords who has worked tirelessly to give all children safe places to go after school and something in life to say "yes" to.

I also want to thank Secretary Shalala for that introduction and for her extraordinary leadership on behalf of all children, especially those too often forgotten. She reminded us of how far we've come in reforming our child welfare system. And we should all be proud of those accomplishments. But today we are also gathered to talk about an issue that hasn't received the attention it deserves.

We know that we must do better by the nearly 20,000 young people who, every year, are forced to leave foster care and make it on their own. So today, I have come here to announce that the President's budget will help ensure that the end of foster care will no longer mean the end of caring for the young people it serves.

None of this would have been possible without the people in this room.

It wouldn't have been possible without my friend Tipper Gore, whose compassion and commitment have placed a national spotlight on mental illness and homelessness. Again, it wouldn't have been possible without Secretary Shalala and her staff at the Department of Health and Human Services.

It wouldn't have been possible without Terry Harrak, John Gutierrez and the other young people who walked in with Tipper and me just now. The courageous voices they have raised have educated the nation about this issue and inspired us all.

And it wouldn't have been possible without all of you who have been their biggest champions. I especially want to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Casey Family Program for their deep commitment and for helping to pull this event together.

As I look across this room, it is wonderful to see researchers, advocates, and community providers from all over the country. I don't think we've ever been privileged to host at the White House a group of people who have fought harder or longer to lift up the lives of former foster children. And all of us owe you a debt of gratitude for that.

In some ways, my own experiences with this issue started when I was a little girl. I'd ask my mother, as all children do, what it was like for her to grow up. She was never in formal foster care. But she told me about how her teen parents couldn't take care of her after she was born. How they sent her to live with her grandparents. And how, when that didn't work out, she moved in with a family and took care of their children in exchange for room and board.

My mother has often told me how grateful she is to the woman she moved in with. Because she was able to see what a real family is like. She watched what happens inside a home when children have someone to praise them when they succeed and pick them up when they fall. Someone who cares what happens to them day after day. Someone to simply love them.

Most of us remember looking forward to celebrating our 18th birthdays -- and not just because of the party. It meant we could vote. It meant we could go away to college or get a job. It meant we were becoming adults. But it didn't mean we were on our own.

But, if you ask the young people here -- or others who have aged out of foster care -- many will tell you that their 18th birthday was the start of a very tough road alone. We know young people who age out of foster care are more likely to drop out of school, land in a homeless shelter, be unemployed, come down with health problems, or have trouble getting health care.

And we know that these young people often carry with them a traumatic experience of abuse and neglect, experiences of being shuffled from home to home.

More powerful than any statistic, I hope that every single elected official and every single American hears the stories of the young people here today and their peers across the country. Because there are no more powerful advocates or educators.

I hope they hear the voices of the young people here from cities such as Tucson, San Francisco and Alexandria. They carry with them stories of being homeless while trying to finish school. They come here with gratitude for all of those who reached down to lift them up. And now many are helping others to do the same.

Whenever someone wants to know why we must do more for young people aging out of foster care, I hope they'll hear the voices of Alfred Perez -- who is here -- and others active in the California Youth Connection, an extraordinary group of young men and women I had the privilege to visit with just over a year ago in Berkeley.

It was right before Thanksgiving. And, one by one, they described what it was like to leave the foster care system. One 19-year-old confessed that it was her first Thanksgiving by herself -- and she didn't have anyone to call to ask how to bake a turkey. And a young man in college talked about what how it feels when the dorms close down, when other students pack up to go home for the holidays and you have absolutely no where to go.

(The following remarks represent Mrs. Clinton's speech as delivered.)

I hope that everyone who wonders why we need to do more for young people leaving foster care will hear the voices of people like Joy Warren, who is here with us today. Joy is in

her first year at Yale Law School, my alma mater. Unlike most of the other students there, she spent her childhood in foster care, and she has been entirely on her own since age 18. For seven years, she has lived without the support that permanent families provide...and all the while, she managed to receive a college degree, work as an advocate to improve foster care, and begin law school.

I met Joy in September at a conference called Destination Future, in which current and former foster children and homeless youth came together to talk about and learn about life skills and what they could do to help others overcome the obstacles they face every day. I've just received the report from the Conference, and it contains important messages for all of us. We need more awareness about this issue. Young people aging out of foster care need medical insurance. They need training and education. And that can only happen if we make greater investments in their lives.

Now, we know that there are countless people working in states, counties, and communities to meet those challenges -- many in this room are working to do just that.

