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MINORITY BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR

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POLITICAL RACE MATTERS

An Exclusive Interview with
Vice President Albert Gore, Jr.

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Weldon H. Latham is a senior partner in the Washington, D.C. offices of Holland and Knight LLP, a law firm with more than 1,100 attorneys in 22 U.S. cities. An authority on federal procurement, small business law and government relations. He represents several Fortune 100 CEOs in corporate diversity and government relations matters as well as many of the largest minority and small businesses, municipalities and trade associations. He also advises President Clinton, members of Congress, and the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses on minority business and diversity issues. Latham is a member of the SBA administrator's National Advisory Council, and first vice chair of the SBA Commerce Department MED Week 2000. He is also general counsel for the National Coalition of Minority Businesses.

Political Race Matters

Why vote? It's the up-bringing of some, and the nature of others to think that one vote won't make a difference. And, they're right. It's called the "paradox of participation." According to

Psychologist B. F. Skinner, "the chance that one man's vote will decide the issue in a national election is less than the chance that he will be killed on his way to the polls. We pay no attention to chances of

candidates of choice. That's why this "paradox of participation" is a paradox only for votes counted individually.

The reasons citizens don't vote vary. They believe their vote is unimportant; or the election process is too difficult. Whatever the reason, both voting and non-voting have long-term consequences which determine the strength of a political party and the stability and

predictability of election results. The

that magnitude in our daily affairs. We should call a man a fool who bought a sweepstakes ticket with similar odds against him."

However, if those who thought this way voted, they could determine, in this case, whether a Republican or a Democratic president would be running the country. Collectively, voting does count. Voting produces

people have the choice and the power.

When the right to vote was denied, the fight for that right was vigorous. Now that the right has been granted, the effort to get citizens to vote has become vigorous. For example, in 1984, only 59 per-



Earl Keleny



cent of eligible American voters went to the polls and voted for their presidential choice. That number was significantly smaller in local elections. In comparison, during that same period, 71 percent of the people in Great Britain voted, 81 percent in the Netherlands, 89 percent in West Germany, 90 percent in Italy, and 91 percent in Sweden.

Today, across the United States, more money is spent on voter registration than on any other component of an election, aside from campaign costs. Something is wrong with this picture.

What needs to be understood is that the same politics and power that discourage people from voting are the same politics and power that belong to the people, *if* the people take hold of it. But, that's not happening. Think about the definitions of the two words and their relationship to each other. Politics is the exercise of power while power is the enforcer.

Some voters are turned off by the politics and power behind the campaigning, but that's nothing new. Adolph Hitler used his influence in 1933 to seize power. Even before the U.S. Constitution was ratified

in 1788, politics and power played major roles. As far back as 1497 examples of power were demonstrated when John Cabot, on behalf of King Henry VII, claimed territory in North America.

Voting is the only means of electing a candidate of choice and of enforcing policy. So why forfeit this ultimate power? Think about it.

Going to the polls is not the first step, but the last step, in the election process. Getting involved and becoming an informed voter, on a local and national level, is how the American democratic system works best.

Set aside cultural traditions and preconceived ideas that the election is already wrapped up. Make a commitment from an informed position. The voter has the power and the choice, and that's real democracy.

To provide a vehicle to assist our readers become better informed voters, *MBE* magazine spoke with the presidential candidates about their positions on minority and women's business development.

Angela M. Cooper

Editor In Chief

An Exclusive Interview with Vice President Albert Gore, Jr.

Vice President Gore speaks with MBE contributor Weldon H. Latham about the influence of race on U.S. government and economic policies, the Clinton/Gore Administration's efforts to secure and enhance opportunities for minorities and women, and the future.

As we approach the final days of one of the most successful presidential administrations ever, Albert Gore is considered the most visible, substantive, and successful of all American vice presidents. Yet, Vice President Gore knows that he is in the campaign of his political life as he strives to become only the second incumbent vice president of the twentieth century to be elected to succeed a sitting president. As he enters the final weeks of this campaign, the vice president well understands the key role that racial and ethnic minori-



Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. speaks with MBE contributor Weldon H. Latham about the influence of race on U.S. government and economic policies.

ties will play in his bid for the White House. Gore knows that in order to win this election, he must retain the overwhelming support of African Americans, Hispanics, other minorities, and women that he and President Clinton have so successfully relied upon in two previous elections.

Vice President Gore

Against the backdrop of the divisive, unfair, and racially hostile policies that made the civil rights movement necessary, Vice President Gore has supported President Clinton in leading the most progressive and inclusive administration in history. The Clinton/Gore Administration has zealously fought for inclusionary policies and diversity in the areas of minority appointments, economic empowerment, community investment, equal justice, and even the inclusion of Africa in U.S. foreign policy. Vice President Gore has formed an unparalleled partnership with the president in repelling efforts to halt or reverse the hard-fought gains of African Americans, Hispanics, other minorities, and women over the past 30 years, such as the President's bold and definitive "mend it, don't end it" policy mandate on affirmative action (see "Measure for Measure," *MBE* September/October, 1996, page 32).

