

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1999

Ben Cammarata
TJX Companies, Inc.
770 Cochituate Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Ben:

Thank you for your letter. It was great to be able to honor your good work and fine leadership last month. I can't tell you how pleased I am that TJX has hired more than double the welfare recipients you committed to hiring two years ago. What a remarkable contribution your company has made to our Welfare to Work agenda.

Thanks also for your kind words about Eli Segal. He is a good man.

Happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Ben Clinton

cc: Bruce Reed
w/incoming

cc
P. Row
P. Row

Ben Cammarata - When he was honored as the Crohns, Colitis Foundation of America Man of the Year on November 4, the highlight of the evening was your tribute to him. At the Welfare to Work partnership at the White House a couple of years ago, he committed TJX to hiring 5,000 welfare recipients by the year 2000. To date, they have hired more than 10,000 and will continue their efforts. Thank you for signing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in 1996. He knows you are proud of Eli Segal's Leadership for the Welfare to Work partnership. (Eli Segal adds note that Ben is a conservative Republican, but a true believer in your leadership on welfare reform - and a first class human being.)



The Welfare to Work
P A R T N E R S H I P

Eli J. Segal
President and CEO

11/23/99

MR. President,

You did a video for Ben. He's a conservative Republican, but a true believer in your leadership on welfare reform. And a first class human being.

Regards,
EJ.



THE TJX COMPANIES, INC.

BERNARD CAMMARATA
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

November 19, 1999

President William Clinton
White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. President:

On November 4th, almost 1,000 individuals came together in Boston to support the efforts of the Crohns, Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA). I was privileged to be honored as the CCFA Man of the Year that evening.

Although fundraising history was made as \$2.2 million was raised, the true highlight of the night was your tribute to me. The fact that you could find time in your incredibly busy schedule to honor me is something that my family and I will never forget.

A couple of years ago I was invited to the White House and asked to participate in the Welfare to Work partnership. At the time, I committed TJX to hiring 5,000 welfare recipients by the year 2000. To date, we have hired more than 10,000 welfare recipients and will continue our efforts well into the new millennium.

I want to thank you for signing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act into law in 1996. Your vision has enabled thousands of individuals and their families to become independent and increase their self-esteem. Not to mention, the benefits derived by the business community as well.

I know that you must be proud of the leadership that Eli Segal has provided for the Welfare to Work partnership. He has done a marvelous job.

On behalf of the thousands of patients, family members and friends who rely on the services provided by CCFA, please accept my sincere gratitude for participating in the November 4th activities.

Sincerely,

Ben Cammarata

BC/rbl

April 5, 1996

The Honorable Norman B. Rice
President
The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Norman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the National Governors' Association's proposal for welfare reform. As always, I appreciate your sharing the concerns of the United States Conference of Mayors.

I am committed to working with Congress and the governors to produce a bipartisan welfare agreement that is tough on work and tough on responsibility, but also supportive of responsible parents who want to work. I am pleased that governors in both parties agree with me that the conference report I received from Congress fell short in important areas -- such as the need for more resources to provide child care. And, like you, I have concerns about certain provisions within the NGA resolution, including those regarding food stamps and child protection. Nevertheless, I hope that the NGA's proposals will further the welfare debate in a spirit of bipartisan progress.

I appreciate your continued counsel on this issue. Working together, I'm confident we can enact legislation that protects children and empowers people.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/DI/JFB/lynn-emu (Corres. #2808718)
(4.rice.nb)

cc: D. Ikemiyashira, 93 OEOB
cc: Diana Fortuna, 224 OEOB
cc: Bruce Reed, 216 OEOB

January 23, 1996

The Honorable David T. Ellwood
Academic Dean
Harvard University
John F. Kennedy School of Government
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear David:

Thank you very much for your letter about welfare reform. I appreciate your candor, and as always, I greatly value your opinions.

You and I agree that even while we work to balance the budget and bring about meaningful welfare reform, we cannot lose sight of America's fundamental moral obligations. Our reforms must help people in need to prepare for the future, easing the move from welfare to work and encouraging them to get on the path to self-sufficiency. In addition, as we strive to increase opportunities for working families, we must be committed to defending the Earned Income Tax Credit, which you worked so hard to expand in 1993.

