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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 25, 2000

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

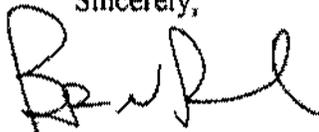
Dear Senator Specter:

I am writing to update the Committee on the status of the FY 2000 Youth Violence Prevention Initiative ("Initiative") outlined in the Senate Committee report accompanying S. 1650. Attached you will find a report on our efforts. It begins with a brief overview of the status of the White House Council on Youth Violence, which is responsible for coordinating youth violence prevention programs across the federal government, including the various components of the Initiative. This is followed by an update of each of the funded activities presented in the order they are listed in the Senate appropriations bill.

As you know, the programs included in the Initiative represent just a portion of the federal government's overall efforts to prevent and reduce youth violence across the Nation. In FY 2000, the federal government will invest over \$8 billion across nine agencies in programs that address youth violence or otherwise promote healthy youth development. Programs encompass a diverse range of prevention strategies, such as the hiring of community police officers to patrol schools (Department of Justice), assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to help cities crack down on those supplying guns to youth (Department of the Treasury), and support for model media literacy programs to help prevent violent behavior (Department of Education and National Endowment for the Arts).

I hope this information will be useful to you and the Committee and I look forward to working with you on this issue of vital importance.

Sincerely,



Bruce N. Reed  
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

## Update on FY 2000 Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

February 2000

### **The White House Council on Youth Violence**

The mission of the White House Council on Youth Violence, established by the President in an executive memorandum on October 15, 1999, is to develop a more effective policy and programmatic coordination strategy across Federal agencies on youth violence issues. The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy chairs the Council. The Office of the Vice President and the Office of Management and Budget are regular participants. The Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Labor are regular program members of the Council. The first Council meeting took place on February 24, 2000, and generated a fruitful discussion.

The Council's duties include: developing a citizen's information hub; producing reports on youth violence; expanding the Safe Schools/Healthy Students model of collaboration; providing tools for parents to deal with the issue; coordinating the Federal research agenda; and developing further policy responses. \$325,000 for the Council's operations was provided by the President to the Office of Policy Development from the Executive Office of the President's Unanticipated Needs FY 2000 appropriation.

Sonia Chessen from the Department of Health and Human Services has been named as the Director of the Council. Ms. Chessen has spent her career working on youth development and violence prevention issues, both in government and in the non-profit sector. Over the last year, she has been serving on the interagency management team for the Safe School/Health Students Initiative, as well as working with the various Departments in an effort to coordinate the research agendas in the area of youth violence. In her new capacity, Ms. Chessen will continue to facilitate the coordination of policy, program and research endeavors within and across the Departments.

Additional staff for the council include RADM Susan Blumenthal, who will serve a Senior Public Health Advisor to the Council. RADM Blumenthal is a national expert in women's health and mental illness. She has directed national research programs at the NIH as the Head of the Suicide Research Unit. In this position, she developed and coordinated research and education initiatives on suicide, violence, mood disorders and behavioral medicine.

Marie Burke will serve as the Council's Deputy Director. Ms Burke is an agency representative from the Department of Justice where she has been an staff attorney working on issues such as alcohol abuse in Indian country, gun violence and underage drinking. Ms. Burke brings to the Council a strong background in youth violence. Prior to her work at the Justice Department, she served as Director of the Violence Prevention Programs at the Harvard School of Public Health.

## Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

### *Office of the United States Surgeon General*

The Office of the Surgeon General received \$476,000 to produce a Report on Youth Violence. Work on the Surgeon General's Report is progressing. The office has commitments from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as co-lead agencies, and has identified both a scientific editor and a managing editor. Members of the Surgeon General's staff have attended the first meeting of the American Medical Association-American Nurses Association-American Psychiatric Association Youth Violence Commission and have begun joint planning for the community meetings that will occur this spring. The Report is slated for completion by the end of 2000.

### *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

In FY 2000, CDC received \$11.6 million to fund National Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention and the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center. The Centers of Excellence will serve as national models for the prevention of youth violence. These Centers will support the development and use of effective interventions, promote interdisciplinary research, foster collaboration between researchers and communities, and empower communities. The Resource Center will provide a single point of access for information about youth violence, including intervention strategies, that will be available on a toll-free number in English and Spanish, on the Internet, and be linked to private resources. These new activities will complement ongoing evaluations of programs for high risk and middle school youth as well as an ongoing Suicide Research Center and an evaluation of suicide prevention among high school students.