This campaign and the choice it represents is historic, because in recent elections Republican presidential candidates have openly rebuffed minorities and women in favor of the radical right that decried governmental efforts to level the playing field for minorities or to allow women to control their own bodies. This Republican ticket pretends to be different, but it is not!

While the right wing gives lip service to the goal of "nondiscrimination," it has assiduously sought to statutorily deny the government access to the tools used most effectively to achieve the goal of stopping the exclusion of minorities and women from every positive aspect of American society—from jobs to country clubs, from equal pay to scholastic sports, from universities to corporate board rooms, from access to fair and equal mortgages to federal contracts.

The Bush campaign, at the Republican national convention, portrayed "illusory inclusion" of minorities and women by showcasing them in televised speeches and entertainment. The Republican convention, however, continued to maintain affirmative action for white males, who comprised 62 percent of its delegates. While Colin Powell was allowed to speak and deliver his message of equal opportunity—George W. clearly, unequivocally, yet "compassionately," declared his conservative abdication of the federal government's role in protecting civil rights. He noted that his favorite Supreme Court Justices are Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia—the only two justices in the *Adarand* case who stated that race conscious government actions are never lawfully permitted to remedy discrimination or exclusion.

Minority Appointments

The Clinton/Gore administration more than ful-

filled its promise to appoint a Cabinet of senior White House and other government officials that "looks like America," including in its first term the appointment of African American **Ron Brown**—Secretary of Commerce (by all accounts the most successful Commerce Secretary in history). In addition to the legacy of the most ever minority and female appointments, the vice president named **Donna Brazile** as the first African American woman to head the campaign of a major party presidential nominee.

While this performance has been unprecedented, a recent *New York Times* article raised questions as to whether President Clinton has included minorities or women in his "true inner circle of advisors." The challenge for Vice President Gore is to not just build upon, but to surpass that which President Clinton has achieved. If Gore wins, he will do so with strong, if not record, support from minorities and women who will expect to be included in every inner circle.

When I met with Vice President Gore, he reflected on these issues and the influences of race and gender on this election. Here is what he had to say:

LATHAM: *As you know, over the past several years there have been ebbs and flows in the efforts of both right-wing members of Congress (at the federal level) and of anti-affirmative action zealots (at the state level) such as Ward Connerly, who spearheaded California's Proposition 209, seeking to end diversity and inclusion of minorities and women in the areas of education, employment, and government procurement. These efforts, if successful, would jeopardize the hard fought gains of African Americans, Hispanics, other minorities, and women over the past 30 years. What specific actions would President Gore take to repel the attacks and protect these legitimate "inclusionary programs"?*

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: As vice president, I have denounced efforts, such as Initiative 200 in Washington State and Proposition 209 in California, that have attempted to eliminate affirmative action programs. I support programs that have worked well for minorities and women, such as those concerning higher education, contracting and employment. My approach to affirmative action has been "mend it, don't end it." I believe such inclusionary programs should ensure that efforts are carefully targeted and fair and that they meet legal requirements, but we should not eliminate altogether programs that have worked. As president, I will be personally committed to opposing any efforts that wantonly destroy the gains that all Americans have made so far.

LATHAM: *The Clinton/Gore Administration has been extremely successful in naming cabinet and subcabinet officials, independent agency chairs and commissioners, White House and other senior government executives as well as federal judges, living up to the campaign promise of a government that "looks like America." There are those, however, that claim your administration appointed only white males to the most important inner circle positions. What will a Gore/Lieberman administration look like? Will there be additional "firsts," breakthroughs and greater inclusion and diversity, including your inner circle?*

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: I take great pride in the fact that the Clinton/Gore Administration has broken every record for the inclusion of African Americans and Latinos in cabinet positions, White House positions, judgeships and high agency posts. President Clinton and I pledged to create an administration that looks like America. We succeeded, because only by being representative of the experiences and viewpoints of all Americans can public officials serve all of America with excellence. It is past the time for us to remove the old barriers; we must embrace the highest common denominator of the human spirit. I am committed to working to exceed the achievements of the Clinton/Gore administration and expanding the representation of minorities and women at all levels of the federal government.

LATHAM: *You directed the Reinventing Government initiative to streamline the government's spending of \$200 billion annually for goods and services. While in many respects this program has been successful, a major criticism is that it weakens or eliminates previous mandates to utilize minority and women owned businesses as federal prime or subcontractors. There is an increased tendency of departments and agencies to "bundle" two or more contracts, including contracts previously awarded to small, minority and women owned firms, into a single, much larger contract, which is often too large to be performed by the typical minority or women owned business. What actions would you take, if elected president, to ensure that the Reinventing Government initiative does not erode the number of contracts available to minority and women owned firms?*

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Throughout my time in public service, I have fought to protect programs that have helped minorities win government contracts. As president I will continue this commitment. From 1993 through 1998, the Small Business Administration tripled the number of loans to women entrepreneurs and doubled lending to African American and Latino owned businesses. I also announced an agreement with the "Big Three" automakers to boost purchasing from

minority owned businesses by \$3 billion over a three-year period. Under a Clinton/Gore executive order, the federal government surpassed its goal and now procures more than 5 percent of its goods and services from women owned firms, helping more than 9.1 million women. I will continue to expand the opportunities for businesses owned by women, veterans and minorities by building on past successes.