Thanks again for sharing your insights with me. You have my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/LLA/JFB/JRS/JM/emu-ws-lynn
(Corres. #2627933)
(1.ellwood.dt)

cc: w/copy of inc. to Jeremy Ben-Ami
cc: w/copy of inc. to Bruce Reed
cc: w/copy of inc. to Diana Fortuna

(Former Deputy Asst. Sec. for
Planning + Evaluation, HHS - 88b
Clinton adm.)
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

DAVID T. ELLWOOD
Academic Dean

Malcolm Wiener Professor of Public Policy



79 JOHN F. KENNEDY STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

Confidential

-confirmed by Senate
-still use "The Honorable."

November

per Executive
Clerk

12/27/95.

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my extreme concern about the impacts of the welfare reform bill emerging from the Congress. I am convinced (as is virtually every serious student of poverty and welfare I know) that these bills will do little to move people from welfare to work and will put children in serious jeopardy.

When you ran for President and when you oversaw the development of the Work and Responsibility Act, you offered a clear and positive vision. Real reform centered unambiguously around two values: work and responsibility. You spoke eloquently about how work provides meaning and structure in our lives. You emphasized the need to support working families by making work pay. You talked about fundamentally transforming our failed welfare system. Ending welfare meant offering a hand up not a hand out. It meant that everyone who had the ability to work had the opportunity and the responsibility to do so. These are the reform values you have championed throughout your life.

You understood the nature of our failing welfare system better than any public official I ever worked with. You spoke with stunning insight about the day to day realities and complexities of low income families. You recognized the enormous challenge of dramatic changes in welfare.

And just as importantly, you understood and confronted directly the stereotyping and bigotry that so often devastate reasoned discussion of welfare. It is so easy to use welfare recipients as scapegoats. Yet you repeatedly emphasized that recipients are among welfare's harshest critics. They are among the first to agree that it is reasonable and necessary to expect recipients to work. Your language was always inclusive. You spoke eloquently of avoiding the us versus them mentality that so often characterizes discussions of poverty and welfare. You saw welfare reform as a way to bring the country together when so many had used it to divide us.

President William Jefferson Clinton
November 14, 1995
Page 2

And ultimately, at the very core, welfare reform was about helping the next generation of children. Their lives were what made replacing our failed welfare system so important.

Thus it is with increasing distress and amazement that I watch the administration embracing many of the welfare reform ideas emerging from the Congress. For with the exception of the child support enforcement provisions which closely mirror those we developed, the House and Senate bills sharply diverge from the values you have so articulately emphasized in public and private. Stripped of their rhetoric of federalism and family values, both the House and the Senate bills are first and foremost about cutting the budget. Both will make it harder, not easier for single parents to go to work. Both will increase not diminish poverty. Both will hurt states. Worse still, they represent the beginning, not the end, of a perfectly predictable race to the bottom by both the state and federal government. And perhaps worst of all, they both feed the racially charged us versus them mentality which is tearing at the very fabric of the nation. Our children will suffer. This is welfare fraud, not welfare reform.

I have no doubt that you have heard many of the arguments before. I know you and others in the administration (including me) worked hard to improve the Senate bill. It certainly is better than the House bill. But with even a limited distance from Washington, it is not the details that stand out. The big picture emerges--for me the issues are for work and poverty.

- Under the Senate bill, the more generous of the two, in the year 2000, the combined total federal block grant for cash aid, work and training, and child care is \$520 *per poor child per year* in Arkansas. In Florida the grant is \$850. In California the block grant provides \$1,810 per poor child per year; in New York, \$2,120. Overall, federal money for aid, work, and child care combined is cut nearly 15% in the year 2000 in the Senate bill. The House bill is still worse--cutting 20% out. These spending levels and especially the cuts make it virtually impossible to invest in moving people from welfare to work.

Under the House and Senate bills, states are required to put millions of mothers to work. Under the Senate bill, with \$10 per week per poor child in federal block grant funding, Arkansas is supposed to provide whatever cash aid is needed for poor children, to put their mothers to work, and to pay for child care. The House bill asks the same be done for \$9 per week. Even in California, the payments amount to just \$42 per week per poor child. These expectations come on top whatever the state must do to cope with the dramatic cuts in federal support for disabled children, immigrants, and Medicaid. This analysis doesn't even include the impacts of any recession.

