

6-1-99

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 29, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAVID GOODFRIEND

SUBJECT: Recent Information Items

We are forwarding the following recent information items:

(A) *Reed memo on strategy for national campaign on youth violence* -- Bruce says that Eli Segal and Sarah Brown are heading an informal steering committee to make recommendations on immediate organizational steps for the campaign (*i.e.*, finding an executive director, since Eli doesn't want to do it; naming a board of directors; drafting a prospectus; and formally organizing under an existing non-profit) in time for the campaign to be up and running when school starts; Bruce will continue to look for new commitments from organizations that took part in the summit (*e.g.*, FTC/DOJ study on marketing of violence; nationwide teacher-training effort through NEA and others).

(B) *Sec. Glickman memo on prospects for farm economy in 2000* -- Sec. Glickman reports that he expects continued financial problems through 2000; prospects for livestock probably will improve due to reduced production; crop farmers will continue to endure financial stress, perhaps impacting the presidential campaign; exports probably will decline for the third consecutive year; continued low prices and income could further reduce land values, probably leading to another credit crunch next spring. *Please see memo for summary of major commodity markets.*

(C) *Tenet letter on anti-Semitism in CIA, via Chuck* -- Regarding recent media reports of alleged anti-Semitism affecting CIA employees and persons in the CIA clearance process, Director Tenet said that he will not tolerate any form of discrimination at CIA; he convened a panel to assess the allegations; the panel found instances of insensitivity but not anti-Semitism; and he asked the Anti-Defamation League to help with sensitivity training. Chuck says CIA's General Counsel briefed him and NSC staff about the specific case referred to in Tenet's letter; he will continue to stay in touch with CIA on this matter.

(D) *Berger memo on Gulf War, Kosovo sorties* -- Responding to your question, Sandy reports that there were over 112,000 sorties flown during the Gulf War by 2,780 aircraft; total sorties flown in Kosovo so far (day 66) is 27,800. *Please see attached chart.*

(E) *Berger memo on military recruiting and retention* -- Responding to your question about a *US News and World Report* article describing the difficulties in personnel recruitment and retention, Sandy says the article correctly stated that the Army and Air

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THE WHITE HOUSE
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May 26, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed

SUBJECT: National Campaign on Youth Violence

C-1 HRC / Kulan

This memo outlines our strategy for getting the national campaign up and running, and for taking additional steps to build on the success of the youth violence summit.

I. Organization

Over the last two weeks, we have had several discussions with Eli Segal and Sarah Brown to review their experiences with the Welfare-to-Work Partnership and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and work through the mechanics and structure of this new campaign.

As an interim step, Eli and Pam Eakes have agreed to head a small, informal steering committee of summit participants that will lead the search for an executive director and board of directors. This group will oversee the most immediate organizational steps:

1. **Executive Director:** This campaign will never really take off until we can hand it over to the right person outside the White House who can work full-time raising money and organizing. Several names have been mentioned – Michael Berman, Sam Brown, Ricki Seidman, Eli Segal. But apart from Eli, who doesn't want the job right now, no consensus candidate has emerged.
2. **Board of Directors:** Several people at the summit would be logical board members – Drew Altman of Kaiser, Pam Eakes, Steve Case, Gloria Estefan. But these decisions must be made carefully: The board needs to reflect the different sectors represented at the summit, have a common understanding of the campaign's mission, and be able to take the lead in raising money. (The teen pregnancy campaign relies on its board primarily for fundraising, and set up advisory task forces on the media, best practices, and grassroots efforts as a way to involve a broader range of experts and activists.)
3. **Prospectus:** Because a campaign like this could go in many different directions, we should make some choices at the outset. We are writing a draft prospectus that will give you and the First Lady a chance to mull over those issues, and that eventually

will serve as a mission statement for the organization and an entrée to foundations. The prospectus will spell out the guiding principles of the organization, the rationale for the campaign, an agenda for the first year, and measurable goals for the long term.

4. **Non-Profit Status:** One of the first steps the campaign needs to take is to formally organize under an existing non-profit (possibly the Kaiser Foundation or Mothers Against Violence), so that it can begin receiving contributions.