### *National Institutes of Health*

National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH) research findings are changing the ways Americans will look at violence and have to treat and possibly prevent it. Research points to the importance of a nurturing social environment in childhood, good early education and success in academic areas and it has been learned that the influence of peers, whether positive or negative, is of critical importance. In the coming years, NIMH expects to encourage a new generation of studies that will attend, particularly, to the relationships between mental disorders and violence, including suicide. This will include a focus on anxiety disorders, depression, or suicidal ideation, which often co-occur with behavior problems, as well as research on conduct problems and problems of inattention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity in youth.

NIMH is coordinating research involving dissemination of prevention and early intervention strategies CDC and other Federal agencies, including the Departments of Education and Justice. The Institute currently has a number of new research announcements in the field and others under development. For example, NIMH has joined with several other NIH Institutes and Centers to sponsor new announcements relevant to youth behavior problems: Research on the Development of Interventions for Youth Violence, OD-00-005.

## *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration - Center for Mental Health Services*

### *Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative*

In 1999, SAMHSA jointly funded 54 Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) grants with Department of Education (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities) and the Department of Justice, (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). In 1999, SAMHSA contributed \$23.5 million to the SS/HS Initiative and this year will use FY 2000 dollars to continue to fund the grants made in FY 1999. Additional funding from FY 2000 will be used to fund 23 new grants. As a significant number of high quality applications from FY 1999 remain unfunded—only 54 of the 443 applications received were funded--the new grants will be selected from the original slate of applications. A new grant competition will not be run in FY 2000. It is anticipated that the new grants will be made in March 2000.

### *School Action Grants*

Five million dollars of the 1999 appropriation was used to fund 40 School Action Grants (SAGs). These grants were awarded to communities to establish coalitions among education, mental health, and the criminal justice systems in the area of youth violence prevention and to pilot an evidence-based practice for violence prevention. It is anticipated that an additional 23-28 awards will be made with 2000 funds, with expanded focus on minority populations and suicide prevention.

### *Evaluation and Technical Assistance*

In 1999, \$1.5 million was dedicated to the National Evaluation Program and \$2.8 million to the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Action Center. The evaluation program provides program evaluation and evaluation consultation to assess both process and program effectiveness of the SS/HS grant programs. The Action Center provides consultation and technical assistance to SS/HS and SAG grantees as well as to unsuccessful applicants. Additional resources from the 2000 funding will be added to existing technical assistance and evaluation efforts to address these needs in additional grantees.

### *National Public Awareness Campaign*

Two million dollars in FY 1999 supported social marketing and public awareness to ensure that SS/SH and SAG programs are sustained in their communities and that information about violence prevention is successfully disseminated to target audiences. This work will continue in 2000.

### *Violence Prevention at the Community Level*

These grants would be used to develop partnerships with local mental health systems. The local systems would choose from a menu of options including the facilitation of partnerships between Education and Justice authorities at the State level similar to SS/HS, creating and implementing a prevention systems orientation, enhancing linkages of Local Mental Health Authorities to Local Educational Agencies and others.

### *Parenting Initiative*

In partnership with SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), CMHS will support grants for the development of parenting skills to prevent violence. Funds would be used

to link existing SS/HS grants that have a special interest in this area. These funds would allow for both expanded programming and additional evaluation.

*Suicide Prevention Initiative*

CMHS will develop a National Strategy to Prevent Suicide. Additional monies are intended to be used to more closely address the problem of youth suicide and link to the School Action Grant program to support evidence-based suicide prevention programs.

**Department of Education (ED)**

*Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities – Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative:*

The FY 2000 appropriation provided \$111 million for the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC). This is an increase of \$21 million over the FY 1999 appropriation. \$82 million of these funds will be used for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative (SS/HS). These funds will be combined with funds from the Department of Justice (OJJDP Title V) and Department of Health and Human Services (SAMHSA/Knowledge Development and Application), as described above under SAMHSA- CMHS, to form one coherent funding source for Local Educational agencies (LEAs). Approximately \$60 million of ED's contribution to the SS/HS Initiative will be used to continue the 54 grants made in FY 1999. The remaining \$20 million will be coupled with funds from SAMHSA to fund approximately 23 new grants.

*Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Coordinator Initiative and Other National Programs:*

In FY 2000, \$50 million was appropriated for the SDFSC Middle School Drug Prevention and School Safety Program Coordinators; an increase of \$15 million over the FY 1999 appropriation. Approximately, \$45 million of the appropriation will be used to fund new grants; the remaining funds will support continuation awards for grantees that received only one year of funding. Approximately 100 new grants will be awarded. The Department expects to make the new grant awards by the end of June 2000. The remaining National Program funds—approximately \$30 million—will be used for: a competitive program to examine the most effective strategies for preventing youth from being suspended or expelled, and for providing them with educational services if they are put out of school; for violence, alcohol, and drug prevention activities in the higher education area; and for a series of inter-agency efforts designed to address areas such as conflict resolution, gang prevention, and truancy.

