

**NLWJC - KAGAN**

**WHORM - BOX 002 - FOLDER 036**

**FG006-21      287439SS**

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records  
**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Records Management - SUBJECT FILE  
**Series/Staff Member:**  
**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 21748  
**Scan ID:** 287439SS  
**Document Number:**

---

**Folder Title:**  
FG006-21

| Stack:   | Row:      | Section: | Shelf:   | Position: |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>S</b> | <b>84</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b>  |

287439 SS

FG006-21

Dec. 11, 1998 - DPC Weekly Report

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
12-12-98

December 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed  
Elena Kagan

Copied  
Reed  
Kagan  
Podesta  
Streett

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

**1. Health Care -- CDC Guidelines for HIV Surveillance:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released draft guidance on Thursday to assist states in designing and implementing new HIV surveillance and reporting systems. The guidance recommends that states track people with HIV by name (as states now track people with full-blown AIDS). At our insistence, however, the guidance also allows states to use so-called unique identifier codes, rather than names. The HIV/AIDS community is relieved that the guidance gives states the option of using identifier codes, but is disappointed that it expresses a preference for using names. The community believes that names-based reporting jeopardizes confidentiality and discourages testing; CDC disputes these contentions and argues that name-based reporting generally leads to more effective surveillance. Members of the AIDS Council may raise questions about this issue when they meet with you on December 18. You can respond by indicating strong support for states (like California) that are developing effective alternatives to name-based reporting.

*Good*  
**2. Health Care -- Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities:** Your Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities will present the Vice President with its first report on Tuesday. The Task Force will recommend several new investments (e.g., the Jeffords-Kennedy Work Incentives Improvement Act), which we are considering in the context of the budget process; we are fairly confident that the budget will incorporate enough of these recommendations to elicit a positive response from the disabilities community. In addition, the Task Force will propose a number of administrative actions that we can implement immediately. For example, the Office of Personnel Management will develop a plan to increase the representation of adults with disabilities in the federal workforce, and the Small Business Administration will launch a new outreach campaign to improve opportunities for adults with disabilities. The Vice President, in accepting the report, will reiterate the Administration's commitment to passing a strong and enforceable patients' bill of rights to improve the quality of care for people with disabilities.

*This is very good. Let's be sure we get the bill passed.*  
**3. Health Care -- Dean Ornish:** Nancy Ann Min DeParle is meeting with Dr. Ornish today to discuss his proposal for a demonstration project on the cost-effectiveness of programs like his "Life Style Intervention." Nancy Ann will express support for the idea, although she will not be able to formally approve it at this meeting. We will stay on top of this issue in the

next few weeks, as HCFA makes decisions about the scope and financing of the demonstration.

**4. Health Care -- New FDA Commissioner:** The Vice President will swear in Dr. Jane Henney as the new Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday.

**5. Education -- ESEA Reauthorization:** We are working with the Education Department to include in our ESEA reauthorization proposal a set of accountability requirements that are significantly stronger than any in current law. Some of the proposals under consideration would require states and school districts that receive funding under the ESEA to (1) take immediate steps to identify and intervene in their lowest performing schools; (2) phase out the use of unqualified teachers, including those who are not fully certified or are teaching out of field; (3) phase out the use of instructional aides as primary instructors, especially in high-poverty schools; and (4) have effective policies in place (including appropriate supports for students) to prevent social promotion. Our aim is to design a proposal that demands a serious commitment by states and school districts receiving ESEA funds to establish and enforce high standards for schools, teachers, and students. When you return from the Middle East, we will give you information on school reform efforts now going on around the country, and present you with specific recommendations for the ESEA and State of the Union.