We have asked Eli and Pam to help us make recommendations to you in all these areas in the next 30-60 days, so that the organization can be up and running when school resumes in the fall. In the meantime, we are following up with every summit participant through phone calls, photos, and a letter from you thanking them for their involvement and seeking their continued support. We also are firming up commitments to the campaign that several major organizations (YWCA, AMA, Nat. Assn. of Elementary School Principals) made before the summit. Scores of other organizations have written the White House with offers to help the national campaign; we are sending them letters as well, and pursuing those that have the most promise.

II. Communications Strategy

To maintain the momentum of this effort, we will continue to look for new commitments from organizations that took part in the summit, additional actions you can take on your own, and new sectors you can challenge:

1. **Federal Trade Commission / Justice Department study:** Unless the Justice Department backs away from providing the funds, next Tuesday you can announce a joint FTC-DOJ study of whether the movie, recording, and videogame industries live up to their own systems of self-regulation, and to what extent those industries market violence to young people.
2. **Nationwide effort to train teachers to identify troubled youth:** We are working with the NEA and other education groups on a nationwide teacher training campaign. We're still working out the details, but we hope to be able to announce at the Mental Health Conference that Education, Justice, and these organizations would sponsor a series of teleconferences this summer with experts on identifying and helping troubled youth. The Education Department would then make videotapes of the sessions available to every school district before school resumes. In addition, we may be able to join in NEA's announcement of a school safety network that will provide satellite dishes, donated by a company in Littleton, to 1,000 school districts around the country.
3. **Other challenges:** We are working with the Vice President's office to see whether we can persuade a group of retailers to agree to strengthen enforcement of the videogame ratings system by refusing to sell adult-rated software to children. We would like to reach a similar agreement with Blockbuster and other videostores, but

have not gained a foothold yet. We will continue to press the National Alliance of Theater Owners to go along with your challenge to card under-age moviegoers. We have found a few people in the entertainment community who like your challenge not to market guns in ads or previews, but no big names yet. If any new commitments pan out in time, you and First Lady can announce them in your *Good Morning America* interview on June 4th.

May 8, 1999

BRIEFING ON YOUTH VIOLENCE ISSUES

FROM: NEERA TANDEN
RUBY SHAMIR

Following are statistics on factors that may contribute to eruptions of youth violence. The first section is a synopsis of several studies on media violence and its effects on children's behavior. The second section, on the state of the nation's children, notes that feelings of depression and isolation appear to be growing. The third section includes statistics on gun violence.

Media Violence

There have been numerous studies on the effects of television violence on children. The vast majority of these studies, which cover a range of settings and issues, have concluded that violence on television promotes aggressive behavior in children.

Television Programming Content

Several studies have measured the quantity of violence that appears on television. A 1992 study entitled "Big World, Small Screen: The Role of Television in American Society" noted that the level of violence in prime time television has remained at approximately five violent acts per hour, while the level of violence in children's Saturday morning programming is much higher at an average of 20 to 25 violent acts per hour. The study further estimated that children witness 8,000 murders and 100,000 other assorted acts of violence by the time they graduate from elementary school, and an estimated 16,000 simulated murders and 200,000 acts of violence by the time they are teens.

The Center for Media and Public Affairs observed programming on 10 channels on one eighteen-hour day and found that between 1992 and 1994 the levels of violence increased 41% from 10 scenes of violence per hour in 1992 to 15 scenes of violence per hour in 1994. By 1996, the same study found that the levels of gunplay violence nearly tripled increasing 334% over the three seasons observed.

According to the 1996 National Television Violence Study, a three-year study financed by the cable industry, the majority of television programs (57%) contained some violent content. The study also found that perpetrators of violent acts on television go unpunished 73% of the time and that 25% of violent acts on television involve the use of a handgun. Children's programs posed special concerns because they were least likely to depict the long-term consequences of violence (5%) and they portray violence in a humorous fashion 67% of the time.