*Elementary School Counseling Program:*

The Elementary School Counseling Program received \$20 million from the funds provided for the Fund for the Improvement of Education. ED is in the process of developing guidelines for this program. We anticipate making awards by the end of July 2000.

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers:*

\$453 million was appropriated for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program. ED also estimates that the funds will support approximately 590 new awards, bringing the total number of awards to 1,050. ED estimates that the funds will provide for some 3,900 centers, 2,360 more than in FY 1999. Applications for FY 2000 funds are due March 20. ED plans to make awards by the end of May.

*Violence Prevention Demonstration Program in Civic Education:*

The FY 2000 appropriation for the Civic Education program is \$9.85 million, of which \$1.5 million is to be used to conduct a violence prevention demonstration program. ED expects to receive an application by March 15, 2000, and to make an award by April 30, 2000, to the Center for Civic Education to continue the violence prevention demonstration program begun in FY 1999. The demonstration program is being conducted in six urban and one suburban school districts in five States.

*Character Education:*

ED plans to use \$7.3 million of the funds provided for the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) to continue the Character Education Program. Of this amount, approximately \$2 million will be utilized for new grant awards and \$5 million will support continuation awards. ED anticipates making 10 awards and 21 continuation awards in FY 2000. The application deadline for new grant awards was February 11, 2000. Awards will be made by the end of April.

*Incarcerated Youth Offenders Program:*

Of the \$19 million appropriated for the State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders program, \$5 million was earmarked in appropriations language to continue the Literacy for Prisoners Program as authorized, previously, under the Adult Education Act. The remaining \$14 million is for State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders. While Youth Offenders is a State formula grant program, not all States apply for the funds. In FY 1999, 40 States applied for and received funding. ED is currently in the process of making the FY 2000 awards. We estimate the number of grants will be about 40. The program serves about 6,700 youth offenders. Literacy for Prisoners is a forward-funded discretionary grant program. In FY 1999, 13 projects received funding, and they will receive continuation grants in fall 2000 with the funds appropriated for FY 2000. No new competition is planned for FY 2000.

*Inexpensive Book Distribution:*

The Department will award \$20 million under its contract with Reading is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) to provide, through local aid to local nonprofit groups and volunteer organizations, reading motivation activities. Federal funds provide up to 75 percent of the costs of books, with the remainder obtained from private and local sources.

*Parental Information and Resource Centers:*

The Department currently plans to use the additional \$3 million for the Parent Information Centers to supplement the activities of the Centers in providing information and activities to help parents in identifying and preventing violent behavioral tendencies in their children. The Department plans to make one or more awards in September.

*State Agency Neglected and Delinquent Program:*

Funding for this program has been increased for FY 2000. The increase will be distributed by formula.

*Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program*

The Committee recommended that \$80 million be appropriated for the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program. The committee also recommend that, of the total appropriation, \$36 million be used for the teacher training partnership grants. From this amount, the Committee recommended that awards be made to support teacher partnerships grant activities as part of the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. ED is in the process of incorporating this guideline in the FY 2000 award application for the program. The application forms are expected to be sent out by the end of March 2000.

**Department of Labor (DOL)**

*Youth Offenders*

In FY 2000, \$15 million was appropriated (reduced to \$13.9 million after the across the board budget cut) to continue and expand the Youth Offenders projects initiated by the Department in 1998. Currently, there are 14 Youth Offenders projects providing education, job training and job placement services to youth age 14 to 21 who are at-risk or who have been involved with the juvenile justice system. DOL will use the FY 2000 funds to strengthen linkages in the target communities between the workforce development system, juvenile courts and the parole system, schools and health services. DOL has worked closely with DOJ (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) to design and implement the Youth Offender initiative.

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH, CHAIRMAN

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BRUCE A. COCHRAN, *Minority Chief Counsel*

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

March 21, 2000

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter of yesterday regarding the youth violence bill. The letter, together with a similar letter sent to me by Minority Leader Gephardt and other House Democrats earlier this month, leaves me somewhat dismayed.

It has been my impression that you agree with me that the problem of youth violence presents a complicated set of issues requiring a comprehensive response. There also has been an understanding that much of what is contained in the Senate-passed and House-passed youth violence bills provides a prudent and overdue solution. Yet, you continue to hold that solution hostage to controversial gun control legislation. In particular, you insist that a certain gun control provision pertaining to gun shows, which has failed to earn a majority of votes in the Senate or the House, be included in the youth violence bill. In my view, removing gun control-related issues from the package may well enable us to overcome partisanship and pass a bill that contains meaningful responses to the problem of youth violence.