LATHAM: *You have served as chairman of the administration's Community Empowerment Board (CEB) since 1993. With your leadership and that of Vice Chair Alvin Brown, the CEB has held multiple conferences for small businesses, using them to leverage private sector and government dollars directly to small businesses. In February 2000, the CEB's contracting and procurement fair in Washington, D.C. resulted in nearly \$8 million in contract awards to eligible small, minority owned businesses. If elected president, do you have any plans to make this conference an annual event?*

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Improving on our record of unparalleled economic prosperity is a key goal of my campaign. I am very committed to seeing that all Americans can secure their maximum level of opportunity. I am committed to working to improve the ability of minority and women owned businesses to expand their business opportunities. Our administration has a positive record, and more needs to be done. I am committed to activities, including conferences or programs, to reach these goals.

LATHAM: *According to your December 1998 report, "Business-to-Business Relationships That Increase the Economic Competition of Firms," mentoring programs have been beneficial to both small and large companies. There does not, however, appear to be a sufficient number of willing mentor companies for the countless small businesses that could benefit from these relationships. What will the Gore/Lieberman administration do to increase incentives for large companies to become mentors?*

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: The concept of providing mentors to small businesses is a sound one. The program our administration has actively promoted, called BusinessLINC, is exactly that kind of effort. We need to further expand programs like this so that small businesses can be nurtured.

LATHAM: *What do you think the federal government can do to assist minority and women owned companies beyond federal programs, such as the SBA 8(a) program and Small*

Vice President Gore

Disadvantaged Business (SDB) program, and the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, to develop more companies that will prosper after their eligibility for these programs expires? Does the BusinessLINC program provide any basis for new legislation involving the private sector that you would consider as a means of helping grow and sustain larger, more successful minority and women owned businesses?



Vice President **Al Gore** confers with (left to right) **Bill Cosby**, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development **Andrew Cuomo** and Community Empowerment Board Vice Chair **Alvin Brown**.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Over the years, I have supported small business expansion through the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act and the Small Business Innovation Research program. Coupled with the agreement I forged with the "Big Three," these initiatives represent considerable progress in creating opportunities for traditionally disadvantaged businesses. I support the plans to publish the rates at which financial institutions make federally guaranteed loans to women and minority owned firms in order to ensure fairness and provide additional incentives to expand lending. I will work to continue to expand the opportunities for businesses owned by women, veterans and minorities.

I believe we can help create more opportunity for small minority and women owned businesses by bringing together every sector of the business community, large and small. I want to expand the innovative BusinessLINC program, which will continue to allow entrepreneurs and small businesses to better work with larger businesses to expand investment. I also intend to offer all small businesses more bid opportunities for federal government contracts.

LATHAM: Last year, during his keynote address, after receiving the National Coalition of Minority Businesses' prestigious legacy award, President Clinton remarked that "the most important markets we have are the untapped markets still in this country that need to be developed." What programs would a Gore/Lieberman administration implement to "tap" the underutilized markets in minority communities?

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: I have long supported efforts to expand opportunities in traditionally underserved and underutilized urban and minority communities. The Clinton/Gore administration has made great efforts to expand access to capital and credit to more and more Americans. I believe all financial institutions have not only a responsibility, but also an economic rationale for investing

in those communities traditionally not served by mainstream financial entities. These institutions must be encouraged to invest in underutilized communities, and as president, I will lead the effort to stimulate a greater commitment to distressed communities.

The administration has led reform of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which has unleashed billions of dollars of new private investment into underserved communities. CRA has been a vital tool in increasing the flow of lending and capital into those communities. I am committed to ensuring that CRA remains strong, and I would vigorously oppose efforts to weaken the law. I also believe we should do more to encourage non-traditional lenders—such as mortgage companies, securities firms and insurance companies—to increase lending and investment in these same communities, including the possibility of new incentives. As we move into the next century, I will ensure that all our financial institutions serve all of us, and that the government works in partnership with the private sector to lend and invest in the untapped markets throughout our country.

I strongly support full enforcement of the fair lending laws. I believe we should increase our enforcement efforts and provide more financial resources to the Department of Justice to ensure our fair lending laws are vigorously enforced.

As president, I will also fight for enactment of a third round of Empowerment Zones; more money for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund which provides capital, credit, and continues to support basic banking services to distressed communities; and

tax incentives that attract investment to underserved communities.

LATHAM: *Mr. Vice President, it appears that you are in for a tough race with George W. Bush for the presidency. Please sum up for MBE readers the critical differences between a White House under President Gore and one under George Bush.*

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: As president, I will work harder than ever to strengthen and create new opportunities for entrepreneurship for minorities. To help small businesses prosper, my strategy will focus on helping small businesses gain access to capital and technical assistance, and on creating unlimited possibilities for small business success, while continuing to streamline the regulatory process.

