

After-School Education Event
The White House
January 7, 1999

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Hillary Clinton Delivers Remarks At White House Event On Education

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TRANSCRIPT

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NEWS EVENT

HILLARY CLINTON

FIRST LADY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

HILLARY CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS AT WHITE HOUSE EVENT ON
EDUCATION.

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HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS AT WHITE HOUSE EDUCATION

EVENT

JANUARY 7, 1999

SPEAKERS: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, THE FIRST LADY

CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you and welcome to the White House.

It is a great pleasure of the President, the Vice President, Secretary Riley and myself to join in welcoming all of you. And it's particularly appropriate as we continue to welcome in new year that we meet here in the East Room and look forward to the extraordinary opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.

We are going to focus on the key that unlocks all those doors of opportunity. The education of our children and support for our families. I'm particularly pleased that so many members of Congress are here. And so many leaders who are leading the fight on behalf of America's families and children as well.

Many of you have worked very hard for very many years. And being here with us today for this announcement, just says once again, what is really important and what the priorities of our families must be as we move into the future together.

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: I particularly want to single out and thank the Mott (ph) Foundation. Bill White is here. The Mott Foundation has been a very strong partner. Not only with this administration, but with America's families. And has done so much to champion the causes of children and young people and we're seeing results from their efforts and the partnerships that they've been involved in.

I also want to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Martinez. Lusette (ph) Martinez and her husband, Leonard, who have come here from Chicago to tell us about how their daughter has benefited from after school and summer school programs in her community.

We've come together today to respond to some of the deepest concerns that the Martinez family, and millions of American families, parents, children, educators, across the country worry about every single day. What is happening with our children after school? What is happening with our children in school? Particularly, how can we take the challenges that children face in school and use the after school hours and summer vacations to help those children meet their challenges?

So today, we know, as any parent in this audience knows, that we worry a lot about our children. We worry about whether they have a warm, secure place to go in the afternoon, someone to help with their homework. And it is that worry which really eats at the millions and millions of families that cannot be there after school for their own children, that brings us here today.

Over 28 million school-aged children have both parents, or their only parent in the workplace. And at least five million children, some estimates are as high as 15 million, are left at home sometime during each week, alone. We know too well the consequences of those unsupervised hours.

And parents do have reason to worry. Because between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00 pm, children are far more at risk of being both victims and perpetrators of violence.

MORE

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XXX perpetrators of violence.

LINTON: Latchkey children are also more prone to abuse drugs and alcohol, be involved in juvenile crime, get poor grades, and even drop out of school.

But we have progress to report. And I'm pleased that as a result of the hard work of this president and the administration, with their partners in Congress, we're doing a much better job of giving working parents peace of mind, by giving them a safe place for their and more support for their children's learning.

Whether it's an elementary school in Chicago's city-wide Lighthouse Program or a school center in Baltimore run by the Police Athletic League, or a parents' led kids program in Danville, California, we know that we're making a difference for our children and keeping them on the right track. With tutoring, with social activities, with sports, and computer training, and arts classes; with caring adults to pick up kids when they've fallen, cheer them on until they triumph, after school and summer programs are helping kids succeed, not only in life, but in the classroom, in preparation for their life after school.

We know that particularly for children at risk, these programs can be the difference between lives of accomplishment and lives of hopelessness and failure.

Today we will hear about the President's proposals to dramatically expand after school programs around the country, by building on the real successes that we've already had in the administration's 21st century Community Learning Center Program.

It's now my great pleasure to introduce someone who has been a tireless advocate on behalf of our children. Bill and I have worked with Secretary Riley for more years than either us care to remember, but at least now for, at least 15, and probably closer to 20.

And in all those years, the conversations we've had, the work we've done together has been extraordinarily rewarding. Because he knows how important it is to involve parents in the education of their children. And to ensure that every child, no matter where that child lives, or what kind of economic circumstances that little boy or girl comes from, that every child has a chance to thrive and succeed in school.

So please, join me in welcoming Secretary Dick Riley.

END

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