There are programs in Texas and Florida, for example, that provide college tuition to state schools for young people in foster care who are accepted. In Los Angeles County, entry-level jobs are set aside for young people aging out of the foster care system. And like other Independent Living Programs, New York's is helping young people aging out of foster care with school, jobs, housing and the other tools that they need. One of those young people, Analeah Charles, is here with us today.

We should take these success stories and make sure they are replicated throughout our country. That's why I am so pleased to announce that the President's budget over the next five years will include \$280 million to help former foster children make the transition to independence -- and make the most of their lives.

We will be increasing funding for the Independent Living Program by 50 percent -- and giving foster children more help finishing high school, getting a job, and finding a place to live.

Now in many states and communities, the rule about aging out of foster care is whether you turn 18 or graduate from high school -- whichever happens first. So there are many children who are out of foster care even though they have not yet finished high school.

We will also be offering \$50 million in new competitive grants so that the states can continue to provide economic support to former foster children living through their transition.

We want to help more community-based programs that are giving homeless youth places to live and skills to build their futures. And I am pleased to announce that we are increasing funding for the Transitional Living Program by 33 percent.

And finally, the President's budget says that young people who age out of foster care should be eligible for Medicaid until they are 21. For too many young people, foster care means insurance -- and when they leave, they lose their Medicaid coverage.

In this country, I believe no person should be in the ranks of the uninsured -- but I certainly think no *young* person should be uninsured.

Now when we do all of this -- which I hope we certainly will in a bipartisan way, bringing new leaders of both political parties and our Congress together, and with the support of all of you throughout our nation who are advocates and workers in the field of foster care -- we will have a lot to celebrate. But the main reason I believe we will achieve what I hope we can with the President's leadership will be because of the courageous young people who are with us today who represent thousands and thousands of other young people across our country.

It will be because of young people such as Terry Harrak. When she turned 18, she was a senior in high school. But she soon found herself without foster care, without a job, without a place to call home. Night after night, she slept over at teachers' and friends' homes, she slept in metro terminals, she slept in hospital emergency rooms. Day after day, she would wake up and continue going to school. And she graduated.

Now I think that the story Terry has to tell us should be heard by everyone. She is now a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow Program in Alexandria, Virginia. She has a place to live, a job and community college to attend, and people to guide and support her. She is here with us today. It is my great honor to introduce Terry Harrak.

WHITE HOUSE EVENT ON SUPPORTING TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH

January 29, 1999

FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

TERRY HARRAK, 19 (SPEAKER)

Alexandria, VA

Terry entered foster care at the age of 16 after spending several months on her own with no family support. At the age of 18, having just started her senior year of high school, Terry emancipated from foster care with no job or place to live. Despite becoming homeless, she continued to attend school full time while staying at friends' homes, teachers' homes, metro terminals, and hospital emergency rooms. Terry graduated from high school in June of 1998 and became a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow (LIFT) program of Residential Youth Services in Alexandria, Virginia, which has provided her with critical services and a place to live. Terry is currently working and attends a local community college.

Established in 1991 as a Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth, LIFT provides housing, life skills, education and employment support. Youth in the program live in apartments, participate in individual and group life skills instruction, receive counseling from caring staff, and are helped to achieve educational and employment goals.

Contact: Dr. Vera Jackson, Living Independently for Tomorrow Program (703) 548-8334

JOHN GUTIERREZ, 19 (SPEAKER)

Culver City, California

John was in foster care from the age of 12. He has lived in group homes, one foster home and in Los Angeles County's 24-hour emergency shelter for foster youth. John has no family. During the course of his high school career, John attended eight different schools and in the beginning, was known to get into trouble. Then, at the age of 17, John decided to turn his life around. By graduation, John had a 3.0 grade point average and is currently studying Art at Santa Monica City College. John holds two part-time jobs: one as an administrative assistant at a law firm and another as a teacher's aide at a middle school. At the age of 19, John is preparing to leave the transitional housing in which he currently lives to move to an apartment of his own.

John credits his two group home counselors, his girlfriend, and now his independent living social worker through United Friends of the Children Bridges, with making the difference in his life. United Friends of the Children Bridges provides transitional housing with support services, employment preparation and placement assistance.

Contact: Clare Faulkner, United Friends of the Children Bridges (310) 338-3646

ANALEAH CHARLES, 18
New York, New York

Analeah is a young adult in the care of New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS). In March of 1998, Analeah came into foster care as a voluntary placement and became a resident of a city-operated boarding house. Analeah soon began to participate in ACS's Independent Living (IL) Program and is currently an active member of the Program's Peer Leadership Council. With support from the program, Analeah has excelled academically. Determined to finish her high school education at her Catholic school, she secured a partial scholarship and pays the rest of her tuition with earnings from a part time job. Analeah plans to attend college and has participated in the IL Programs' SAT preparation and college application tutorials.