The House and Senate-passed youth violence bills recognize that a variety of factors underlie this national tragedy, including disintegrating nuclear families, child abuse and neglect, drug and alcohol abuse, a lack of constructive values, a revolving-door juvenile justice system, and pervasive media violence. The bills offer a comprehensive approach that targets all of these factors. To understand why such an approach is vital, one need only examine the life of the 6-year-old boy who killed Kayla Rolland. This boy, whose father is in jail and whose mother was homeless at the time of the shooting, was cursed to live in what has been described as a "crackhouse," with drugs and stolen weapons readily available. One can only wonder what harm that environment caused to his mind and soul. Sadly, it appears that this and other similar tragedies are simply symptoms of the breakdown of our families and culture. Thirty years ago, when there was better parenting and fewer gun control laws, there were far fewer children killing people. Few would dispute that the best solution to America's juvenile crime problem can be found in our homes and churches. Congress should do all it can to assist parents and families rather than continuing to undermine their efforts to raise their children.

March 21, 2000

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We also must not downplay the role played by the media in youth violence. Research shows that media violence constitutes a significant part of the problem. With respect to television violence alone, a report by a University of Washington epidemiologist expressed this startling finding: "[If], hypothetically, television technology had never been developed, there would be 10,000 fewer homicides each year in the United States, 70,000 fewer rapes, and 700,000 fewer injurious assaults. Violent crime would be half what it is." Brandon S. Centerwall, *Our Cultural Perplexities V: Television and Violent Crime*, *The Public Interest*, March 22, 1993, pp. 56-77.

The problem of youth violence demands a comprehensive response, and both the Senate and the House bills offer just that. They include provisions that would, among other things: (1) establish an antitrust exemption so that the entertainment industry could develop, implement, and enforce voluntary programming guidelines for shielding children from harmful scenes of violence; (2) provide \$25 million to fund a 2-year national media campaign against youth violence; (3) restrict the entertainment industry's use of Federal property, equipment, and personnel if that use would glorify or endorse violence; (4) require Internet service providers to offer filtering technology that parents can use to shield their children from harmful on-line content; (5) establish a National Youth Violence Commission to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the root causes of youth violence; (6) provide more than \$500 million for prevention programs for at-risk youth; (7) provide a \$450 million Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant that states can use to implement graduated sentencing sanctions for juvenile offenders, build juvenile detention facilities, test and treat juvenile offenders for drug use, and require juvenile offenders to complete school or vocational training; (8) provide \$75 million to help states upgrade juvenile records and provide school officials access to such records in appropriate circumstances; (9) provide legal immunity for teachers who take reasonable actions to maintain classroom discipline; and (10) allow Federal education funds to be used for drug testing and locker inspections at schools.

The bill also contains provisions aimed at finding and punishing criminals who use firearms. Our proposal, called Project CUFF, is a proven program that the Bush Administration used with success and that a United States Attorney, several cities, and the State of Virginia currently employ to put hardened criminals who use firearms behind bars. The answer is not simply more legislation; you and your Administration must take responsibility and enforce the extensive laws already on the books.

As you know, your Administration's efforts to find and prosecute firearms violations have been woefully inadequate. Thus, instead of pushing a gun control agenda that simply will not pass in the House of Representatives, your Administration should redouble its efforts to prosecute firearms offenses. News reports suggest that recent killings could have been prevented had the killers been prosecuted earlier for firearms offenses that were brought to the attention of

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Federal authorities. These failures are not isolated instances. According to Attorney General Janet Reno, more than 500,000 felons and other prohibited purchasers have been prevented from buying firearms since the instant check system was enacted. Yet, from 1996-1999, only about 200 of these individuals were referred for Federal prosecution for violating 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(6). I find this unacceptable. Unless these individuals are arrested and prosecuted when they illegally attempt to purchase firearms, they ultimately will obtain a firearm from criminal sources, perhaps with dire consequences.

Unfortunately, your letter lends credence to the view of some that the Administration and Congressional Democrats are holding the youth violence bill hostage over the gun control provisions to create an election-year issue. The so-called Lautenberg gun show proposal, in addition to lacking political support, suffers from a substantive flaw. If enacted the proposal would eliminate gun shows, which are legitimate venues for firearms transactions and are particularly important for rural Americans, many of whom live a significant distance from a firearms store. If Congress were to eliminate gun shows, private, lawful firearms transactions would still occur, but in a context where background checks would be nearly impossible. I urge you to reconsider your proposal, which, if adopted, would have the perverse effect of foreclosing a viable forum for conscientious, private firearms sellers to conduct background checks on purchasers. The alternative offered by Democratic Congressman John Dingell would preserve gun shows and still require all purchasers of firearms at such shows to undergo such checks. In this way, we can achieve our common goal: keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals.