Impact of Media Violence

Studies on the effects of television violence on children have taken place in a range of settings -- in controlled lab settings and natural settings, over the course of many years, and in the short term -- and the vast majority of them have concluded that violence on television leads to aggressive behavior.

The 1972 Surgeon General Report said "We know that children imitate and learn from everything they see -- parents, fellow children, school, the media; it would be extraordinary, indeed, if they did not imitate and learn from what they see on television." Experiments carried out for this report revealed that violence on television causes children either to mimic directly the actions they view, or it may instigate aggressive behavior. Other studies found that if an actor is rewarded for violent behavior, children are more likely to imitate it.

In 1992, the Journal of the American Medical Association published a special article on the effects of television violence on young children. The report reconfirmed the findings of previous reports -- such as the 1972 report and a 1982 National Institute of Mental Health study -- that young children have an instinct to imitate behavior. It further noted that "they do not possess an instinct for gauging a priori whether a behavior ought to be imitated....up through the ages 3 and 4 years, many children are unable to distinguish fact from fantasy in television programs..."

According to the American Psychiatric Association, ignoring consequences of violence (which apparently happens 73% of the time according to the 1996 National Television Violence Study referenced above) or depicting the consequences unreasonably sets in motion a destructive encoding process. Viewers become desensitized and fearful and begin to identify with aggressors and the aggressors' solutions to various problems. The violent behaviors and attitudes thus encoded, aggression becomes all the more likely in personal situations.

Studies have shown that television violence has a particularly negative effect on children who have a tendency towards aggressive behavior. However, it is important to note that television violence affects youngsters of all ages, both genders, all socioeconomic levels and all levels of intelligence. Dr. Leonard Eron of the University of Chicago has said that the effect is not limited to children predisposed to aggressive behavior. Instead, television violence creates a vicious cycle in which televised violence causes children to become more aggressive, and these more aggressive children in turn, watch more violence on television to justify their own behavior.

Recent studies have measured the longer-term effects of television violence by tracking subjects from childhood to adulthood. Dr. Eron led a study in 1960 that tracked 870 youth in New York and found that a boy's early childhood aggression in elementary school was statistically related to aggressive anti-social behavior 10 years later. A 22-year follow-up with the same group of children found that their early violence viewing related to their adult criminality at age 30.

State of the Nation's Children

Children and Depression

The National Mental Health Association (MNHA) cites a number of studies and statistics on childhood depression. The MNHA also marked May 6 as Childhood Depression Awareness Day to bring attention to the condition.

- As many as one in every 33 children and one in eight adolescents may have depression. (U.S. Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), 1996)
- Once a young person has experienced a major depression, he or she is at risk of developing another depression within the next five years. (CMHS, 1996)
- Two-thirds of children with mental health problems do not get the help they need. (CMHS, 1996)
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds (approximately 5,000 young people) and the sixth leading cause of death for five to 15 year olds. (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), 1995.)
- The rate of suicide for five to 24 year olds has nearly tripled since 1960, making it the leading cause of death in adolescents and the second leading cause of death among college age youth. (AACAP, 1995)

Children's Attitudes

As you know, the Ad Council produced a study entitled "Kids These Days: What American Really Think About the Next Generation," covering a range of issues. The study, a collection of surveys, demonstrated widely held concerns that young people today face a moral crisis because parents are careless and not sufficiently engaged in the lives of their children. The study further noted that parents do not feel that they are able to spend enough time with their children, because they must work harder.

The study had a special focus on teen's attitudes. Teenagers described themselves as happy and said that they have warm relationships with their parents and other adults. Many, however, noted that they have a lot of free, unstructured time and said that their environs are filled with hazards and potential trouble.

Statistics on Gun Violence

According to a 1996 Department of Justice report, there are approximately 200 million guns in private hands even though only 25 % of all adults in America own guns. The study found that 20% of all gun-owning households had a loaded, unlocked gun in the home, a figure that was significantly higher among households that had a handgun, as opposed to a long gun. Further,

the study found that 53% of long guns and 57% of handguns are usually kept unlocked. Additionally, 26% of all guns and 55% of handguns are usually kept loaded. Loaded guns of either type are more likely to be unlocked than are unloaded guns. The result is that one in three handguns, and one in six long guns, is kept loaded and unlocked.