To begin, I believe that the right policies can help open more doors for minority businesses. I want to facilitate the use of the Specialized Small Business Investment Company Tax Credit and double the New Markets Tax Credit to help minority businessmen and women gain access to needed capital. I think it is smart policy to help small businesses obtain domestic loans. I plan to make sure that the SBA guarantees up to 80 percent of a loan made by a lender to creditworthy small businesses that cannot otherwise secure financing on reasonable terms.

I also intend to continue opening new markets for small business exporters. We can do that through granting more international trade loans and bolstering the SBA's Export Working Capital Program. Further, I want to ensure small businesses are not left behind due to momentary capital flow difficulty. Through the SBA's Y2K Action Loans and DELTA [Defense Loan and Technical Assistance program] loans, we can alleviate these temporary burdens.

We can also continue to provide tax cuts and other financial incentives to encourage the development of small businesses in traditionally disadvantaged areas which will support locally owned minority businesses. Efforts such as Empowerment Zones are working, and I will fight to expand and implement funding for them. And I want to explore new strategies to help these risk-takers to connect into their larger local and regional economies.

I also want to help keep minority businesses on the cutting edge of high technology. As president, I will work to grant more Technology Transfer awards and expand the Innovation Research Program for high-tech small business research and development. We also need to assist small business in transferring over to technol-

ogy-based operations. That is why I will continue to support the SBA's Community Express program, directing loans, and technical and management assistance to businesses in New Markets areas.

We can also help by creating more opportunity for minority businesses, starting by bringing together every sector of the business community, large and small. I want to expand the innovative BusinessLINC, which allows entrepreneurs and small businesses to better work with larger businesses to expand investment. I also intend to offer small businesses more bid opportunities for federal government contracts.

We have made great strides through the SBA's HUB-Zone Empowerment Contracting program and as president, I will ensure that we strengthen it. I want to give more managerial aid and additional assistance to new small businesses by significantly upgrading Micro-Enterprise lending and technical assistance and the SBA's Business Development Centers, One-Stop Shops and Individual Development Accounts.

Minority businesses also need a regulatory environment that does not create undue compliance burdens while protecting consumers, workers, and the environment. Over the last eight years, we have made good progress and worker related injuries are at an all-time low. As president, I will build on recent successes and direct OSHA to continue seeking ways to improve employee health and safety, with little cost or confusion to small businesses. I will also continue to ease the tax burden on small business by increasing the estate tax exemption for small businesses. In the process, we can create greater business incentives and encourage more small business investment.

Minority and female entrepreneurship is an important part of the American Dream. Entrepreneurs put Americans to work. By putting the right policies in place today, we can help protect our current prosperity and extend it well into the twenty-first century.

The following is a summary of some of the unprecedented and remarkable accomplishments of Vice President Al Gore:
Economic Empowerment

In the area of economic advancement and the creation of opportunities for African Americans, Hispanics, other minorities, and women as well as for all Americans, Vice President Gore has assisted the administration in the creation of over 19 million new jobs, elimination of the Reagan/Bush record budget deficits, significant lowering of the unemployment and inflation rates (to historically low levels), and creation of the lowest mortgage rates in 27 years.

Vice President Gore

Vice President Gore has played a key role in the administration's efforts to invest in, and support, economic development of America's urban communities. Under the vice president's leadership, the administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities to assist in creating new jobs and new opportunities in American cities. He has strongly opposed the efforts to end federal programs designed to redress historical and continuing denial of economic and business opportunities for minorities and women.

Gore has also advocated an increase in the number of minority owned radio and television broadcast stations, and directed the SBA to provide financial and other assistance to minority broadcasters.

Community Investment

The vice president has also taken a leading role in strengthening existing investment programs and in creating new institutions to foster additional investment in the nation's urban communities.

In 1994, the administration created the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) to help create a network of community development financial institutions in distressed areas across the country. Gore has strongly supported the president's New Markets Initiative (originally a Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. brainchild) designed to stimulate business and job growth in the nation's economically distressed communities. He created and led the administration's BusinessLINC (Learning, Information, Networking, and Collaboration) initiative, a program designed to enhance economic opportunities in economically distressed areas by encouraging private-sector mentoring of small and minority businesses.

The administration has increased funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by over \$250 million. Vice President Gore personally worked for passage of the administration's Hispanic Education Action Plan, which provides more than \$524 million for improving education for Hispanic children and adults. He also has been a leader in policies and initiatives that ensure all children will have access to the tools of the "Information Age," by heading an initiative to connect every school in the nation to the Internet.

The Clinton/Gore administration has made our homes and businesses safer places by placing 100,000 additional police officers on our streets and recent reports reveal continued reductions in the violent crime rate.

Minority Business Development

Most important to *MBE* readers is not only what the Clinton/Gore Administration has done but what a President Gore would do specifically for minority and women owned businesses. While the Clinton/Gore administration's efforts, policies, and programs have enhanced economic opportunities for all Americans, there remains much work to be done. It is 30 years since President Nixon recognized that true equality for African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities demands access, involvement, and a fair share of successes in order to truly become part of the American mainstream. Yet, minority business success stories are still "news" because they remain exceptions to the rule.