**6. Education -- National Education Goals Panel:** The National Education Goals Panel released its annual progress report on Thursday. The report highlighted improvements in school readiness, student achievement in math, and participation of women and minorities in math and science in higher education. The report, however, also pointed to apparent backsliding in teacher quality, student achievement in reading, and student drug use. More generally, the report noted that none of the Goals would be met by 2000. Members of the Panel and others are now discussing what should happen to the Goals (and the Panel itself) after that year. We will soon present you with options on this issue.

**7. Education -- GED Test:** You asked at yesterday's budget meeting about the GED test. We have learned that the American Council on Education (ACE) is responsible for developing and administering the GED. The ACE is now in the process of upgrading the test to keep up with rising academic standards, and hopes to unveil a new version of the test in 2001. We will work with the Education Department on possible ways to make use of a strengthened GED in our education proposals.

**8. Crime -- 1998 FBI Crime Statistics:** The FBI will release on Sunday crime figures for the first six months of 1998. These data show a five percent decline in overall crime compared to the half-year figures of 1997, with violent crime down seven percent and property crime down five percent. In the category of violent crime, murder decreased eight percent, robbery decreased 11 percent, and rape and aggravated assault decreased five percent. In the category of property crime, larceny dropped five percent, motor vehicle theft dropped

## THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-12-98

3

eight percent, burglary dropped three percent, and arson dropped 12 percent. Serious crime declined in every region of the country, with the Northeast experiencing the greatest decline (eight percent) followed by the West (six percent), the South (five percent), and the Midwest (one percent). Cities of all sizes reported decreases in serious crime, with the greatest declines reported by cities with populations between 50,000 and 99,000 (eight percent) and over one million (six percent) and the smallest decline reported by cities with populations under 10,000 (three percent). We will release a statement from you on Sunday to call attention to these new statistics.

**9. Crime – COPS Retention:** You asked at yesterday's budget meeting how a new COPS initiative would deal with communities' demand for money to retain police officers previously hired through the program. We plan to set aside \$50 million for one-year waivers to assist economically-distressed communities (but only those communities) to meet the continuing costs of their hires. This approach will help genuinely strapped communities to keep their new police, while making clear to other communities that they must pick up the costs of these officers. Our experience with a similar (though looser) waiver program last year suggests that \$50 million will be sufficient. As you may recall, Congress earmarked \$100 million in COPS funding in FY 1998 to assist smaller jurisdictions to retain police officers hired under the program. We feared at the time that this program would invite all such jurisdictions to abjure their original funding commitments. In the end, however, very few of the eligible jurisdictions applied for this money and the Department of Justice made grants of only \$13.4 million.

**10. Crime – Capital Punishment:** The Justice Department will release a report on Sunday showing that 17 states executed 74 prisoners in 1997. This number represents a substantial increase from 1996, when 45 executions took place; indeed, the 1997 number is the largest since 1955. The states with the highest number of execution were: Texas (37); Virginia (9); Missouri (6); Arkansas (4); and Alabama (3). All 74 people executed in 1997 were men. The report classifies 45 of those executed as white, 27 as black, one as Asian, and one as American Indian; it further notes that five of the total number were of Hispanic descent. According to the report, an additional 3,335 individuals are now on death row in 34 states and the federal prison system -- 1,876 whites, 1,406 blacks, 28 American Indians, 17 Asians, and 8 of other races. This total includes 238 Hispanics and 44 women. Finally, the report notes that as of November 30, 1998, 18 states had executed 58 inmates, with Texas and Virginia accounting for half the total (17 and 12 respectively).

**11. Welfare Reform – Work Participation Rates:** We just received (but have not yet published) the first work participation statistics from the welfare reform law. The data show that 36 of the 38 states that were required to meet the law's all-family participation rates in FY 1997 succeeded in doing so. (The remaining states began implementation of the welfare law later and need not meet participation rates until FY 1998.) As you recall, these rates require states, in the first year of the law's implementation, to ensure that 25 percent of all welfare families include an adult who works at least 20 hours each week. (States can get credit

toward meeting the work participation rates by reducing their caseloads.) Only Nevada and the District of Columbia failed to meet this requirement, and even they may give HHS enough additional data in the next few weeks to come into compliance. States fared less well in meeting the law's separate work participation rates for two-parent families, who comprise seven percent of the total caseload. These rates require states to ensure that 75 percent of two-parent welfare families include an adult who works at least 35 hours per week. Only 20 of the 38 states met this strict requirement; the failing states now must enter into corrective action plans with HHS to avoid financial penalties.