President William Jefferson Clinton
November 14, 1995
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States cannot and will not do the impossible. But they will do the possible. The possible is to cut people off, to offer less service, to provide less child care for the working poor not on welfare. Some states will find it much easier to move people from welfare to the state border than from welfare to work. And so the race to the bottom will begin. Even governors and legislators who want to focus on work-based reform may find the economic and political consequences too serious in the face of the activities of nearby states. Welfare reform will be about cutting people off and moving them around--not about work.

- The OMB, HHS, and Treasury report indicates that more than one million children will become poor if the Senate bill is adopted and twice that number if the House version prevails. The situation could be much worse.

Troubling as these estimates are, things could end up being far worse. For they assume no further changes on the part of states or the federal government. States will most assuredly spend less. And at the federal level, block grants have a poor fiscal history. Who will defend cuts in the welfare block grant versus reductions in Medicare or farm programs or tax cuts? And can a block grant long endure with a funding formula yielding payments per poor child as wildly divergent across states as this one? (Many southern states get 1/4 as much per poor child as many northern states.) How will appropriations for child care fare when the caps come down sharply in future years? Already Congress is cutting Head Start--easily the most popular social investment and a critical source of child care for low income mothers. Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation publicly predicts that federal funding for AFDC will be gone in five years. Most experts I talk to agree. Several well known conservative political operatives privately admit this is the goal anyway. What is left is a formula and structure which are neither politically viable nor intellectually defensible.

I am very, very frightened for our children. I am also worried that many people who deeply care about children are engaged in denial and wishful thinking. I am often labeled the father of time limits. I have long been one of the harshest critics of the current welfare system. I understand the need to compromise and the importance of cutting the budget. I helped to craft the welfare bill that conservative Republicans privately told you was very good. But what has emerged is not welfare reform, not even close. From where I sit we are on the brink of increasing desperation. Even George Will has expressed concern.

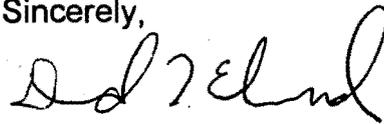
I ask you to ask two simple questions of yourself, your staff, and anyone you trust who has seriously studied the issues over the years: will this bill make it easier or harder for parents to work, and will children be less poor or more poor as a result of these bills?

President William Jefferson Clinton
November 14, 1995
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This should not be your legacy. Please don't risk creating much greater desperation among our most vulnerable citizens. Don't let those who would divide the nation dominate this agenda. Speak out in support of the core American values that guided all of your previous welfare efforts. A budget slashing welfare bill that is a parody of real reform should not be history's record of the most knowledgeable President in generations.

I stand ready to help in whatever way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. T. Ellwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

David T. Ellwood

January 3, 1996

The Honorable Bill Lockyer
The Honorable Mike Thompson
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Bill and Mike:

Thank you for getting in touch with me regarding Medicaid and welfare reform. I understand your concerns about the future of these vital national endeavors, and I appreciate hearing about your experiences in California.

I am opposed to efforts by Congress that would radically scale back Medicaid funding or transform it into a block-grant system. Such proposals would damage Medicaid and would hurt states, health care providers, and the many Americans who rely on this critical program in order to help finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

While we must balance the budget, we can do so without gutting essential programs and hurting the people they serve. Our nation has always recognized our obligation to help care for its people in need, an obligation that my Administration will continue to honor.

In the same vein, it is clear that real welfare reform should be about helping people be good workers and good parents -- not about shifting the responsibility to the states with more mandates and less money. I strongly oppose a child welfare block grant or any measures that jeopardize our young people's chances for success or that keep families from becoming independent. Our goal should be to ensure that poor children and families can become self-sufficient, not destitute.

As we work to promote fiscal responsibility, I will continue to fight to ensure that our nation does not turn its back on the health and well-being of our citizens -- young or old. I appreciate your commitment to these important issues and have shared your letter with my staff.

