

WP - Advocates

Note to Rahm and Bruce

A couple of thoughts on the advocacy strategy:

- We need to continue to work with the national groups to provide them with as much information as possible. We did this pretty effectively this week. Immediately after distribution to the members of Congress and the press, all of the charts and the views letter from Secretary Shalala went to a very large group of advocacy organizations (the list of the top 15 or so is attached)

- We are stepping up our regional advocacy activities. This week the major advocacy groups in the targeted states received all of the information that went to the Hill and to the press. We will continue to do this with next week's target list.

- We are monitoring conference schedules and intend to send surrogates. Highlights: The Child Welfare League March 1-3 (Secretary Shalala is tentatively scheduled to speak), American Public Welfare Association February 25-28 (Secretary Shalala will speak), National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies February 23-25 (Senior HHS Official will speak).

- In particular, on child care, child nutrition, and child disability, we are working with specific groups to build them into our "message of the day" next week and the following week.

- As you know, Secretary Shalala has met with the leading advocacy groups over the last several weeks.

- Finally, we are beginning to talk to a few groups about the kinds of studies they might be ready to release over the next several weeks. We are looking at potential HHS studies as well.

Call if you have any additional thoughts/questions.



Advocacy Groups

AFL-CIO

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Catholic Charities USA

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

Center for Law and Social Policy

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Defense Fund

Coalition on Human Needs

Council of Jewish Federations

Joint Center for Economic and Policy Studies

National Council of Churches

National Council of La Raza

National Council of Negro Women

National Urban League

National Women's Law Center

Progressive Policy Institute

SEIU

United Way of America

Women's Legal Defense Fund