Gun violence is also on the rise, as the firearm injury rate is ten times higher than the polio epidemic in the first half of the century. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that by 2003 the leading cause of death from injury will be from gunshots.

- In 1996, 4,643 children and teenagers were killed by firearms in murders, suicides, and unintentional shootings.
- Gunshot wounds are the second leading cause of death for all people aged 10-34.
- According to a February 1997 report by the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of firearm deaths among children 0-14 years old is nearly twelve times higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

May 9, 1999

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM GUNS

Date: Saturday, May 8
Time: 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Location: The White House
Washington, D.C.
From: Neera Tanden and
Ruby Shamir

I. PURPOSE

To highlight the importance of keeping children safe from guns as part of efforts to honor families for Mother's Day.

II. BACKGROUND

Overview

This event focuses on the problem of children's easy access to guns. At the event, you will announce a Mother's Day pledge intended for all – those who own guns and those who do not. We developed this pledge with Handgun Control Inc. as a vehicle to focus attention on this issue. The pledge will also appear on your web site, Lifetime Television's web site, and Handgun Control's web site.

The majority of the people in the audience are parents and roughly 30 are parents who lost children to gun violence. You will participate in a photo receiving line with these families at the end of the event (list attached). The speakers at the event have each been personally affected by gun violence; they are Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Rebecca Lynn, Catherine Murphy, and Tom Mauser (see section on bios).

Gun Legislation

The Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act, recently introduced by the President, will strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

Senator Schumer is the bill's main sponsor on the Senate side and we expect him to introduce the bill next week. Senator Lott has indicated that the Senate would move to Juvenile Crime legislation next week, and while some Senate Democrats are doubtful that this will happen, they are preparing amendments on school safety and on guns. The Administration's efforts are

focused on three particular amendments: (1) child access protection; (2) regulation of gun shows; and (3) raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21.

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Bios of Speakers

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1996 and was re-elected for her second term in 1998. A life-long resident of Mineola, New York, she is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with over 30 years experience in the health care field. Carolyn married Dennis McCarthy in 1967 and they raised one son, Kevin. On December 7, 1993 her husband was killed and her son was injured when a crazed gunman randomly shot into a rush hour commuter train returning from New York City to Long Island. Rather than allow this tragedy to defeat her, Rep. McCarthy turned the incident into a public campaign against gun violence. She began by speaking across the country on the roots and causes of gun violence and she soon became a vocal advocate for commonsense laws to reduce gun violence in New York State and on a national level. Rep. McCarthy introduced an omnibus guns bill and we have incorporated a number of her provisions in our bill.

Rebecca A. Lynn is an admissions evaluator for the Admissions Office at the University of Oregon. Born in Long Beach, California, she has one sister and three brothers, one deceased. A divorced mother, she has two children, Mike J. Dohner, age 17; and Betina A. Lynn, age 19. Her daughter Betina was shot twice, once in the back and once in the foot, in last year's school shooting in Springfield, Oregon that left 2 dead and 22 injured. Since the shooting, she and her daughter Betina have been fighting for common sense gun laws in Oregon. Earlier this year in

Oregon, they helped rally support for a child access prevention bill and a measure that would require background checks at local gun shows in Oregon. Both measures are still pending before the Oregon legislature. When the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act was reintroduced in March of this year, Rebecca and Betina appeared at a Capitol Hill press conference with Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative Carolyn McCarthy.

Catherine Murphy is a New York City policewoman married to another law enforcement officer. They have always stressed gun safety, and disarmed and locked up their service weapons when at home. That did not help their eleven-year-old son, Christopher, who was accidentally shot and killed in December of 1997 by a friend playing with his older brother's illegal gun. Since the shooting, Catherine has become a leading gun safety advocate. Last year, the City of New York adopted a child safety lock ordinance measure, known as Christopher's law, in memory of her son. Last year she also became a leading advocate for the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act, a bill sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative Carolyn McCarthy.

