

**FLOTUS STATEMENTS
& SPEECHES
5/4/99-11/12/99**

FLOTUS REMARKS AND SPEECHES

5/99-10/12/99

**FLOTUS PRESS OFFICE
HRC SCHEDULES
9/96 - 12/96**

FLOTUS STATEMENTS & SPEECHES 05/99—10/12/99

Sacagawea Coin Event, The White House	05/04/99
Nationwide Asthma Screening Program Kickoff at Draper Elementary School	05/04/99
Welcoming of Kosovo Refugees to the U.S., Fort Dix, New Jersey	05/05/99
American Jewish Committee Dinner, Reagan International Trade Center	05/06/99
AFL-CIO "Ask Working Women" Event, Buffalo, NY	05/07/99
Violence Strategy Session, The White House	05/10/99
The Madeira School Lecture Series, Washington, DC	05/10/99
Tribute to Liz Tilberis, For Harper's Bazaar	05/10/99
Millennium Lecture Series at the University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland	05/12/99
Vital Voices Conference, Belfast, Ireland	05/13/99
ChildLine Conference, London, England	05/13/99
Balkans Briefing, Presidential Hall	05/18/99
Millennium Trails Roundtable	05/19/99
Address to Columbine High School Students, Littleton, CO	05/20/99
Cornerstone Community Partnership Reception "Save America's Treasures Tour," Santa Fe, NM	05/20/99
Pueblo of Acoma, Acoma Pueblo, NM	05/21/99
Acoma Pueblo Sky City Community School, Acoma Pueblo, NM	05/21/99
Palace of Governors, "Save America's Treasures" Tour, Santa Fe, NM	05/21/99
60 Minutes II, Dan Rather Interview	05/26/99
Marketing Violence to Kids, The White House	06/01/99
City College of New York Commencement	06/02/99
<i>Good Morning America</i> , School Violence Special	06/04/99
City Year 10 th Anniversary Celebration, Boston, MA	06/04/99
Reach Out and Read 10 th Anniversary, Boston, MA	06/04/99
Mental Health Conference, Howard University	06/07/99
Juvenile Diabetes Event, The White House	06/07/99
Yankee Event, The White House	06/10/99
Globalization Into the Next Millennium, the Sorbonne, Paris, France	06/17/99
NGO Roundtable, Fes, Morocco	06/17/99
Civitas Palermo World Conference: Making Education for Democracy an International Priority, Polermo, Italy	06/18/99
Remarks By the President and the First Lady to the Kosovar Refugees at Stenkovich I Refugee Camp, Skopje, Macedonia	06/22/99
Announcement of Relief Aid in Macedonia, Skopje, Macedonia	06/22/99
Emerging Democracies Forum, Sana'a, Yemen	06/29/99
Remarks by the President and the First Lady in Highlighting Charter of Freedoms Project, National Archives Rotunda	07/01/99
National Education Association, Friends of Education Award, Orlando, FL	07/05/99
Women's World Cup Champions Reception, The White House	07/19/99
First Ladies Library, Canton, Ohio	07/23/99
Remarks by POTUS and FLOTUS on Women & Medicare, Presidential Hall	07/27/99

Remarks by POTUS and FLOTUS at the Reception in Honor of the 25 th Anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation	07/27/99
National Jewish Democratic Council, Washington, DC	07/27/99
Hadassah's 85 th National Convention, Washington, DC	07/27/99
Interview with Carl Anthony	7/28/99
Book on the Dangers of Land Mines in Kosovo, The White House	8/2/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Unveiling of the Superman Comic Book on the Dangers of Land Mines in Kosovo, The White House	8/2/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at White House Convening on Hispanic Children and Youth, The White House	8/2/99
Remarks by POTUS and FLOTUS at the Medal of Freedom Event, The White House	8/11/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Irish American Dinner, Nantucket, MA	8/20/99
Remarks by POTUS at DNC Saxophone Club Reception, East Hampton, NY	8/28/99
Remarks by POTUS at Reception Honoring FLOTUS, Cazenovia, NY	9/2/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at White House Convening on AIDS in Africa, The White House	9/7/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's 22 nd Annual Gala, Washington, DC	9/15/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Enthronement Ceremony of Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America Demetrios, New York, NY	9/18/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at National Democratic Institute's 13 th Annual Awards, Washington, DC	9/23/99
Remarks by POTUS at National Democratic Institute Dinner, Washington, DC	9/23/99
Remarks by POTUS and FLOTUS at Adoption Event, Presidential Hall	9/24/99
Statement by POTUS, The White House	9/27/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Minimum Wage Event, Capitol Hill	9/28/99
Remarks by POTUS at Presentation of the National Medal of the Arts and the National Humanities Medal, Washington, DC	9/29/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, Ottawa, Canada	9/30/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Lauder Morasha Jewish School, Warsaw, Poland	10/5/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Roundtable of Women Entrepreneurs at the ACUS "Caterina" Textile Plant, Warsaw, Poland	10/5/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at "Partners in Transition: Lessons for the Next Decade" Conference, Warsaw, Poland	10/5/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at "Culture Counts: A Conference on Financing, Resources, and the Economics of Culture in Sustainable Development" Florence, Italy	10/7/99
Remarks by FLOTUS at Vital Voices Conference on Women and Democracy, Reykjavik, Iceland	10/10/99
Millennium Event at the White House: Informatics Meets Genomics, The White House	10/12/99