After failing to convince Congress to accept your entire gun control agenda and neglecting the Administration's obligation to enforce existing firearms laws, the Administration has turned to the judicial system to advance its agenda. Let us see the Smith and Wesson agreement for what it really is: the directors and officers of a British-owned company, facing potential financial ruin from politically driven lawsuits throughout the United States, have put the financial interests of their shareholders ahead of the Second Amendment rights of American citizens. Perhaps that is their duty. Our fiduciary duty as public officers, as you know, is quite different. As public officials we must embrace a solemn obligation: upholding the Constitution of the United States. And each of the rights, including the enumerated rights in the Second Amendment, enshrined in our founding charter—not just those that are politically fashionable—warrant our diligent care and protection lest they be sacrificed to partisan expediency.

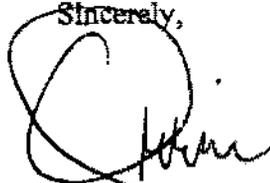
In closing, let me, too, be clear: I will not endorse legislation that fails to deliver a comprehensive response to the problem of youth violence, overlooks the Administration's poor firearms prosecution record, or includes provisions that diminish the Constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans. I urge you to work with me to pass a youth violence bill that satisfies these criteria. Americans are deeply concerned, and they are looking to their elected leaders not for ideological brinkmanship, but for effective, responsible solutions. The lone obstacle blocking

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significant reform of our juvenile justice system and practical measures to reduce violence is the insistence on ill-advised gun control provisions that lack the support of many in your own party and have no chance of being passed in the House of Representatives. I encourage you to reconsider your position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Orrin", written over a large, circular scribble.

Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman

OGH:jtt

c.c. Leahy  
Hyde  
Conyers

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

New Delhi

March 20, 2000

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Since last summer, I have repeatedly urged the Congress to finish its work on juvenile crime legislation and pass a balanced, bipartisan bill with strong gun measures to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. However, I am troubled by your recent comments that you are considering stripping the Senate-passed commonsense gun provisions out of the final conference report. Legislation intended to address the problem of youth violence simply cannot ignore the most devastating problem facing our youth -- gun violence.

Let me be clear: I will not sign juvenile crime legislation that fails to move forward in our efforts to make guns safer, and to keep them out of the hands of children and criminals.

Last summer, the Senate passed reasonable gun provisions that would help do just this, by closing the gun show loophole, requiring child safety locks for handguns, barring violent juveniles from owning guns as adults, and banning the importation of large capacity ammunition clips. These measures can help save lives and should be enacted without further delay.

Last week, my Administration, joined by many cities and states, reached a landmark agreement with Smith and Wesson under which the company will change the way it designs, distributes, and markets its products. That pact -- which includes important provisions on gun shows, child safety locks, and large ammunition clips -- is proof that when reasonable people choose to sit down and negotiate, they can find common ground and protect the public interest. I hope Congress can now build on that example.

2

Nearly a year has passed since the tragedy at Columbine High School, and gunfire continues to take the lives of nearly a dozen young people a day. That is why I urge you once again to finish the job you started last year and send me a comprehensive juvenile crime bill that contains the Senate-passed gun safety measures. No task could be more urgent.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*

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March 2, 2000, Thursday 03:18 PM Eastern Time

① Spitzer  
② Senate passed provisions  
③ Other matters.

SECTION: WASHINGTON DATELINE

LENGTH: 1025 words

HEADLINE: Clinton invites Hill leaders to discuss gun legislation

BYLINE: LANCE GAY

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

Republican leaders floated a compromise Thursday aimed at breaking an eight-month deadlock over a gun bill after President Clinton called negotiators to the White House to discuss federal gun laws next week.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said that Clinton had invited leaders of a House-Senate conference committee to meet at the White House Tuesday to try to break the logjam over a gun bill, which is wrapped inside a law cracking down on juvenile crime. Clinton said the meeting is aimed at raising public discussion of guns in America.

In addition to Hyde, those invited were Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and the ranking Democrats on the judiciary committees Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Rep. John Conyers of Michigan.

Hyde said he doubts that any new federal law could prevent shootings like those in Pittsburgh and in Michigan this week. "I think there are more to these problems than laws we can conceive of can cure," he said.

Hyde said there is no disagreement in the conference on new legislation requiring that all guns sold in the United States be equipped with child safety locks or on a new federal ban on juvenile possession of semi-automatic guns.

But on the key issue that has stalled a House-Senate conference committee since last summer, there is no agreement - background checks at gun shows.