Tom Mauser, who works for the Colorado Department of Transportation, is the father of 15 year old Daniel Mauser, a Columbine High School sophomore who was killed two and a half weeks ago. Daniel Mauser, who excelled in math and science and earned straight A's, was studying through his lunch hour in the library in the school library when he was ambushed and killed. Tom Mauser and his wife, Linda, have one other child, 13-year-old Christie. Mr. Mauser led the protests against the NRA when the organization held its Denver convention about a week ago.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Speaking Program

- Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
- Rebecca Lynn
- Catherine Murphy
- Thomas Mauser
- The First Lady

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You will greet Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Rebecca Lynn, her daughter Betina Lynn, Catherine Murphy, Thomas Mauser, and President of Handgun Control Inc. Bob Walker in the Blue Room.
- You will proceed to a speaking program in the East Room.
- You will make brief welcoming remarks and introduce Representative Carolyn McCarthy.
- Representative Carolyn McCarthy will make remarks and introduce Rebecca Lynn.
- Rebecca Lynn will make remarks and introduce Catherine Murphy.
- Catherine Murphy will make remarks and introduce Thomas Mauser.
- Thomas Mauser will make remarks and introduce you.
- You will make remarks and close the program.

V. PRESS PLAN

- Open Press.

VI. REMARKS

- Provided by Lowell Weiss

Mother's Day Event Guest List: Survivors
May 8, 1999

Mary Leigh and Charlie Blek, Laguna Hills, CA

Their 21-year-old son, Matthew, was shot and killed in New York City by a teen with a junk gun. The Bleks founded Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence in 1995, and are leading advocates for responsible gun laws in California.

Katina Johnstone, Staten Island, NY

Ian Johnstone, Staten Island, NY (16-year-old son of David)

Her 43-year-old husband, David, was shot and killed in San Francisco by a teen. She founded New Yorkers Against Gun Violence in 1993, and has organized three national Silent Marches. She was a plaintiff in *Hamilton v. Accutec*, a successful lawsuit against the gun industry.

Tom Vanden Berk, Chicago IL

His 15-year-old son, Tommy, was shot and killed by a teen in Chicago. Tom is an executive director of the Uhlich Children's Home in Chicago and a founder of Help for Survivors.

Alfredo Valentin, New York City, NY

His seventeen-year-old son, Derek, was shot and killed by a teen in New York City. Alfredo is an active member of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.

Lynn Dix, Berkeley, CA

Lynn's son, Kenzo, was shot and killed by accident when his friend showed him his father's gun. Lynn sued the gun-maker, Berretta, for failing to design the gun with a device to prominently indicate that a round is loaded in the chamber.

Kimberly Rowland, Pleasanton, CA

Kimberly lost a dear friend in the 101 California massacre. She has organized memorial marches on the anniversary of the 101 California and two local ballot initiatives to reduce access to guns.

Freddie Hamilton

Freddie Hamilton lost her youngest child, a 17-year-old son. She is the founder and ex-director of the "Child Development Corporation" in Brooklyn.

Jean Jamata

Jean Jamata's 19-year-old daughter shot and killed herself.

Yvonne Pope

Yvonne Pope's 20-year-old son was shot and killed on the basketball court by an 18-year-old.

Ann Cargill

Ann Cargill's son was shot by a carload of kids armed with an assault weapon.

Francis Davis

Francis Davis lost all three of her sons during different shootings.

Alice McEnaney

Alice McEnaney's son has survived with permanent damage from a shooting at the State University of New York at Albany. He tried to disarm at fellow student.

Geraldine Rodriquez

Geraldine Rodriquez lost her 17-year-old son.

Andrea Slade-Lewis

Andrea Slade-Lewis lost her son.

Caron Brock

Caron Brock lost her 19-year-old son. He was an exceptional basketball player with many awards.

Kay King

Kay King lost her son, Police Sergeant Patrick King, when he was shot from behind in a New Jersey restaurant by a killer who had said he wanted to "take out" a police officer. The shooter then killed himself. Patrick's wife Maureen and sons Patrick and Todd are also attending.