Asthma Screening Kickoff
Draper Elementary School
May 4, 1999

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

**Nationwide Asthma Screening Program Kickoff
At Draper Elementary School**

**Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Washington, D.C.
May 4, 1999**

Thank you! Thank you very much! Is someone trying to tell us something? I thought that Nikita did a wonderful job, and I think that we ought to give Nikita and Domonique another round of applause. It is not easy to come and talk about something that is so important to your family in front of all of us. I appreciate Ms. Johnson doing that for us.

Dr. Coates, I'm delighted to be here at Draper. I want you to know, as I mentioned earlier, the physician who takes care of the President and who takes care of the entire White House, Dr. Connie Mariano, is a graduate of Draper. Dr. Mariano came with me today, both because she's interested in asthma and also because she wanted to see her old school. So I'm delighted to be in Dr. Mariano's alma mater.

Thank you, Deputy Superintendent Brooks, for being here. And Mr. Baldwin, I appreciate your participation. I'm also delighted to see so many of the doctors associated with this campaign, and the nurses and others who are part of this very important effort. We're also pleased to have Councilwoman Sandy Allen from Ward 8 with us. I also want to thank Katherine Kerman, who is with ASTRA, who helped to provide the funding for this campaign. And Dr. Miles, Dr. Whinder and Dr. Nsouli, who are all part of this national screening effort, and particularly the screening effort here in D. C. I also wish to thank Mrs. Evelyn Nelson, who is that art teacher who gave me a beautiful book of the children's artwork as I was coming in today.

I'm delighted also to be here with a great champion of the environment, and particularly of the strategies that we need to employ to bring people together to deal with our environmental issues. Carol Browner has been a superb administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. I know that sometimes we take for granted, when we shouldn't, that we have improving air and we have improving water. But we're having to deal with some very difficult, toxic problems in the waste dumps and brown fields around our country. But I also know what an incredible effort that Carol Browner has put in over the last six and a half years. She started with this administration and she is still here. And that, in and of itself, is quite an accomplishment. But she's here because she's devoted to the environment. She and I have spent time together and have worried together about issues like asthma, which we have already heard are beginning to take a terrible toll because of the increase in numbers and the severity. And that's why we're here today.

We've already seen firsthand, through Nikita's words, what it must be like for a small child like Domonique to not be able to play outside or to have that terrible feeling of breathlessness that comes without much warning sometimes. I'd have to make yet another trip to

the doctor or the emergency room, or get those allergy shots. So part of our goal today is to highlight what we can do about this.

We know that there is a problem. We've heard about the statistics. Those of you who are either in schools where you have seen the increase occur, or in hospitals—particularly emergency rooms—where you know that asthma is the leading cause of admission for children, or if you are in the medical field and you are treating people with asthma, you understand that we have a problem. It is a problem that we are all pulling together to address.

There is no better place than a school to make an announcement like this, because it is here where children come. I'm old enough to remember that this is where we would come to get our polio shots, our eyes tested—I see some heads nodding—and our ears tested. We used our schools in the old days as a way of reaching every family and every child. Well that is what we are attempting to do again today. We owe a great debt to Dr. Miles and the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, and Dr. Nsouli, who are responsible for these screenings that will be taking place across the country.

I just had the opportunity to go into Room 145 where children are being screened for asthma. It's not a painful experience, unlike getting polio shots in the old days. You can go in and have a screening that then can lead to helping you with the problem that you have. So the kickoff of the Nationwide Asthma Screening Program that is going on here at Draper is so important. I hope that the effort that we have seen here and the results that will come from it will be multiplied many times over, all over—at malls, civic centers, health fairs, and schools. Since 1997, more than 11,000 people have come to screenings like this. And we're hoping to increase that number many times over because of the emphasis on the schools. As Carol Browner pointed out, asthma rates for children under 5 have dramatically increased by 160 percent since 1980 alone. We know that there are many children who don't know where to turn. And their families aren't sure, like Nikita told us, what is happening and what they're supposed to do to try to help their child.