While today's vigorous economy—and the Clinton/Gore administration's role in creating it—must be celebrated, care must be taken that minorities and women are no longer excluded *en masse*. The administration's successful acquisition reform policies have resulted in the bundling of contracts and the elimination and/or severe reduction of federal procurement opportunities for small and minority businesses (*see* "Continued Vigilance and Leadership Makes a Difference, But...", *MBE* July/August 2000, page 18), not so much due to the specifics of the reinventing government programs, but more due to the manner in which bureaucrats implement the policies—further impeding minority contracting. In addition, Republican lawmakers and executives at the local, state, and national levels continue to attempt to chip away at the inclusionary programs that have been a part of the efforts to create a level playing field for minorities and women during the past 30 years.

The great economic opportunities created by the Clinton/Gore administration require continued—and greater—stewardship for the future. The Gore/Lieberman team is up to the task. ♦

Holland & Knight LLP partners Michael Hatcher and Paul Thomas contributed to this article.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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Every Child By Two

The Carter/Bumpers Campaign For Early Immunization

Shots by
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important
to you.

To: President Bill Clinton

Thru: Mary Morrison

Fax: 202/456-6703

Every Child By Two

666 11th Street, NW, Suite 202

Washington, DC 20001-4542

202-783-7034, Ext. 17 (p)

202-783-7042 (f)

Phone: 202/456-6610

From: Betty Bumpers

Date: 10/04/2000

Pages: 4 - including cover page

Re: Immunization Registries Funding

XX Urgent

☐ For Review☐ Please Comment☐ Please Reply☐ Please Recycle

Dear Bill,

Attached is a background sheet justifying the logic for requesting an increase in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) budget to support immunization computer registry development/maintenance. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will be requesting an additional 70 million dollars through the VFC program to help pay the costs associated with registry development. The registries must have a sustainable source of funding to become successful.

This request is based on a meeting that we had with Secretary Shalala early this spring that resulted in her declaration of support for VFC funding for registries at this years National Immunization Conference. I have sent this background information to Donna in hopes that she or Surgeon General Satcher will make a call to Jack Lew in the Office of Management & Budget to inform him of their support for this funding increase. Without Jack's support, I fear that the request may fall to deaf ears.

The more we at ECBT think about funding registry development through the VFC program, the more it makes sense to us. The data that the registries house is essential to VFC, and in the long run, computerizing it and making it available to all VFC coordinators and service providers will save countless administrative hours and costs.

Rosalynn and I have been working diligently to promote registry development since 1997 when you directed Secretary Shalala to ensure their development nationwide. We both know that your commitment to children's health began long before you came to Washington. I have been thrilled to see the progress made in immunization delivery since your very first Rose Garden Ceremony when you promised to ensure the health of our children by establishing the Children's Immunization Initiative. The development of registries, in my opinion, is the most significant step public health has achieved to ensure sustainable immunization coverage and is a real credit to your commitment. I hope therefore that you will support this increased funding for VFC so that we can ensure a permanent solution to locating children in need of vaccines.

All my best to you, as always. Betty

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The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and Immunization Registries

Background

An important and yet unfulfilled goal of President Clinton's Childhood Immunization Initiative was to build a sustainable system to maintain high immunization coverage. Immunization registries are an important means to achieve this goal and are defined as **confidential, computerized information systems that contain information about immunizations and children**. On July 23, 1997, President Clinton said: *"I'm directing Secretary Shalala to start working with the states on an integrated immunization registry system...we have to do it and do it right."* In response to this mandate, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) led an Initiative on Immunization Registries. Following a series of public meetings and focus groups, NVAC approved the report "Development of Community- and State-Based Immunization Registries" on January 12, 1999.

The CDC believes that registries provide the most efficient solution to sustaining high immunization coverage in all groups of children, because registries:

- consolidate scattered records,
- provide instantly accessible decision support for providers,
- can inform the provider of contraindications,
- serve as efficient reminder and recall tools,
- provide assessment of coverage for the population in the registry and subgroups of this population,
- provide vaccine inventory management tools, and
- provide reports needed by providers pertaining to application of immunization practices.

Currently, all 61 VFC projects eligible for VFC program funding are developing immunization registries. In addition to the above, immunization registries have been used to increase vaccine safety. Arkansas and California registry data were used to identify and revaccinate children who received vaccinations from sub-potent vaccine lots or an inadequate dosage of vaccine.

There is a Healthy People 2010 goal of increasing to 95% the proportion of children (0-6 years of age) who participate in a fully operational population-based immunization registry.

One of the major barriers to fully operational registries is the lack of a sustainable funding source. Considerable progress has been achieved in the development of immunization registries - currently, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 territories, and numerous cities and communities are developing or implementing registries. However, these efforts have significant cost and considerable effort is still needed to realize the full benefits of the systems.