Sincerely,

WILL CLINTON

BC/SEM/JM/pw-ws
(12.lockyer.b)

(Corres. #2598915)

cc: IGA

FWD W/COPY OF INC. TO: Molly Brostrom, ODP

FWD W/COPY OF INC. TO: Bruce Reed, ODP

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DISTRICT OFFICES:

22634 SECOND STREET, SUITE 104
HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA 94541
(510) 582-8800

FROM FREMONT, NEWARK
AND UNION CITY
(510) 790-3605

FROM SANTA CLARA COUNTY
(408) 286-0329

California State Senate

BILL LOCKYER
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

TENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
COUNTIES OF ALAMEDA AND SANTA CLARA



November 16, 1995

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 205

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to thank you for your strong defense of California and the nation by promising to veto the budget reconciliation bill which Congress will act on this week. The current legislation, particularly the proposed block granting of Medicaid and Welfare programs is inequitable and will penalize Californians. We applaud your commitment to veto this measure and we ask that as future negotiations occur, you take into consideration the issues set forth below which we believe are imperative to ensure that California receives its fair share of federal fund allocations and is not disproportionately affected by the Congress' proposed actions.

We must begin by stating that we have serious concerns about block granting these programs. However, we also recognize that negotiations will occur. Although there are many issues that remain to be resolved which will positively or negatively affect this State, there are several that are paramount to California's economic future. Specifically, the issues of most concern are:

1. California needs to obtain its fair share of Medicaid funding. The level of funding proposed by Congress does not recognize that California currently operates one of the most cost-effective Medicaid programs in the nation. Based on 1993 Medicaid Program expenditures, California spends less federal funds per beneficiary (i.e., \$1,400) than any other state. The national average is \$2,226 in federal funds per beneficiary, or 59 percent more than California!

California has implemented numerous cost-containment measures over the past several years, including (1) enrollment of over 3 million beneficiaries in managed care plans by 1996, (2) implementation of a hospital contracting program which has saved over \$8 billion in state and federal funds since its inception in 1982, and (3) special programs designed to provide medical services in less costly settings, such as subacute care settings and in-home supportive services.

rec'd
PLM
12/14/95
SM

The Honorable Bill Clinton

November 16, 1995

Page 2

California should not be penalized for adopting innovative, cost saving reforms that other states have not adopted. Few additional savings can be achieved through greater efficiencies or managed care.

Further, we are extremely concerned with obtaining an equitable Medi-grant base level after Senator Dole orchestrated the blatantly partisan "Friday Night Massacre" where California lost an additional \$4.2 billion in base funding. Politics and partisanship must not be allowed to dictate funding levels to provide basic medical care for California's poor families.

2. Legal Immigrants and New Citizens. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has calculated that over a third of all non-citizen legal residents in the United States live in California. These permanent residents and refugees account for a sizable segment of California's AFDC, SSI/SSP, Medi-Cal and General Assistance caseload. California is projecting nearly \$500 million in Medi-Cal spending for these populations in the current year. Should they be declared ineligible for any federal assistance programs, there would be enormous pressure to provide state-only benefits or shift the cost of care and rely on our already financially strapped counties as the providers of last resort.

Moreover, it is unfair to hold the state of California at risk financially for decisions over which we exercise no control. Past immigration policies, including the numbers of visas issued each year and the priorities given to certain visa preference categories are not within state control. Yet, these policies have had an enormous impact on how many aliens chose to locate (or relocate) in California. Further, as a State, California has no authority to restrict the immigration of legal residents of the United States, regardless of their citizenship status.

3. Reject the block grant for Child Protective Services. With the enormity of the issues presented to states in the block granting of Social Service and Medicaid programs, it simply does not make sense to include these services in a block grant at this time. Children's lives will be drastically affected, particularly as states reconfigure AFDC programs. It is essential that we continue to maintain the guarantee that children's lives will be protected, regardless of state program changes.

4. Additional funding for Child Care. This issue is of critical importance if the state is to meet its work participation requirements. Additionally, it is of vital importance to families trying to meet the time limit provisions. It is our understanding that the additional funds included for child care have been virtually offset by reductions in Title XX funds. California must have access to additional funds or penalties for non-compliance in work participation rates are a certainty.

5. Reject the proposed cuts in the Earned Income Tax Credit. Reductions in the Earned Income Tax Credit as proposed under the Senate version would raise taxes for nearly 2.4 million California families, according to the Treasury Department. Low income Californians would pay an additional \$857 million over the next seven years, an increase of \$364/year per family. Given the hits taken by our state's economy as a result of military base closures, and the loss of income that welfare reform will result in, this loss is unacceptable.