The Independent Living (IL) Program, sponsored by Administration for Children's Services of New York, assists foster care youth in their transition to adulthood. The Independent Living Program trains foster youth in the life skills they need to survive, and offers them assistance in pursuing their education, seeking employment, and locating safe and affordable housing.

Contact: Leonora Wiener, Administration for Children's Services of New York (212) 266-2100

MARGARET DUARTE, 22
Tucson, Arizona

Margaret was in foster care from the age of five. Graduating fifth in her high school class, Margaret was offered several college scholarships and decided to attend the University of Arizona where she plans to graduate with a degree in finance and accounting this May. In order to give back to her community, Margaret volunteers at the Casa de los Ninos crisis shelter, a residential facility that provides shelter to abused and neglected children. Although she has lived on her own since high school, Margaret maintains a strong relationship with her foster mother who cared for her since she was eight.

Casey Family Services helped a great deal in Margaret's transition to college and adulthood. They provided her with necessary resources, included her in workshops on independent living, budgeting and finance, and taught her how to control and deal with anger. Casey also provided Margaret with a college scholarship throughout her five years of post secondary education.

Contact: Maureen Andrews, The Casey Family Program (520) 323-0886 x239

JOE FORSYTH, 19
Shelton, Connecticut

Joe entered foster care at the age of 11 and spent time in two State foster homes, a shelter, and a residential facility. At the age of 14, Joe was placed with a foster family through Casey Family

Services. Joe worked hard in high school and was admitted into Honors level classes. He also was a two time State wrestling champion. In addition to his studies, Joe has mentored younger students and volunteered to train foster parents. Currently, Joe is attending Springfield College in Massachusetts where he studies Applied Exercise Science on a full athletic scholarship. In 1998, Joe was asked to speak about foster care reform at a policy seminar hosted by the Institute for Educational Leadership held on Capitol Hill. Joe credits his success to his foster family, who stood by him even in times of trouble, and the hard work and dedication of his high school wrestling coach.

Contact: Lee Mullane, Casey Family Services (203) 929-3837

LEAH McBRIDE, 25
Cincinnati, Ohio

Leah started in foster care at a very young age and moved into the Lighthouse Independent Living Program at the age of 18. She has completed high school, holds an associates degree, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree. Leah now works part time at Lighthouse teaching independent living skills and mentoring current program participants. She has spoken to hundreds of foster care parents, business leaders, and other community members about the needs of emancipating foster care youth. Leah also devotes time to encouraging other foster youth to set goals, be persistent in working towards them, and not to let go of their dreams.

The Independent Living (IL) Program through Lighthouse, in which Leah spent a year and a half, is designed to promote self sufficiency in youth by gradually turning over their major life responsibilities. As they learn to become self sufficient, the program allows foster youth as young as 15 ½ to live in their own apartment with intensive support and assistance.

Contact: Mark Kroner, Lighthouse Youth Services (513) 475-5680

ALFRED PEREZ, 22
San Francisco, California

Alfred was in foster care for eleven years. In his last four years in care, he lived in eleven different placements, mostly group homes. During that time, Alfred carried his belongings from place to place in a plastic garbage bag. At age 15, Alfred started participating in the Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) where he learned about life skills and employment. Alfred also became involved with the California Youth Connection (CYC), a nonprofit organization that involves foster youth in lobbying for their welfare at the local and State levels. Alfred graduated from San Jose State University in 1998, and has since joined CYC as a full time statewide outreach coordinator.

Through the Independent Living Skills Program, Alfred learned a variety of life skills, received job training, and had basic educational skills reinforced. Through his participation in the

California Youth Connection (CYC) Alfred gained leadership skills, professional experience in public policy, and learned the importance of public participation in the policy making process. Alfred met the First Lady in November when she visited the University of California at Berkeley to discuss the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

Contact: Alfred Perez, California Youth Connection (415) 398-1063

RICO SHAW, 18
Baltimore, Maryland

At the age of 10, Rico entered the foster care system upon the death of his mother. At 17, he was referred by a social worker to the local welfare to work program, the Glenarden Campus of Opportunity. Rico's "campus" career assessment focused on earning a GED and securing a job in order to join an independent living program. Rico entered into a UPS Professional Job Readiness and Life Skills training class and enrolled in a GED program. Three weeks after entering the Job Readiness class, Rico was hired by UPS. This past September, Rico moved into his own apartment and is scheduled to take the GED examination in May of this year.

