

NLWJC - Kagan

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Drugs - Drug Free Community Act

Helping Communities to Keep Kids Drug-Free
September 12, 1998

In his radio address to the nation, President Clinton will announce new federal assistance to enhance grassroots efforts in 93 communities in 46 states to prevent youth drug abuse. Under the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, the Administration will release over \$8.7 million to fund the work of broad-based community coalitions to target young peoples' use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Supporting Local Efforts to Combat Youth Drug Use

- **Bolstering the number of community anti-drug coalitions.** The Drug-Free Communities Support Program was created under the Drug-Free Communities Act, which President Clinton signed into law on June 27, 1997. The Act seeks to expand the number of community anti-drug coalitions -- made up of young people, parents, media, law enforcement, religious and other civic organizations, and school officials -- from the 4,000 today to 14,000 over the next five years. To this end, the Act authorizes \$10 million in FY 98, and steadily increases funds to over \$43 million in FY 2002.
- **A catalyst for increased citizen participation.** Today's grants will provide 93 community anti-drug coalitions with much needed funds to build and strengthen their community-wide partnerships to combat drugs. The Drug-Free Communities Support Program, administered through the Justice Department and White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), provides federal matching grants of up to \$100,000 to such coalitions.
- **Harnessing the commitment of citizen volunteers.** Among the participating coalitions are: San Antonio Fights Back, which will use its funds to expand mentoring, enhance community policing and after school programs, and establish early identification and treatment referral for drug-abusing youth; and the PIMA Prevention Partnership in Tucson, AZ, which will expand its Teen Courts in Schools and continue its parent education efforts to work with parents to teach accountability skills.
- **Linking our national message to local action.** In July, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign he first proposed in last year's drug strategy and budget. The President's 5-year, \$2 billion campaign is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you. The grants being awarded today will help communities to reinforce this message by joining together and acting at the local level.

A Record of Accomplishment

President Clinton consistently has proposed the largest, most ambitious anti-drug budgets ever -- and has proposed more than \$17 billion for FY 1999. His 1998 National Drug Control Strategy is a comprehensive ten-year plan designed to cut drug use and availability in half. Among other initiatives, the Strategy continues the anti-drug media campaign, improves and expands the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, shields our borders with 1,000 new Border Patrol officers and advanced drug detection technologies, strengthens law enforcement with new DEA agents to crack down on heroin and methamphetamine traffickers, and cuts crime by testing and treating crime-committing addicts.

Questions and Answers on Drug-Free Communities
September 12, 1998

Q. Can you explain how the grants announced today will work?

A. Today's grants will provide community anti-drug coalitions with much needed funds to build and strengthen on their community-wide partnerships to combat drugs. The coalitions are comprised of parents, teachers, religious leaders, law enforcement, and volunteers, and are formed with the goal of preventing our kids from turning to drugs. Each coalition has developed a five-year plan to reduce substance abuse.

The matching grants announced today -- the first provided under the Drug-Free Communities Act signed into law by the President last year -- will provide up to \$100,000 to community anti-drug coalitions that have been in existence for at least six months. The program is directed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and administered through the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention will conduct training and provide technical assistance for the coalitions receiving funding.

Q. Where are these grantees located and how were they selected?

Under today's announcement, 93 community coalitions in 46 states will receive grants. Twenty-eight coalitions are in rural areas, 57 are in urban metropolitan areas, and 8 are for Indian tribes. The 93 grantees were selected through a competitive review process from nearly 500 applicants.

Q. Didn't the recently released HHS Household Survey on Drug Abuse show youth drug use once again on the rise? Doesn't this mean that your strategy isn't working?

A. Last month's survey showed that while overall drug use remained flat in 1997, teen drug use continues to represent a serious and growing problem. It is important to note that while marijuana use was up for teens, it is still well below its peak in 1979. Moreover, the survey doesn't measure the impact of the President's unprecedented \$2 billion youth anti-drug media campaign, which was launched nationwide in July 1998.

If anything, the survey reinforces the need for the President's long term, comprehensive national drug control strategy -- the number one priority of which is reducing drug use by young people. The President's FY 99 budget includes over \$17 billion to combat drugs -- the largest drug control budget ever -- to fund his strategy that aims to cut youth drug

use in half through better prevention, more effective treatment, tougher law enforcement, and improved interdiction.