Hyde said Republicans will agree to a 24-hour delay in obtaining a gun to give authorities time to do a background check on the purchaser, with an additional two days if the "instant" check raises questions.

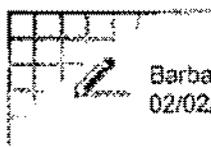
The Senate voted in favor of up to a three-day waiting period, but the House voted that down in twice last year. Hyde said the GOP compromise was between having no background checks at gun shows and the Senate version, which would make gun shows unworkable. Most gun shows are held on weekends and are only one- or two-day events, he said.

Conyers issued a statement in response saying the 24-hour waiting period is inadequate and insisting the House-Senate conference adopt the Senate's version without change.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Democrats are prepared to push through individual parts of the gun bill if the House-Senate conference can't agree. He said the recent shootings "beg for Congress to act" on new laws requiring child safety locks on guns.

"We have sat paralyzed for a year," Daschle said.open 207.25.178.32schwrdd8xzg943binsend  
36587632581019.txtsend fin2

John  
Violence



Barbara Chow  
02/02/2000 11:41:44 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP  
cc:  
Subject: Youth violence info for Specter meeting

fyi

----- Forwarded by Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP on 02/02/2000 11:44 AM -----

Wei-Min C. Wang 02/02/2000  
10:39:42 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP@EOP  
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message  
Subject: Youth violence info for Specter meeting

Barbara, this message is to provide you with an update on recent youth violence issues and activities. From my conversations with Ann, it seems that the content of your meeting with Specter this afternoon will largely focus on plans for the White House Council on Youth Violence. However, other issues may come up, so I've attached below some background documents on Safe Schools/Healthy Students, the OMB youth violence crosscut, and the Specter Youth Violence Prevention Initiative.

We don't have very much new information for you, but yesterday, there was some significant action around a FY 2000 youth violence progress report requested by Specter's staff.

- **Progress report for FY 2000.** Three weeks ago, Bettilou Taylor from the Senate Labor/HHS/ED appropriations subcommittee put in an informal request to Bill Modzeleski at ED for an update on the implementation of Specter's Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. Specter himself may have made a similar request to the Surgeon General. Unfortunately, a lot of people were left in the dark about this request until yesterday, including agency budget offices, OMB, and Sonia Chessen. Bettilou wanted the report yesterday, but Sonia was able to explain to her the complications of pulling something like that together across agencies with OMB and DPC approval on such short notice.
- **Adherence to Senate directives.** The progress report has raised some issues as to how the Administration should proceed with FY 2000 activities, namely the extent to which we should honor certain youth violence directives in the Senate-passed Labor/HHS/ED appropriations report that were not part of the final consolidated appropriations act or accompanying conference report. As ED programs comprised nearly 90 percent of Specter's Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, ED will likely present the most issues. Based on my reading of the Senate report, most of the report language is harmless and unlikely to have an effect on the normal operation of programs. Such language generally acknowledges the importance of certain programs in reducing youth violence and provides appropriate increases. However, some language is more intrusive. For example:

1. **Parent assistance centers.** The Senate report increases Parent Assistance Centers under Goals 2000 by \$3 million (this increase was preserved in the enacted bill), and states that the increase is to expand services "to educate parents to work with professionals in preventing and identifying violent behavioral tendencies." Historically, this program has focused on increasing parent involvement in the schools and in supporting children's education in the home. While youth violence prevention is certainly allowable, it has not been a significant part of this program.
2. **Teacher quality enhancement grants.** The Senate report encourages ED to provide a priority for partnerships that prepare new and existing teachers to identify students who may be at-risk of violent behavior and says that funds "should also be used to train teachers on how to detect, manage, and monitor the warning signs of potentially destructive behavior in their classrooms." Again, this has not been the traditional focus of this program.

ED seeks guidance from us and the White House on whether Senate directives like the above should be ignored, given that they were (1) in report language, as opposed to bill language; and (2) not included in the enacted bill or conference report.



Interagency Table for Safe Schools-Healthy Stu



Youth Violence Crosscut Issue Pap



Youth Violence Crosscut Funding Summ



Senate Report Language on Youth Viole



Specter Youth Violence Initiative Ta

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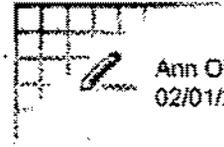
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Larry R. Matlack/OMB/EOP@EOP  
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Patrick Aylward/OMB/EOP@EOP  
Alison Perkins-Cohen/OMB/EOP@EOP  
Amandeep K. Matharu/OMB/EOP@EOP  
Melany Nakagiri/OMB/EOP@EOP

① Coordinating council at WH -  
- Cabinet-level particip - enthusiasm  
- Top people full-time on the case: Sonia, Susan