How do registries relate to the VFC program

- Monitoring VFC program compliance among 44,555 enrolled providers and achieving and sustaining high vaccination coverage in VFC-eligible children is a continuing challenge.
- The VFC statute (Section 1928 of the Social Security Act) requires VFC-enrolled private and public providers to follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule and ensure the medical appropriateness of each vaccine. Providers are also responsible for checking the VFC-eligibility status of children. Registries assist providers in adhering to these program requirements through automated, reliable, real-time:
 - aggregation of all immunizations a child has received to create an accurate and complete immunization history;
 - immunization decision support to ensure that immunization needs are accurately assessed and no missed opportunities for immunization occur;
 - facilitated introduction of new vaccines or changes in the vaccine schedule;
 - management of VFC-supplied vaccine inventories;
 - prevention of unnecessary (duplicative) doses of vaccine;
 - coverage rate estimates based on the registry's database;
 - quality assurance reports (e.g., VFC-eligibility screening, VFC vaccine doses administered, VFC vaccine orders compared to VFC population estimates, etc.);
 - monitoring of VFC vaccine administration to only VFC-eligible children; and,
 - review of provider VFC-eligibility screening procedures and documentation.
- In FY 2000, CDC received an additional \$10 million dollars to increase VFC provider compliance with program requirements through routine VFC provider accountability site visits. During these site visits, state/local VFC program staff conduct manual reviews of medical charts, logs, and vaccine reports to assess provider compliance with VFC program requirements. Immunization registries would be an added tool for ensuring compliance with these requirements, as they would give providers the information needed to assess a child's immunization status while at the same time give state/local VFC program staff the information they need to ensure VFC program integrity. When fully operational, immunization registries will contain the required data elements to conduct automated accountability reviews of VFC-enrolled providers. Recent data published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine suggest that registries (once fully operational) will yield a cost offset totaling \$113.8 million per year.

VFC Immunization Registry Costs

- The use of VFC entitlement funds for registry development and operation will in no way adversely effect discretionary funding for immunization. Use of VFC funds for registries will not deny anyone any entitlement benefits; in fact, it will enhance the benefits currently received through the VFC program.

- Results from several studies estimate that the national annual cost needed to complete and maintain immunization registries is approximately \$5 per child per year, for all children up to six years of age in the U.S., or approximately \$125 million annually. However, registry funding has been limited with only 40% of the total costs being allocated and expended on an annual basis. Current investments come from a combination of Federal, State, local, and private sector resources.
- Additional Federal support through the operational funds of the VFC program would provide a critical and stable base of financing.
- A legal determination has been made that use of VFC entitlement funds for registries is consistent with the authorizing statute. VFC funding in the amount of \$70 million can be justified for use in developing and operating registries. If approved, beginning in FY 2001, CDC will require all VFC projects to develop and implement immunization registries as an expanded VFC program provider accountability activity.

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SUMMARY OF PARDON APPLICATION OF FERNANDO FUENTES COBA

Vivian Mannerud's father Fernando Fuentes Coba was convicted in 1982 of improperly transporting to Cuba four Pepsi-Cola dispensing machines, communications equipment, a typewriter, a photocopier, scuba equipment, a small airplane part, a few automobile parts, food, perfume, and U.S. coins.

After all appeals failed, and fearing death in a Florida prison, Fernando believed he had to leave his country and family to save his life. Fernando wishes to return to his home to spend time with his family – without serving time in prison. For the following reasons, Fernando requests a presidential pardon of the offenses for which he was convicted.

- Fernando is 72 years old and needs immediate medical care. Among other things, he has suffered numerous health problems over the years, including coronary heart disease, two abdominal aortic aneurysms, emphysema, and diabetes. His family has the financial means to absorb the enormous expense of medical treatment in the United States.
- The alleged shipping activities did not pose a threat to the United States or its citizens. Nor did these activities provide Cuba with a significant amount of hard currency that the Castro Government could use against U.S. interests.
- The historical factors that led to his indictment are no longer present. Fernando was indicted as part of the U.S. Government's response to the Mariel Boatlift. In fact, the indictment initially alleged that Fernando profited from the Boatlift. Although the Government dismissed this count, it proceeded with the charges that Fernando improperly shipped certain goods to Cuba. The alleged shipping activities occurred in 1979, prior to the Mariel Boatlift, the event that triggered the indictment.
- The Government selectively prosecuted Fernando. All of the other defendants charged in the indictment fled the country to avoid prosecution. The Government did not try the defendants in absentia or prosecute them when they returned to the United States.
- At all times, Fernando cooperated with Government officials during their investigation against him. In addition, he cooperated with the U.S. Attorney's office – after his conviction – on the Arocena case (United States v. Arocena, No. 83-1016-Cr (S.D. Fla.)).
- Fernando already has been punished for the alleged de minimis activities. The Government blocked his accounts, closed his business, and indicted him during a time when an extremely hostile environment existed in Miami. During this period, a bomb was placed in his office, seriously jeopardizing his life and the lives of his employees. He still fears retaliation in the United States as a result of his conviction. He also regrets what this has done to his family.
- The case against Fernando was weak. The Government's lead witness Jenaro Perez committed perjury during trial. He also admitted that he (not Fernando) shipped the communications equipment to Cuba. Perez, moreover, could not recall whether Fernando ever shipped office equipment and scuba equipment to Cuba. In addition, other witnesses contracted Perez's testimony that Fernando loaded the other items onto charter flights to Cuba.