The Honorable Bill Clinton
November 16, 1995
Page 3

6. State Legislative Authority must be maintained. The sheer enormity of issues presented to states under whatever block grant structure is ultimately adopted necessitates Legislative input, action and oversight. In California particularly, there are a multitude of state codes which must be changed in order to implement federal actions. The Legislature must play an equal role in the development of the policy which will determine the course of California for many years to come.

7. Adequate Implementation Time. Under each of the current bills, funding cuts are proposed to be retroactive to October 1. Program implementation ranges from six months following enactment to June 30, 1996. Again, the enormity of this task requires that states be given adequate lead time to generate the thousands of statutory and regulatory changes required for implementation.

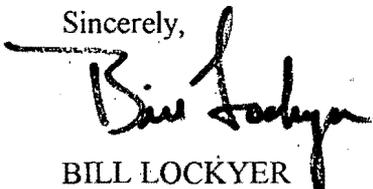
8. Mitigate the Adverse Impacts of Housing Cuts. The dramatic loss of new money for incremental growth in housing units will be a permanent setback to the policy of improving housing opportunities for low and moderate income families, particularly in our high-cost housing state. The reduction in funding for contract renewals and conversion of private HUD assisted housing strikes particularly hard because of the significant amount of such housing in California.

9. Maintain and Enforce Federal Standards. There are currently a number of proposals included in the reconciliation bill which will eliminate or severely curtail federal standards for nursing home care, worker safety and the environment. California is home to more poor elderly residents than any other state in the nation. Any reduction in federal standards for nursing home care would place them at great risk. Similarly, millions of California workers depend on federal standards for safety in the workplace. California's tourism, agriculture, fishing and recreation industries are all uniquely dependent on a cleaner environment. Continued federal standards for environmental protection are essential to California's continued economic recovery.

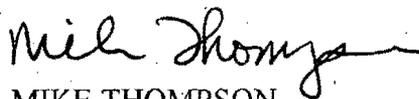
In each of the block grants under consideration, we urge you to provide California with an equitable base grant amount and the maximum growth rate for future years. At a minimum, we request the adoption of funding formulas that recognize the number of California's beneficiaries, persons in poverty, and undocumented and legal immigrants, and our existing disproportionate share hospital funding level.

We believe these issues are critical to ensure that California is not disproportionately affected by Congressional actions. We urge you to take whatever action necessary to secure these changes. Thank you for your assistance on this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



BILL LOCKYER
President Pro Tempore
California State Senate



MIKE THOMPSON
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Federal Liaison, California State Senate

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1995

The Honorable Dennis W. Archer
Mayor of Detroit
Executive Office
1126 City-County Building
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Dennis:

Thank you for writing to share your concerns about the debate in Congress over welfare reform.

As I said when I vetoed the Republican budget plan on December 6, Americans know that we need welfare reform, but cutting child care that helps mothers move from welfare to work and cutting help for abused and disabled children are not the way to repair our broken system. Real welfare reform should be tough on work and tough on responsibility, but not tough on children or on people who want to take charge of their lives. I will veto any bill that includes deep cuts that are at odds with my central goal of moving people from welfare to work.

This is a historic opportunity to end welfare as we know it -- but we must not abandon our values as we seek to improve our system. Instead, we must do everything we can to help poor children and families get on the path to self-sufficiency. My Administration remains ready to sit down in good faith with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to achieve real welfare reform.

Thanks again for your letter about this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Bill

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Bruce Reed

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Dorskind
FROM: Marcia Hale *MHA*
SUBJECT: Mayor Archer - Welfare Letter

I received the attached letter from Mayor Archer urging the President to veto the welfare bill. It is important that we answer this letter by the end of the week and that the President sees both the incoming letter and the response. Please coordinate with Rahm Emanuel and Bruce Reed in drafting a response. Thank you.

cc: Rahm Emanuel
Bruce Reed ✓



DENNIS W. ARCHER, MAYOR
CITY OF DETROIT
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

1126 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
PHONE 313•224•3400
FAX 313•224•4128

December 8, 1995

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to strongly urge you to veto the welfare bill. Your 1992 campaign addressed the need to reform the welfare system. I do not believe that HR4 captures your vision of reform. At a time when American cities are already facing fiscal crises, this bill will have a significant, negative impact. Already, American cities carry an enormous burden in attempting to meet the needs of our nation's poor. While we agree that reform of our nation's welfare system is necessary, this goal should not be attained at the expense of our nation's urban centers.