**12. Welfare Reform -- Teen Birth Trends:** A study by the Centers for Disease Control issued last week provided some new details about the previously reported 15 percent decline in the national teen birth rate from 1991 to 1997. The report showed declines in teen births for all races and ethnic groups and in all states. In addition, the report showed a steep decline (about 21 percent) in the rate of second births to teens during this period. Second births currently comprise about one-fifth of total teen births.

**13. Children and Families -- Infant Mortality and Life Expectancy:** Another new study issued by the Centers for Disease Control last week showed positive trends on infant mortality and life expectancy. The study reported that the U.S. infant mortality rate -- a measure of the death of babies under one year old -- reached its lowest level ever last year. The 1997 infant mortality rate was 7.1 deaths per 1,000 births, which is about 3 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 7.3 deaths per 1,000 births. The drop in infant deaths came despite a 7.5 percent increase in the number of low birthweight babies and a two percent increase in the number of births by women late in their childbearing years. In addition, the study reported that Americans' average life expectancy rose to an all-time high of 76.5 years in 1997. This increase is due in part to falling death rates from major diseases and from accidents, homicides, and suicides. For example, deaths from AIDS dropped by 47 percent in 1997. The most dramatic improvement in life expectancy was among black males, whose expectancy increased by 1.2 years to 67.3.

**14. Children and Families -- Single Fathers Data:** The Census Bureau released data today showing that the number of single fathers with children at home has increased 25 percent in the past three years, from 1.7 million to 2.1 million. These men now account for one in six single parents, joining a total of 9.8 million single mothers. About 35 percent of all single fathers have never married, while more than half of single fathers with children under six have not done so. According to the report, single fathers have higher incomes than single mothers and are more likely to live with another person (mother, girlfriend, etc.) who helps with child care.

**15. Abortion -- New Abortion Study:** The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) released a study on Friday showing the lowest nationwide abortion rates since 1975. The study reports that from 1992 to 1996, the number of abortions performed fell from 1,529,000 to 1,366,000, and the abortion rate decreased from 26 to 23 per 1,000 women aged 15-44. The report

attributed most of this decline to effective contraceptive methods, especially among teen-agers, and a consequent decrease in unintended pregnancies. The study also reported a sharp decline in the number of facilities providing abortions during this period, although it suggested that this decline was not a major factor in the lower abortion rates. The total number of facilities providing abortions decreased 14 percent between 1992 and 1996, with the greatest decline among hospitals (18 percent decrease) and physicians' offices (26 percent decrease), rather than clinics (two percent decrease). Less than 10 percent of total abortions are now performed in hospitals and doctors' offices. Finally, the study examined the prevalence of dilation and extraction procedures -- i.e., so-called partial birth abortions. According to the report, doctors at 14 hospitals or clinics performed about 650 of these kinds of abortions in 1996 (out of a total of 1.36 million abortions). The large majority of these procedures were performed between 20 and 24 weeks into a pregnancy.

**16. Community Empowerment -- Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI):** The Treasury Department recently provided the DPC with summary statistics on the CDFI awards made during the first three years of funding (1996-98). Since its creation, the CDFI Fund has made a total of 196 awards to 164 institutions. Of the institutions receiving awards, 139 were already established and 25 were startup. Of the startup institutions, 9 were full-service financial institutions -- banks, bank holding companies, and credit unions -- and 16 were more specialized financial institutions such as microenterprise funds, venture capital funds, and business loan funds.