So I'm pleased to announce some of the steps that we're going to take to help schools like Draper, help parents like Nikita, help physicians, nurses, and others like you who are on the front lines. First, I'm pleased to announce that the D. C. Chapter of the American Lung Association will, later this month, team up with government agencies, health plans, businesses, schools, religious organizations, community organizations and others to launch a new Childhood Asthma Campaign in Wards 6, 7, and 8. That is a very welcome commitment, and I want to thank the D. C. Chapter of the American Lung Association. I believe that the President of the D. C. Association was going to be with us today. Is Judge Inez Smith Reid here today? Yes, there she is! Thank you so much Judge Reid.

In addition to our partners in the private sector and the not-for-profit sector, for the first time, the federal government will be making an unprecedented commitment to address this epidemic of asthma all over our country. As Administrator Browner just said, back in January, I announced a new \$68 million budget proposal designed to find out why the rates are increasing—and to help parents and children understand, treat, and prevent asthma. We have to pay particular attention to poor families because it is the children of the poor who suffer

disproportionately from this disease. And as part of the Children's Asthma Initiative, I'm pleased to announce today that the President is sending legislation to Congress that will include \$50 million in state grants that will help low-income children better manage their asthma. We will try to make sure that children enrolled in Medicaid and the new children's health insurance program, sometimes called CHIP, receive the most advanced treatments available. We want to reach out to children with information about how to manage asthma—and to collect data—so that we find out more about the problem and what we can do to address it.

I hope that the Congress will pass this entire Children's Asthma Budget this year so that we can help save children from the problems that could cause their death, that certainly rob them of some of the best years of their life and have other long-term effects. I hope that we will also do more to reach out to more uninsured children, to make sure that they're enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP so that they can get the health care that they need. One of the real problems of the uninsured population in our country, particularly children, is that if they have chronic conditions, they are not managed. Now it is true that in our country, thank goodness, that we can show up at the emergency room and hopefully get the treatment we'll need in an emergency. But that is not good enough for dealing with a condition like asthma. Asthma needs to be managed. If it is managed, you not only have the opportunity of giving the child a better life, but you save money. Because for every trip to the emergency room, we increase the cost on the entire medical system. It is another one of those examples that if we would commit ourselves to prevention and if we would commit ourselves to the kind of maintenance that we need in treating chronic conditions, we not only would do the right thing, but would actually save money as well.

We're also going to be releasing—as Carol referred to with the problem of second-hand smoking—we're going to be releasing the first ever national public-service campaign to protect children from the dangers of second-hand smoke. This is more than a nuisance for children. It can make asthma worse for more than 1 million children who live in homes with smokers. It also can contribute to serious ear infections in children, as well as pneumonia, bronchitis, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, known as SIDS. I just want to emphasize this—because I wouldn't ask for a show of hands—but I imagine that in any group of Americans this large there are people who smoke, or live with a smoker, or who live in the same housing or apartment complex with a smokers. I hope that you will take this information back and take it to heart. Think of what it does—that we didn't know a few years ago it did, but we now know—think of what it does in terms of the impact on children's health. Now with this PSA we will be telling parents all over the country that if you are going to smoke, please don't jeopardize the health of your children.

We have a rule in the White House that you cannot smoke in the White House. And, if you have to smoke, then you have to go outside. Now this has been a little bit ticklish for me on certain occasions when a visiting head of state like the president or the king or the prime minister of a country says, "Is she really serious?" And oftentimes my husband will say, "Well, go ask her." And that really puts me on the spot. But I have said on many, many occasions, "Yes, we are serious, because we're very serious about the health of the people who not only live and work in this White House, but of the people in this country. And we know the damage that second-hand smoke can cause." Well, I hope that you'll think of the White House as an example perhaps of your own house. And if you smoke—we did this to my husband's mother when we

lived in the Governor's Mansion back in Arkansas. She'd be out there until she finally decided that she was just going to quit, because it got cold, you know? So think about it. And this PSA will be a reminder and an encouragement to people to do what each of us can to try to prevent second-hand smoke undermining the health of our children.

If there is any disease for which the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," applies, well, it is asthma. We know that if we work to prevent asthma, we can really take this problem on. We don't know all of the reasons why we're having this increase in asthma. That's what the research, the data, and the federal funding are for so we do know more about what is causing it. But we understand that we have a problem. And we understand that we need to address it in the many ways that are represented here—through screenings, through cooperation among physicians, nurses, the Lung Association, and the College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, and through all of us working together. I hope that we will see progress in the next few years. I'd like to see those percentages go down. I'd like to see them flatten out.

We've made progress on other problems that we've faced as a nation. We got good news last week when we saw that the teenage birthrate, pregnancy rate, and abortion rate have all gone down because we have not only talked about it, but we have worked on it together. Well, I want to see on all of these issues that we really care about, that affect the health and well-being of people and the future of our country, that we have the same kind of positive results. So thank you for making Draper Elementary School a real model for what is going to be happening around the country. And thank you for your commitment to making asthma a disease of the past by working in the present with these kinds of good strategies to really make a difference in the lives of American children.

Thank you very much!