Ending entitlements will hurt cities. Converting the AFDC program into a block grant with fixed funding for states would likely have severe consequences for cities and poor families. The block grant funding would not rise as need for assistance increased due to a recession or falling wages. Further, cities where a large number of people on welfare reside, may not receive adequate funding from their state legislatures. This will leave cities bearing the cost of supporting many of the state's poorest citizens.

The bill endangers abused children. Among the programs to be included in block grants is the non-maintenance payment portion of the foster care and adoption program. Under current law, this program funds the services necessary to remove children from unsafe homes, place them in appropriate settings, and recruit and train foster parents and parents wishing to adopt. Under the welfare conference report, a state that sees its needs for child protection funds escalate will not receive additional federal resources to cope with the increased need. States will have to either increase state spending on these programs or reduce services that protect abused and neglected children. Child protection agencies are already understaffed and overworked. This change in the law will inevitably lead to more tragedies like the case of the 6 year-old New York child, Elisa Izquierdo.

The bill contains work requirements but fails to fund job creation programs. The bill requires states to meet a work participation rate each year. States could lose up to 5% of their federal funding if they fail to meet this rate. Will this be a new unfunded mandate? Will failure to provide funding for job creation cause cities to have to subsidize private or public jobs in order to meet the work requirements?



The President
December 8, 1995
Page Two

The bill does not include enough money for child care. Although welfare recipients will be required to work, The Department of Health and Human Services preliminary estimates indicate that the bill is 14 billion dollars short in providing funds for child care. Once again, cities will be left with trying to provide for a growing number of children who, through no fault of their own, will become homeless.

The bill denies benefits to legal immigrants. Food stamps, Medicaid and cash aid would all be denied to legal immigrants under this bill. Those denied benefits would include legal immigrants who have no sponsors to help support them, those who have paid taxes for many years, and poor immigrant families with children. As cities have absorbed most of the nation's immigrants, the cities will be left with the responsibility for dealing with immigrants who suddenly have no means of support.

The federal government has an obligation to ensure that the cities are adequately funded so that they can continue to play a vital role in our nation's economic prosperity. Because I believe that the financial well-being of our cities is endangered by this legislation, the decision of whether or not to veto this bill is a most critical issue before you. I urge you to veto the welfare bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis W. Archer".

Dennis W. Archer
Mayor
City of Detroit

DWA/ma

bcc: Marcia Hale

WR - letters from
POUS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1985

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to thank you for taking part in last week's bipartisan working session on welfare reform, and to commend your subcommittee for agreeing to include child support enforcement as part of your welfare reform legislation. The working session produced a remarkable consensus across party lines and from every level of government on the need for the toughest possible child support enforcement nationwide. I am glad to see your subcommittee moving quickly to embrace that recommendation.

Throughout my 14 years of work on the problem of welfare, as a governor and now as President, I have insisted that tough child support enforcement must be a centerpiece of welfare reform. If we're going to end welfare as we know it, we must make sure that all parents -- fathers and mothers alike -- take responsibility for the children they bring into this world. When parents don't provide the child support they owe, their children pay forever, and so do we. The welfare reform plan my Administration put forward last year included the toughest child support enforcement measures ever proposed, and I urge you to do the same.

We need to say to absent parents: If you're not paying your child support, we'll garnish your wages, suspend your license, track you across state lines, and if necessary, make you work off what you owe. A nation that values responsibility cannot tolerate a \$34 billion child support gap between what absent parents ought to be paying and what they pay.

I commend your subcommittee for taking this action, and I look forward to working with you as welfare reform moves through Congress.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

The Honorable E. Clay Shaw, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee Ways and Means
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 6, 1985

Dear Harold:

Thank you for taking part in last week's bipartisan working session on welfare reform. I was glad we were able to achieve a broad consensus on many issues -- above all, the need for the toughest possible child support enforcement.

I am attaching a copy of a letter I have sent today to Chairman Shaw, commending the recent decision to include child support enforcement as part of welfare reform legislation. As you know, the welfare reform plan we put forward together last year included the toughest child support enforcement measures ever proposed. I hope the subcommittee will do the same.

Thank you for all your hard work on this issue. I look forward to working with you as welfare reform moves through Congress.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Harold E. Ford
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515