Strategy Group
INTERNATIONAL

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President

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Garry Mauro

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

10-7-00

October 4, 2000

Dear Mr. President,

Although a lot of our friends on the Longhorn-Exxon payroll have attempted, through an environmental assessment process, to resolve concerns of environmental groups and state, local and county governmental entities, it is obvious from the attached complaints that they have *completely* ignored your executive order protecting neighborhoods of color on environmental justice issues.

In the course of time your environmental justice executive order will add greatly to the Clinton legacy. In view of the artificially imposed sense of urgency surrounding this issue, I urge you to review the attached materials and consider the disproportionate impact this pipeline will have on neighborhoods of color.

Mr. President all anybody has asked for is a full *Environmental Impact Study*.

Sincerely,


Garry Mauro

copied
COS
G. Frampton



People Organized In Defense of Earth and her Resources

September 25, 2000

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20510

Re Longhorn Pipeline in Texas

Dear President Clinton:

I know you are coming to Texas soon. I want to make sure that you are aware of a serious case of environmental injustice that is apparently being perpetrated by your administration. Our organization, PODER, offices in Austin, Texas and we work against environmental racism throughout our state. There is an effort underway by Longhorn Pipeline and other large corporations to activate a 50 year old crude oil pipeline and use it to ship gasoline from Houston to El Paso. PODER wrote to Mr. George T. Frampton Jr., Acting Chair of Council of Air Quality on April 20, 2000, requesting a full Environmental Impact Study be undertaken to safeguard the health and environment of our communities. We also wrote to Mr. Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation regarding our concerns. Letters of request have also been sent to USEPA representatives. To this day we haven't received a response from any of the above agencies.

Mr. President, you worked so hard to bring to the forefront the issue of environmental racism. You signing Executive Order No. 12898: *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* on February 11, 1994, has earned you the legacy of working to put an end to environmental racism.

Mr. George Frampton, Jr., Acting Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality from the White House has written a letter (dated September 7, 2000 to Mr. W. Michael McCabe, USEPA & Mr. Mortimer Downey, USDOT) that severely undermines our effort to protect our neighborhoods. His letter has the affect of ordering the agencies to accept the draft Environmental Assessment and not moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Study, which is what we have been asking for. Longhorn Pipeline and its representatives do not want an Environmental Impact Study, because they know the result of it would show that people and not just salamanders will be endangered by the flow of gasoline through this 50 year old pipeline.

Several months ago, we discovered that an Environmental Assessment was underway. We also learned that draft copies of it were being discussed. To our surprise and dismay, we read in the paper that in the draft that 19 miles of that old pipeline were being replaced in the Western part of Travis County and Hays County. That is a relative affluent part of our community, and sits over the Edwards Aquifer, which supplies some of the drinking water for our area. The draft does not require replacement of the pipeline for the 19 miles immediately preceding where numerous streams flow into the Colorado River, and where the less affluent residents live. Even the draft admits that 6,998 people live within a 1,250 feet of the pipeline in the poor neighborhoods and that 39.98% of those are people of color. On that portion being replaced, using a similar 19-mile stretch only 2,051 people live and only 372 of those are people of color (minorities). Should a full



FROM :

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Environmental Impact Study occur as we have been requesting. it would be revealed that the people of color (minorities) population in the low-income area is substantially larger than that of reported in the draft environmental assessment. There is an endangered salamander in the Aquifer where the pipeline is being replaced, which is used as the justification for replacing the pipeline in that area. Nevertheless, over 2,000 people are protected in that area, because they live within 1,250 feet of the pipeline. In our neighborhoods, nearly 7,000 people live within that distance, and the Environmental Assessment offers nothing.

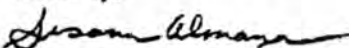
There is also a long stretch of the pipeline in Houston (Harris County) where 9,803 people live within 1,250 feet of the pipeline, and 81.4% of those are people of color. Even the study done in preparation for the draft Environmental Assessment admits that this Harris County area raises the biggest environmental injustice issue. The same problems exist in part of El Paso and Bastrop County.

In Travis County, the environmental community that lives over the aquifer, has substantial monetary resources and is powerful politically. The representatives of the pipeline knew that they had to satisfy those people before they could proceed. So, they worked with David Frederick who works for the United States Fish and Wildlife in Austin, Texas. They agreed to replace the pipeline over the aquifer to satisfy him and the environmental community. The local United States Fish and Wildlife people have told us that they have been satisfied and that it is not their responsibility to deal with the safety of the people. The poor neighborhoods in Travis, Bastrop, Harris, and El Paso counties don't have the political power or the resources to resist therefore, their health and welfare is being ignored.

Mr. President, in Executive Order No. 12898, you stated that all Federal agencies' mission would be to achieve environmental justice. We believe that your own office in the letter written by Mr. Frampton, Jr. breaks that mission. Mr. Frampton, Jr. should withdraw his acceptance of the Environmental Assessment. Mr. President you should demand that a full Environmental Impact Study be undertaken. You have worked hard to ensure that environmental justice is achieved in your administration. You have set in place for the future the instruments to protect people of color from environmental racism, don't let your staff erase that from your legacy.