But the success of our efforts is going to depend on all Americans -- parents, teachers, coaches, and clergy -- to take responsibility and talk to children about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. If we all take this first and important step, we can finally reverse this longstanding trend and help keep our nation's children drug-free.

Q. What is the status of the 11-member Advisory Commission that the President is supposed to appoint under the Drug-Free Communities Act?

A. Candidates for membership on the 11 person Advisory Commission on Drug-Free Communities are presently being vetted by the White House, and the President expects to announce them shortly.

Substance abuse organizations and experts from across the country were invited to recommend qualified individuals for the Commission. The Commission will include both volunteers and professionals in the substance abuse prevention field, as required by the Drug-Free Communities Act.



Jose Cerda III

06/24/97 01:17:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Drug-Free Communities Signing

Crime/Drug Types:

With respect to General McCaffrey's request to have a Rose Garden signing for this bill, I thought I'd sum-up where we are so that we could all be on the same page before the 3pm Chief of Staff meeting. Here goes:

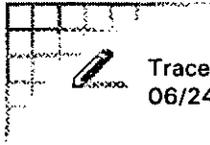
1. McCaffrey would like to see an event before Congress goes out and by early next week at the latest. He/his staff feels its a great opportunity for a bipartisan drug event focused on community coalitions (the bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate).
2. Peter thinks its a positive, "feel good" event, and that we're making strides with House appropriators on making sure that the bill will get funded. If we get fairly solid assurances on funding -- and there are no Senate objections -- he thinks we should look to do an event early next week.
3. Tracey was checking with Daschle's folks on what they thought, but she had concerns that Senate Dems thought we would be letting the R's off the hook pretty easy (\$10 million in grant authorizations for community coalitions next year) by doing a bipartisan drug event when we can't get them to support our larger drug/prevention efforts.
4. I spoke to Chris Putala in Biden's office who thought that if Hatch and Grassley are interested in a bill signing, we should first try and get some "bipartisan" assurances from them on including prevention/after schools in the Juvie bill. The way it looks now, only Specter is likely to vote with us, so we need at least one more vote.

FINAL ANALYSIS: While this is generally a positive event for us to do, we should think twice about giving the R's any credit without some measure of support on appropriating funds -- or if we know they're not going to be with us on the Juvie prevention amendment the following week. In we do the event without these assurances, we should use the speech to hold the R's accountable on our drug/prevention related priorities (i.e., juvie prevention, safe and drug-free schools, media campaign, ONDCP reauthorization, etc.)

Any thoughts...
Jose'

Message Sent To: _____

Drug-Free Communities Act



Tracey E. Thornton
06/24/97 03:51:55 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

Subject: Re: Drug-Free Communities Signing

I agree that we should get something for doing this and that's the angle senate dems are now working with repubs.

Message Copied To:

Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Michelle Crisci/WHO/EOP
Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP
Peter G. Jacoby/WHO/EOP
Christa Robinson/OPD/EOP

Drugs - Drug Communities
Free
ACT

The legislation (S 924) was drafted only two days ago. It aims to prevent Timothy McVeigh, a Persian Gulf War veteran, from being buried in a national military cemetery. McVeigh was convicted and sentenced to die for the April, 1995, bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City that claimed 168 lives.

Majority Whip Don Nickles, Okla., said the remains of McVeigh would "desecrate" a national cemetery. Robert G. Torricelli, D-N.J., said veterans cemeteries "should be saved for heroes."

• **Drug-fighting grants.** The Senate cleared, by voice vote, a bill (HR 956) that would authorize the transfer of as much as \$10 million of the \$16 billion federal drug control budget during fiscal 1998 for small grants to local groups that have established effective plans to stem drug use in their communities. It would authorize \$143.5 million over five years for the grants, to be drawn from the budget of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

• **Today's schedule.** As they did unsuccessfully yesterday, Republicans leaders today may seek to take up the \$268 billion defense authorization bill (S 923).

But a dispute over military depots threatens to delay work again. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, objected yesterday to taking up the bill in a continuing protest over language prohibiting the privatization of Air Force maintenance work at a military depot in San Antonio. California lawmakers oppose the same provision because it would bar private contracting work at a base in Sacramento.

Some supporters of the language prohibiting private contracts stand to benefit if work now at the bases in Texas and California is picked up by bases in their own states.

Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., was considering various procedures to force consideration of the measure.

Leaders may also turn to consideration of the intelligence reauthorization bill (S 858). Action on that bill was delayed yesterday by members of the Armed Services Committee who wanted more time to review policy language involving the jurisdiction of Pentagon offices.