The UPS School-to-Career Partnership for Maryland Youth in Foster Care provides youth emancipating from foster care with part-time jobs, post-secondary educational opportunities and support services. The program works in partnership with the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Living Classrooms Foundation to support emancipating foster care youth.

Contact: Kevin Garvey, UPS School to Work Program (301) 604-4548

JOY WARREN, 25
New Haven, CT

Joy was in foster care from the age of 13. She has two sisters, one of whom recently left foster care and one who is still in high school. An active advocate on behalf of foster youth, Joy worked with the California Youth Connection (CYC) to improve the foster care system. Joy graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and currently attends Yale Law School.

Joy credits the California Youth Connection (CYC) with broadening her perspective on the wide range of experiences foster youth have within the system. CYC also made her acutely aware of how State and national policies have a profound impact on children's everyday lives.

Contact: Joy Warren (203) 785-8075

TERRI FAYE YADEN, 21
Vienna, VA

Terri was 10 years old when she and her sister were sent to Cookson Hills, a Christian orphanage on the border of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Terri cultivated many interests while at Cookson Hills including public speaking, sign language, sports, and a commitment to public service. Terri traveled across the United States representing Cookson Hills to its financial supporters, particularly Baptist congregations. Terri is now a junior in college at Oklahoma State University majoring in Early Education. In her sophomore year, Terri organized a sign language club, which taught hearing students to sign so they could perform volunteer work within the deaf community. Terri is a three time Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) scholarship recipient and has participated in a foster youth teen leadership program called the OLIVER Project. She has represented the OFA and spoken out on foster care issues in a wide variety of forums.

The Orphan Foundation of America provides college scholarships to older youth in foster care and those who have already left. In addition to receiving scholarship money, recipients are given the opportunity to participate in a summer leadership program in Washington which exposes foster care youth to legislators and gives them a chance to share their experience while learning how policy is made.

Contact: Eileen McCaffrey, Orphan Foundation of America (703) 281-4226

REMARKS BY JOHN GUTIERREZ

Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Gore, ladies and gentleman, it is an honor for me to be at the White House today to bring attention to the plight of emancipated foster youth.

I have been in foster care since I was 12 years old and have lived in group homes, foster homes and emergency shelters. Life has not been easy and I have experienced a lot of pain and suffering during the course of these years. I attended eight high schools in four years and at times, got into trouble. I never had the opportunity to establish long lasting relationships and as much as I wanted to I was not able to return to my family. Eventually, I just gave up.

When I turned 16, I was introduced to a brand new program called United Friends of Children Bridges to Independence and learned that a group of concerned citizens in Los Angeles who had been caring for abused and neglected foster children for over 20 years had started this program to help youth who emancipate from foster care at the age of 18. The Bridges to Independence program provides support, care and love to young adults as they leave foster care. Bridges, in partnership with the California Department of Children and Family Services and HUD, provides transitional housing, social workers, job training, and independent living skills to assist youth just like myself.

In fact, I was one of the first youth to enter the transitional housing program so that I would not become homeless. Today there are almost 200 foster youth living in apartments, learning basic living skills like cooking, shopping and money management - all while learning to contribute to their communities. Bridges also has a Career Center that works with us to provide job preparation and employment opportunities.

Because of the Bridges program and the unconditional support of my social worker, Ms. Belinda Gibson, I am ready to lead an independent successful life. I am attending Santa Monica Community College, working two part time jobs, and would like to work in the Entertainment Industry.

I am most proud to be at the White House today to represent the thousands of foster youth who each year find themselves without families, homes and the help that they need to create a good life for themselves. I am grateful to you Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Gore for bringing attention to this issue and ensuring that emancipated foster youth will never be forgotten. Thank you.

List

Dec 8

Alumni TK 10

CW Admin TK HHS 15

advocates: ~~26~~ 24 + 1 = ~~27~~ 28

an ~~no~~ corps: 3 (plus 2TK) = 5

ed: 6

birth based: 2

Foster parents: ~~1~~ TK + Shirley Hedger = (5/12/1)

FMS: ~~28~~ 27

IL cards:

Judges: 8

media: 3

referrers: 6

resource ctrs: 6

Gen cc: ~~8~~ 9

State 16A: 2 plus

think tank: 3

YOUTH SW: 3

plus ~~2~~ ~~amount~~

~~140~~ 138

+ HHS: ~~260~~ ~~26~~ staff

leg: 10

philipino: 10

(170)

B list

Alan Wetters
William Gordon
Cindy Ballard
Judy Rantz

Shirley Hedger
Adele Dugan
Karen Goss
William Wetters
156
166

Nicole R. Rabner

12/09/99 12:09:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP, Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: weekly

You and Eric can decide if you want/need to include this:

Children and Families -- Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. On Tuesday afternoon, you and the First Lady will host a bill signing ceremony in Presidential Hall for the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. As you know, the bill is largely based on your FY 2000 budget request to provide additional support to older children in the foster care system. The event will feature a number of young people with compelling personal experience as older adolescents in the foster care system.