Rebecca Lynn

Rebecca Lynn (speaker) is from Springfield, Oregon. Her daughter, Betina, was seriously wounded in the school shooting there on May 14, 1998. Her son Mikel Dohner and Betina are accompanying her.

Tom Mauser

Tom Mauser's (speaker) son Daniel was killed in the Columbine High School shooting at Littleton, Colorado on April 20.

Patty May

Patty May, of Fairfax, Virginia lost her son to an unintentional shooting by his friend. Her daughter, who mistakenly felt herself responsible for the shooting killed herself with a gun three weeks later.

Tamara Mechem

Tamara Mechem of Littleton, Colorado lost her son to an unintentional shooting by his friend. Her daughter, who mistakenly felt herself responsible for the shooting, killed herself with another gun three weeks later.

Catherine Murphy

Catherine Murphy, (speaker) and her husband Pedro, two New York City police officers lost her 12-year-old son, Christopher, to an unintentional shooting by another teenager who lived next door. The New York City law mandating the sale of trigger locks is named Christopher's Law in his honor. Cathy's son, Justin, who will be with her, misses his brother very much.

Jacqueline and Michael Peranio

Jacqueline and Michael Peranio of Florida lost their eleven-year-old daughter when their thirteen-year-old son Christopher shot her unintentionally. Christopher will also be attending the event.

Judy Soto

Judy Soto's eleven-year-old son, Omar, was killed unintentionally by a friend who found his family's firearm. Judy was a leader in passing one of the first Child Access Prevention laws, in Florida in 1989.

David and Dottie Whitt

David and Dottie Whitt's son Lance was unintentionally shot by a friend who thought he was playing with an unloaded gun. They live in Springfield, Virginia.

Virginia and Marvin Miller

Virginia and Marvin Miller are the parents of FBI agent Michael Miller, killed in a shootout at DC Police Headquarters. Their surviving son, Bryan, is Executive Director of Ceasefire New Jersey, the largest gun control advocacy group in the state.

Veronica Trott

Veronica Trott lost her 17-year-old son. No one was ever convicted.

Julia Dunkin

Julia Dunkin, the Executive Director of Survivors of Homicide in Washington, lost her husband and son to gun violence. Her organization provides support and financial assistance to families to families who suffer the same tragedy.

Shirley and Terrica Gibson

Shirley and Terrica Gibson are the mother and sister of Capital Police Officer Brian T. Gibson, who was killed last summer by a mentally disturbed gunman at the U.S. Capitol.

Ed and Marsha Simon

Ed and Marsha Simon of Cederhurst, New York, lost their son, Matthew, when he committed suicide with a rifle he had just purchased at Wal-Mart.

Patrice Daly

Patrice Daly's 14 year old son was shot when he went to a friend's house. There was a loaded gun in the friend's room.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY & PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE

President Clinton's Record

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Hosting the White House Conference on School Safety. Convening experts, parents, principals, students, law enforcement and local community leaders, the President and First Lady held the first-ever White House Conference on School Safety on October 15, 1998, to provide an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer. The Conference focused both on the recent incidents of extreme violence as well as the causes of youth violence more generally. It included members of communities affected by school shootings and was linked by satellite to schools and communities across the nation.

Launching a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. Last month, the President launched the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, which will provide up to \$180 million this year -- and a total of \$380 million over the next three years -- to help 50 communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school safety and youth violence. This initiative, which was also a product of the White House School Safety Conference, represents an unprecedented collaboration between the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services to provide comprehensive educational, law enforcement, mental health, juvenile justice, and other services to help communities prevent youth violence and drug abuse, in and out of school. Communities have until June 1, 1999 to apply for as much as \$3 million each through this initiative.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program to focus more on effective violence prevention initiatives. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; funding for mental health services; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. The guide, aimed at teachers, principals, parents, and others who work with young people, provides information on how to identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to violence in schools. In addition, the guide also instructs schools on how to develop a violence prevention plan and

provides a crisis procedure checklist for schools to use if violence occurs. Finally, the guide lists actions students can take -- such as listening to troubled friends, involving trusted adults, and asking law enforcement to conduct school safety audits -- to help create safer schools. More than 200,000 guides already have been distributed to schools across the nation, and 150,000 additional copies will be distributed next week.