We will take all necessary legal action under the laws that protect against discrimination and environmental racism to give the same protection to low-income and people of color neighborhoods as is given to the salamander and those more wealthy residents in the western part of Travis County and we are hopeful that you will do the same Mr. President.

Sincerely,



Susana Almanza
Director

cc: Mr. George Frampton, Jr., Acting Chair-Council on Environmental Quality
Mrs. Carol Browner, Administrator USEPA & Mr. Greg Cook, USEPA, Region VI
Mr. Rodney Slater, Secretary of Trans(Frampton, FHA)
Mr. Ronald A. Stroman, Director-OCR US DOT
Mr. Arthur Lopez, Director-OCR US DOT FTA
Mr. Richard Moore, Coordinator-Southwest Network for Environmental & Economic Justice
Dr. Robert Bullard, Director-Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University
Mr. Charles Lee, Associate Director for Policy & Interagency Liaison, OEJ/USEPA

**BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**

BY THE TEXAS STATE	§
CONFERENCE	§
OF NAACP BRANCHES	§
IN BEHALF OF MINORITY	§
CITIZENS OF THE STATE	§
OF TEXAS	§

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches and files this their complaint pursuant to (1994) Executive Order 12898, the departmental orders implementing the same and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and in support thereof would show the following:

I.

The Longhorn pipeline is a 700 mile structure that is proposed for use to transport gasoline and jet fuel across Texas to markets throughout the United States. About 450 miles of the pipeline was built in 1950 to ship crude oil from Crane in West Texas to refineries in Baytown. A group of pipeline and energy companies purchased the pipeline in 1995 and are building a 250 mile extension from Crane to El Paso. Pipeline partners include Exxon Pipeline Company, Amoco Pipeline Company, Williams Pipeline Company, Beacon Group Energy Investment Fund and Chisum Holdings. Recently your federal agencies have approved the use of this pipeline for the intended purpose. To the extent that any of the above referenced companies or their related, affiliated or subsidiary companies receive federal funds, a Title VI complaint is made.

As a result of concerns raised by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, apparently the pipeline participants are providing new pipe for a portion of the pipeline. However, no new pipeline will be provided to areas that are predominately minority, though there are many such areas throughout the pipeline.

The Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches Executive Board voted unanimously to oppose the use of the Longhorn Pipeline for the desired purposes as stated in the current permit application.

II.

**(1994) EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898
FEDERAL ACTIONS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN
MINORITY POPULATIONS AND LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS**

This executive order provides the following for Agency responsibilities:

To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review, such Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Marian Islands.

Though the Federal Agencies have agreed to permit the new use of the pipeline, the Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office has taken an appropriate position of not supporting this decision—at least at this time. The Agencies have not appropriately assessed the disparate and undue impact on minority populations as a result of the new permitted use of this pipeline, which would include but are not limited to the following:

1. In the Austin area there will be approximately 19 miles of new pipeline provided. However, no pipeline will be provided to predominately minority areas.
2. In the Austin area there are at least 10 schools that are near the Longhorn Pipeline, and of that group, the schools that have the largest percentage of minorities will not be getting new pipeline but the other schools will.
3. In Northwest Harris County, where some of the most populous areas are located near the pipeline, there are 13,000 minorities in Harris County within 1,250 feet of the pipeline (in some areas 90% or more of those located near to the pipeline are minorities);
4. In predominately minority areas such as near the airport in Austin, the pipeline is adjacent to the back yards of homes or yards or Churches (50 feet from structures), while in the non-minority areas surveyed the homes are substantially further from the pipeline. The explosion in Abilene shows the danger for homes to be located too close to a pipeline transporting gasoline.
5. The new pipeline proposed has a disparate impact on racial minorities and also on low income populations which are disadvantaged both by the current placement of the pipeline and by the proposed new pipeline which will not benefit them.

III. HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY HAZARDS

There are numerous environmental, health and safety hazards caused by the exposure of any community to gasoline and its byproducts. Minority communities have traditionally been exposed disproportionately to such environmental health and safety hazards, and the proposed use of the Longhorn Pipeline will serve to disadvantage minority communities disproportionately.

(without justification) in a number of ways, including but not limited to the following:

1. Increased risk of disease and health problems;
2. Depreciation of Property;
3. Loss of use and enjoyment of property; and
4. Lowered marketability of property.

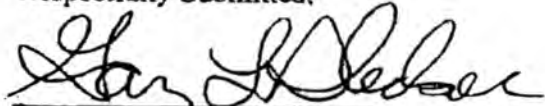
IV.

The location of the pipeline, the intended use of the pipeline and the decision in regards to the limited amount of new pipeline are all factors whose impact are known to the makers.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches requests that you undertake an investigation into whether Executive Order 12898 and Title VI have been complied with and/or violated, and upon the finding of a violation to do the following:

- a. enjoin the newly proposed use of the pipeline from being implemented;
- b. provide such other and further relief as may become necessary or to which the minority community may show itself to be entitled.

Respectfully Submitted,



Texas State Conference of
NAACP Branches

By Gary L. Blodsoe
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Fax number:	Phone number:

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Total pages, including cover:

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