APPROPRIATIONS

FOREIGN AID BILL APPROVED WITH DISAPPROVING MESSAGE TO EGYPT

The Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee aimed a warning shot at Egypt yesterday as it approved, by voice vote, a \$13.2 billion foreign aid spending bill for fiscal 1998.

Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who chairs the subcommittee, eliminated the long-stand-

ing earmark of \$2.1 billion in military and economic for Egypt to protest Cairo's warming relations with Libya and its failure to support the Middle East peace process.

While scrapping the guarantee of aid for Egypt, which has been routinely approved by Congress since Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979, the subcommittee earmarked \$250 million in military and economic assistance for Jordan.

McConnell said Jordan had gone to great lengths to support the peace process, while Egypt's record had been "spotty to bad." Other senior members of the Appropriations Committee, including chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, objected to McConnell's decision to scrap the earmark for Egypt but did not challenge it.

Largely because of concerns over the proposal, the Appropriations Committee postponed a scheduled markup of the bill until June 24. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright called members of the committee after the markup, voicing her objections to eliminating the earmark, sources said.

The underlying bill would provide \$13.2 billion in foreign assistance, an \$800 million increase from fiscal 1997 and a modest reduction of \$100 million from the Clinton administration's request.

The bill also includes \$3.5 billion for the new facility for the International Monetary Fund, pushing the bill's total budget authority to \$16.8 billion. But that commitment entails no new new outlays.

With no debate, the subcommittee endorsed a potentially significant shift in U.S. policy toward oil-rich Azerbaijan.

As part of a seemingly routine en bloc amendment, the panel approved a proposal by Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., and Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., opening the door for the Overseas Private Investment Corp. and Export-Import Bank to provide loans and credits to U.S. firms operating there.

Direct U.S. aid to Azerbaijan has been barred since 1992 because of that nation's economic blockade of neighboring Armenia. Pro-Armenian groups have lobbied to retain the ban, but it has been opposed by oil firms and other U.S. businesses operating in Azerbaijan.

As part of the same en bloc amendment, the panel voted to strike a provision, proposed by McConnell, reimposing abortion-related restrictions on international family planning aid. The restrictions have been consistently backed by the House and opposed by the Senate and the Clinton administration.

APPROPRIATIONS

\$9.2 BILLION MILITARY CONSTRUCTION BILL FOR FISCAL 1998 ADVANCES

The House Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday approved a measure that would provide \$9.2 billion in fiscal 1998 funding for

military construction projects at home and abroad. The unnumbered draft bill was approved by voice vote in a 15-minute markup.

The bill exceeded the Clinton administration's request for funding for construction and renovation of U.S. and NATO military barracks, family housing and base closure costs by \$800 million.

However, the bill contains \$610 million less than was appropriated for fiscal 1997. According to subcommittee Chairman Ron Packard, R-Calif., the bill would fund only projects that have been previously authorized or are included in the fiscal 1998 defense authorization bill (HR 1119).

The full Appropriations Committee plans to mark up the bill next Tuesday.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS/TRADE

HOUSE PANEL BACKS CLINTON ON RETAINING CHINA MFN STATUS

Kicking off Congress' annual debate over U.S. trade policy with China, the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favor of extending China's normal trade status for another year.

The committee voted 34-5 to recommend the defeat of a measure (H J Res 79) seeking to overturn President Clinton's decision to renew China's most-favored-nation trading status.

The panel sent the measure on to the floor, however, so that the full House can vote on the issue, probably next week.

Debate during yesterday's markup focused on traditional sticking points with China, including human rights abuses, arms proliferation and a soaring U.S. trade deficit with China, which is approaching \$40 billion.

Supporters of continuing China's MFN status said that engaging, rather than isolating, China on these issues is the key to forcing changes there. Committee chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, said, "Our presence in China puts us in the best position to leverage the Chinese government concerning sensitive issues in the region."

Republican Jim Bunning of Kentucky disagreed. "MFN has not changed the government of China," he said, referring to the repeated renewal of China's MFN status since it was first granted in 1980. "It does not make a difference to the lives of over one billion Chinese citizens."

• **Other sanctions.** Acknowledging that Congress is likely to renew China's most-favored-nation trade status, Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich., and Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark., yesterday urged other sanctions to pressure Beijing on human rights.

They urged support for legislation (S 810) that would require U.S. officials to

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