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- in his FY 2000 budget to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters. The program will also help communities build the infrastructure necessary to bring more mental health services into their schools.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Issuing the First Annual Report on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for an Annual Report on School Safety, which was released on October 15, 1998 and sent to every school in the nation. The report includes: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local crime reporting; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined and drug-free schools.

GUN CONTROL

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Children. A number of laws and initiatives are keeping guns out of the hands of children and away from criminals. For instance, since the Brady Law's enactment, over 250,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been denied handguns, and the 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies -- keeping assault

weapons off America's streets. The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) is cracking down on the illegal gun markets that supply firearms to juveniles and criminals in 37 target cities. The ATF has already traced more than 77,000 crime guns in the YCGII cities, which has led to the investigation and arrest of hundreds of illegal gun traffickers supplying guns to juveniles and criminals. The Administration's FY 2000 budget proposal proposes adding ATF agents to new YCGII cities to assist in gun trafficking investigations. In addition to these programs, President Clinton signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with every handgun issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns, helping to protect our children.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring states to have in effect a law requiring local education agencies (LEAs) to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" for guns in schools, a policy requiring the expulsion of students who bring guns to schools. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

CULTURE

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and identifying which programs they want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, President Clinton and Vice President Gore used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President, Vice President, and First Lady convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand education television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the

development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: 1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Increased Funding for Children's Mental Health Services: From 1993 to 1999, the President has increased funding for children's mental health services from just \$5 million to \$78 million. Significant parts of this funding will be used to provide link schools with mental health services.

Substantial New Increases to Improve Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. In 1999, the Congress responded to the Administration's proposal to substantially increase substance abuse prevention and treatment activities. Congress has approved a critical \$275 million increase in the Substance Abuse Block Grant at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). With this increase, over \$1.5 billion will be allocated to the block grant in FY1999 enabling tens of thousands of high-risk youth, pregnant women, and other underserved Americans to get much-needed drug treatment and prevention services.

New Investments in Mental Health Services at SAMHSA. The President's FY 99 budget included a new \$13 million increase in mental health block grant. With this increase, the block grant will contain \$288 million in mental health spending this year. These services provide much needed treatment, counseling and services for thousands of people with mental illnesses.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Supporting Curfews at the Local Level. Community curfews are designed to help keep children out of harm's way and enhance community safety. Because of their success, President Clinton has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies. A 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors has shown that 276 of 347 cities surveyed -- or 80 percent -- had youth curfew laws, up from 70 percent in 1995.

Developing a Comprehensive Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy. President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to (1) target gangs and violent youths with tougher punishments and by expanding anti-gang task forces and the use of racketeering statutes (i.e., RICO) for gang-related offenses; (2) crack down on kids and guns by prohibiting violent juveniles from buying guns and increasing penalties for selling handguns to youths; and (3) keep kids off the streets and out of trouble by expanding after-school programs and promoting anti-truancy initiatives and youth curfews.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Encouraging Conflict Resolution. The Departments of Education and Justice have developed and distributed 40,000 conflict resolution guides to schools and community organizations, providing guidance on how to develop effective conflict resolution programs; Education and Justice are training community officials and educators on these conflict resolution measures.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 1999

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert,

On the eve of Mother's Day, a celebration that honors the contribution mothers make to their children and their families, we are writing to ask that the House of Representatives honor all of our mothers by scheduling a vote on gun safety legislation by the end of June.

In the wake of the Littleton shootings, mothers and fathers across the country are facing new concerns about their children's safety and access to guns. A 1993 Harris survey found that 59% of schoolchildren in grades six through twelve said they "could get a handgun if they wanted one," and a third of those polled said they could get one "within an hour."

