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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

Copied
Reed
Kagan
Podesta

1. Health Care -- Patients Bill of Rights Discharge Petition: Congressman Dingell filed a resolution Thursday to begin the process for a discharge petition to bring patients' rights legislation to the House floor. Although Congressmen Norwood and Ganske did not cosponsor the resolution, they were happy with Dingell's decision to file it because they think it may put pressure on the Republican leadership to move a bill through committee. Also at the end of last week, Senators Lott and Daschle began negotiations on a time agreement to bring patients' rights legislation to the floor of the Senate.

2. Health Care -- Jeffords-Kennedy Legislation: The Senate leadership agreed Thursday to schedule a floor vote on the Jeffords-Kennedy Work Incentives Improvement Act immediately after the recess. We believe you should highlight the importance of the bill and its progress through the Congress when you deliver the President's Award of the Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities at an event on Friday.

3. Disabilities -- Employment of People with Disabilities in the Federal Workforce: We have worked with the Vice President's office to prepare two executive actions to help increase the employment of people with disabilities in the federal workforce. The first is a directive from OMB to all federal agencies to implement an employment plan for people with disabilities. This directive will ensure that agencies (1) recruit people with disabilities for positions at all levels; (2) establish policies to provide reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities; (3) provide people with disabilities with opportunities for training and advancement; and (4) collect data on the percentage of adults with disabilities in the federal workforce. The second action is an executive order, to be followed by regulations, to change the civil service rules to eliminate existing disparities between people with psychiatric disabilities and people with other disabilities. We are discussing making these announcements at next week's disabilities award event (see above) or at the upcoming White House mental health conference.

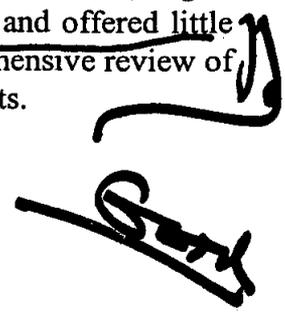
4. Welfare Reform -- GAO Study on Welfare Outcomes: The Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee held a hearing Thursday to publicize a GAO study on the results of welfare reform legislation. The study concluded that welfare reform has dramatically increased the number of people moving from welfare to work. Summarizing

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seven state studies of welfare recipients who have left the rolls (most of which we have reported to you previously), the GAO determined that between 61 percent (Tennessee) and 71 percent (Washington) of former recipients were working at the time of follow-up and between 63 percent (Maryland) and 85 percent (Indiana, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin) had worked at some point since leaving welfare. Clay Shaw summarized the findings by saying that welfare reform was "the most successful piece of legislation in this half century." Some other participants at the hearing expressed greater caution, noting in particular that many of the jobs for welfare recipients paid low wages and offered little opportunity for advancement. We will provide you soon with a comprehensive review of the GAO report as well as the other information presented by the panelists.

Handwritten signature and scribble, possibly reading "Shaw" or similar, located to the right of the main text block.