4  
Youth  
Violence

② Clear goals for the year  
1) Council up running this month  
2) Announce new round of Supplemental/Healthy Start next month  
3) Info kits by May (website, directory)  
4) SG report in the fall



Ann O'Leary  
02/01/2000 10:33:58 PM

③ Healthy budget increase - work shapes  
④ Make us acceptable

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP  
cc: schessen@OSASPE.DHHS.GOV @ inet, chessen@aol.com @ inet, Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP  
Subject: Meeting with Specter

- CDC  
- Task for each group  
- Commitments from indiv sec's  
→ Each dept designate  
& remain  
Review what's known & articulate  
Steps  
DUS 800-#  
Afterschool.gov  
New media subgroup

Bruce -

For your meeting with Specter today, I think it would be helpful to remind him of the objectives and deliverables of the Council, give him an update on the staffing and the calendar for delivering on these objectives in the next year, and let him know that we will be following up with him to give him a full report on how our FY2000 funds are being used to comprehensively prevent youth violence.

Below are some suggested points to make:

Character education  
→ List of gov initiatives

• Broad objectives of the Administration's commitment to preventing youth violence and the WH Council:

(1) Commitment to invest more in programs that work to prevent youth violence - In FY 2000, we worked with you to make this happen and will be providing you with a detailed status report on the progress the various programs and offices are making to ensure that the prevention of youth violence is at the top of the agenda; and, the President's FY 2001 proposal will include an \$8.8 billion investment in the prevention of youth violence (see attached sheet);



FY 01 Youth Violence.d

(2) More effectively coordinate policies and programs on youth violence issues.

Specifically, the President directed the Council to expand the Safe Schools/Healthy Students model of collaboration and coordinate the Federal Research agenda. Already, Sonia has been working with the interagency working group on SS/HS to determine how to expand and most effectively implement this program. She will also be working with the agencies to determine if there are other policies and programs that could be included in this model. In addition, Sonia has been working with the Office of Science and Technology Policy on an interagency team that is looking at youth violence research across the agencies to determine priorities and areas where there may be gaps in our research.

(3) Ensure that parents, teachers, and community leaders have the tools they need to prevent youth violence in their local communities.

The President's memorandum called for two specific initiatives to provide better information to the public - a citizen's information hub and tools for parents. Currently, we have been reviewing existing Federal web sites that provide information to the public on youth

development programs (including [afterschool.gov](http://afterschool.gov)) to better understand what is available and what we might build on to develop and implement the most accessible information hub. In addition, the CDC was allocated \$3 million to develop a resource center on information about youth violence. The Council will work to build on these efforts and ensure that they are coordinated and effectively marketed to the public.

- Update on status of WH Council:

- (1) Staffing

- As you know, Sonia will be starting as the Director of the WH Council on Monday and Susan will be at the Council as the Senior Advisor on Public Health issues. The Departments of Justice and Education will also be sending over agency representatives to carry out the mission of the Council. We plan to be fully staffed by the end of February.

- (2) First full Council Meeting

- In several weeks, I will be calling the first full Council meeting with Secretaries Herman, Riley, Shalala, Summers, and the Attorney General. At this meeting, I will get a full report on the priorities of their departments in the area of combating youth violence, I will ask them to commit resources to carry out the objectives, and will work with them to determine which areas we need to further explore and highlight in the next year.

- (3) Set calendar with completion objectives:

- March -- Highlight work of Safe Schools/Healthy students by announcing additional cities funded by FY2000 (approximately 20 cities) and announcing the addition of the Labor Department to the collaborative
  - May -- Rollout the Citizens Information Hub

Sonia -- Please feel free to add to this list or offer any other suggestions for tomorrow's meeting.

Please let me know if you need any other additional information.

Thanks.

-Ann

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

October 15, 1999

October 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF LABOR

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR

DOMESTIC POLICY

SUBJECT: White House Council on Youth Violence

Violence by youth and against youth is an issue that deeply concerns us all. Youth violence can be thought of as a juvenile crime issue, as a public health issue, and as a school safety issue. It affects every region and demographic group. As many recent incidents have made us aware, it is a problem that can strike with unexpected force -- and that now demands uncommonly unified responses. That is why I announced, on August 17, 1999, that a nonprofit, nonpartisan "National Campaign Against Youth Violence" had been established to bring together all

segments of society to help prevent youth violence.

The Federal Government already addresses many aspects of youth violence through its programs. I am particularly proud of the joint efforts of the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Education in developing the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. These agencies also worked well together to help us respond quickly to the Columbine High School incident. I have read with interest the report of the Attorney General's Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. I look forward to the report that the Surgeon General in response to my May request is preparing on the causes of youth violence. The Secretary of Labor's efforts to address the needs of youth are also about to bear fruit, as high-poverty communities implement our new Youth Opportunity Grants, and as the Secretary and the Attorney General finalize their agreement for cooperative work on those grants and on Labor's Youth Offender grant program.