Nicole R. Rabner

12/09/99 05:31:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: RE: Universe of Players list

Thanks for your message. Attached is the list of potential young people -- my recommendations for you to call first are Alfred Perez from CA/MI and Kristi from Ohio. Call me to discuss before you call.



- Alumni for white house.doc

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. chart	Re: Alumni: First Choices (partial) (2 pages)	n.d.	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 20366

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption and Foster Care/ILP [Independent Living Program] Bill Signing 12-14-99

2012-0565-S
ry1229

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Alumni ¹ : First Choices	Comments
Ms. Amy Clay George Washington University Washington, D.C. 202-242-1150	19 years old and still in Illinois state care. Sophomore at George Washington University and intern at CWLA. Part of CWLA youth involvement initiative.
[005] Mr. Percy Bailey St. Louis, MO h. [REDACTED] pager: 314-670-0805	Police officer in St. Louis. Testified on IL legislation. Part of CWLA youth involvement initiative.
Kristi C/o Mark Kroner Lighthouse Youth Services Cincinnati, Ohio 513-475-5680	17 years old. Currently receiving services. Part of CWLA youth involvement initiative.
John Gutierrez United Friends of Children Bridges Los Angeles, CA h. [REDACTED] w. 310-277-1010 xt 8200	Spoke at event in January 1999
Terry Harrak Annandale, VA w. 202-637-0377 h. [REDACTED]	Spoke at event in January 1999. Currently, Project Coordinator, Youth Involvement Initiative, CWLA
Alfred Pérez (formerly with California Youth Connection) University of Michigan 734-763-2981	Attended event in January 1999, former NFCAP representative. Met with Mrs. Clinton in 1998 when he was part of California Youth Connection. He is in the MSW program at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
Joy Warren (formerly with California Youth Connection) Berkeley, CA 510-595-5876	Attended event in January 1999

Ronee Collins 36233 148 th Ave. SE Auburn WA 98092 (b) (cell) 253-942-2412 (Pager) or c/o Ron Murphy at The Casey Family Program 253-473-9681 Xt 208	Former foster youth with The Casey Family Program –Tacoma Division. 19 years old, lives just outside Tacoma, WA. Has worked at <i>Tacoma News Tribune</i> and is currently a full-time student at Tacoma Community College.
Cynthia Brunelle Ivon PO Box 517 Greenville, RI 02828 (b) (6)	20 years old and Chair of the RI Youth Advisory Board. She's in college, and has spoken on several occasions--she recently spoke at the state house when the state's higher ed bill passed. would be a good choice to speak.
Ebony Thompson Baltimore, MD C/o Kevin Garvey at UPS 301-604-4548	18 year old who grew up in foster care in Baltimore. Thriving with UPS School to Work for Foster Care Program in Maryland. She is apparently a role model.
Roberto Marte DOB (b) (6) SSN - (b) (6) (b) (6)	Just turned 18. Part of Green Chimneys Program in NY and part of the CWLA youth involvement initiative.
Alumni Alternatives	Comments
Ms. Jenny Velasquez United Friends of the Children Bridges to Independence Culver City, CA	If John Gutierrez cannot attend, she should be the substitute from United Friends of Children.
Angela Bell Baltimore County Department of Social Services Baltimore, MD 410-526-7569/ 410-526-2942	If Ebony Thompson is unable to come from Maryland, please substitute Angela. 17 year old currently in care who lives in a group home, is working and going to high school.

Leigh Barr Administrative/ Finance Specialist The Casey Family Program-Great Plains Regional Office 455 Sherman Street Denver, CO 80203 303-871-8201 or Kelley Cook Managing Editor ACR Bulletin American College of Radiology 1891 Preston White Drive Reston, Virginia 20191 703-648-8919 or	Leigh grew up in foster care in Austin, TX and emancipated from The Casey Family Program in Austin. Has degree in social work, has worked with kids transitioning from care and is now Casey employee. Kelley (South Dakota native) 28 years old. Alumna of The Casey Family Program –Rapid City Division.
Reggie Rollins from CT C/o Bill Pinto, IL Coordinator for CT 860-550-6471	Young man in an apartment IL program in CT who testified in March.