Moreover, between the years 1987 and 1993, juvenile homicides involving a firearm grew by 182%. Children are getting guns and children are using guns in violent crimes. Clearly, the laws that we have on the books are not working.

What can Congress do? There are a range of gun safety legislative proposals that have been introduced in the House, and we believe they all deserve a fair and public hearing, including:

- closing the loophole on gun show sales;
- raising the eligibility age on gun ownership from 18 to 21;
- requiring child safety locks; and
- holding guns to consumer safety standards like other products.

We know that guns are not the single cause of the increase in juvenile violence. Our culture has become awash in violence. From television to video games to the Internet, our children are inundated with violent imagery that can have a damaging effect on their psychological well-being. However, we must recognize that it is access to guns that can turn a disturbed teenager into a mass murderer. It's time to strengthen our gun laws to keep firearms out of the hands of children.

Mr. Speaker, we ask you to schedule two days of debate on gun safety by June 20th,

Father's Day. Let's devote a few days of our lives to save the lives of children. This Mother's Day, it's the greatest gift we could give to America's moms.

Sincerely,

**Members Signed on to Gun Safety Legislation Letter to Speaker Hastert
5/6/99**

1. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (WI)
2. Rep. Corrine Brown (FL)
3. Rep. Julia Carson (IN)
4. Rep. Donna Christian-Christensen (VI)
5. Rep. Eva Clayton (NC)
6. Rep. Diana DeGette (CO)
7. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT)
8. Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA)
9. Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX)
10. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)
11. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH)
12. Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI)
13. Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)
14. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (CA)
15. Rep. Nita Lowey (NY)
16. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY)
17. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY)
18. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (GA)
19. Rep. Carrie Meek (FL)
20. Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA)
21. Rep. Patsy Mink (HI)
22. Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA)
23. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)
24. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (CA)
25. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
26. Rep. Janice Schakowsky (IL)
27. Rep. Louise Slaughter (NY)
28. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (CA)
29. Rep. Nydia Velazquez (NY)
30. Rep. Maxine Waters (CA)
31. Rep. Lynn Woolsey (CA)

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3D DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

ASSISTANT TO THE MINORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 6, 1999

Contact: G. James Papa
202/225-3661

DELAURO: GUN SAFETY DESERVES DEBATE

WASHINGTON, DC — Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT) was joined by women Democrats today as she released a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) that calls for broad and open discussion of gun safety legislation. On the eve of Mother's Day, the women members implored Hastert to schedule two days of debate on gun safety before Father's Day, June 20.

"Mothers and fathers across the country are facing new concerns about their children's safety and access to guns," said DeLauro. "Children are getting guns and children are using guns in violent crimes. We are asking that the House take the time to look at all the major gun safety proposals."

The letter, signed by thirty-one women members, simply calls for a fair and public hearing on gun safety legislation, including proposals that:

- o close the loophole on gun show sales
- o raise the eligibility age for gun ownership from 18 to 21
- o require child safety locks
- o hold guns to consumer safety standards

"In America, we take all kinds of precautions to protect our children," said DeLauro. "We ensure the safety of everything from baby rattles to strollers to car seats. But, when it comes to our most dangerous and deadly product -- a gun -- there are no protections for children. We protect our kids from rattles, but not from guns? There is something wrong with this picture."

DeLauro is a co-sponsor of the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act (H.R. 1342), which would make guns safer by requiring handguns to 1) have a minimum trigger resistance so children under five cannot pull it; 2) pass a "drop test" designed to prevent accidental firing; 3) have a manual safety; and 4) be sold with qualified child safety locks.

"This Mother's Day, mothers across this country are asking us to take common sense steps to protect their families," said DeLauro. "As mothers and daughters and sisters, we're calling for a chance to debate common sense gun safety measures."

DeLauro was joined at the press conference by Congresswomen Carolyn McCarthy (NY), Julia Carson (IN), Nita Lowey (NY), Carolyn Maloney (NY), Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA), Grace Napolitano (CA), Ellen Tauscher (CA), and Lynn Woolsey (CA).