With so many agencies and programs involved, and with the need for my Administration to work closely with different elements of State and local governments, tribes, schools, community groups, and families, it has become increasingly clear to me that the Federal Government needs a more effective policy coordination strategy for youth violence issues.

Therefore, today I direct the Assistant for Domestic Policy to form a White House Council on Youth Violence to provide this policy coordination, to provide flexible and timely responses to the challenge of youth violence, and to ensure that our Nation's citizens are able to

benefit from the Federal Government's many antiviolenace initiatives.

#### Structure of the Council

The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy will chair the Council. The Office of the Vice President and the Office of Management and Budget will be regular participants. Four agency heads will be the regular program members of the Council:

- The Attorney General, responding to the juvenile crime aspects;
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services, responding to the public health aspects, including mental health aspects, and to family issues;
- The Secretary of Education, responding to the school safety issues; and
- The Secretary of Labor, responding to youth employment and out-of-school youth issues.

The Chair of the Council may add such other officials as he deems appropriate to further the purposes of this overall effort or to participate in specific aspects of it. For example, matters relating to public health aspects would involve the Surgeon General. Matters relating to firearms control or drug abuse would involve the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Drug Control Policy, respectively. Implications for economic development policies would call for involvement of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the

Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce. Comparable policies for Indian country would engage the Secretary of the Interior. Issues relating to community service opportunities for youth would involve the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The Chair, after consultation with Council members, will appoint staff members to coordinate the Council's efforts. The Chair may call upon the participating agencies for logistical support to the Council, as necessary.

#### Duties of the Council

1. Develop a citizen's information hub. The Council will develop and maintain a coordinated inventory of relevant agency programs and provide analyses of their effectiveness. It will make this inventory widely available in summary form -- and upon request in more detail -- through the services of the appropriate Council member, to elected officials, community groups, police organizations, school systems, parents, and others working on local solutions to these issues. The inventory and full texts of program reports and evaluations should be available on an easily accessible website. The availability of this compilation will be widely publicized.

2. Produce reports on youth violence. The Council will prepare or have prepared reports on various aspects of the problem of youth violence, describing, for instance, best practices in combating the problem. In doing so, the Council should consult with nonprofits, foundations, and

other organizations that have conducted research and/or developed resources on the prevention of youth violence. In addition, the Surgeon General is now carrying out a broad study of the potential causes of youth violence. I ask that the Surgeon General consult closely with the Council in the development of the study so that I may have the benefit of participation of all the involved agencies in its analysis and findings.

3. Expand the Safe Schools/Healthy Students model of collaboration. This initiative of the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services has evolved into a highly effective collaboration among the agencies. The Council will oversee this effort and examine options for improving its operations and applying the model to other governmental efforts. The Secretary of Labor will begin participation in the initiative through establishing linkages to Youth Opportunities and Youth Offender grants.

4. Provide tools for parents to deal with the issue. Many Federal programs address issues relating to strengthening the family and helping parents raise children. The Council will explore the possibility of devising a cross-program strategy to help parents address youth violence. It will also report on new tools emerging in both the private and public sectors to assist parents.

5. Coordinate the Federal research agenda. The Council will oversee coordination of agency research agendas and the development of needed cross-agency research collaborations. I ask the Council to seek to have this structure in place to support the planning for FY 2001 research funds, and where feasible, to improve the planned use of funds available

from prior years.

6. Develop further policy responses. The Council will meet at the call of the Chair to discuss new findings from analyses of the youth violence issue and to consider new or modified Administration responses to it, especially those that involve more than one agency. Recommendations for initiatives will be discussed in the Council for consistency with overall coordinated policy before being presented for formal decision in the budget process. From time to time, the Council will report to me directly on the results of its efforts.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

cc: The Vice President

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Secretary of the Interior

The Secretary of Agriculture

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget

The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

## #

**DRAFT\*\*DRAFT\*\*DRAFT**  
**January 17, 2000 DRAFT**

**President Clinton's Commitment to Supporting Young People and Preventing Youth Violence**

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget includes a major investment in priorities and programs that support positive youth development and work to prevent youth violence.

**The FY 2001 budget:**

- **Includes an across the board increase in programs throughout the government that address the issue of youth violence:**

The FY 2001 budget includes \$8.8 billion, \$862 million above FY 2000, for programs throughout the government that work to specifically target youth violence and programs that support the healthy development of young people.

- **Renews President Clinton's Commitment to the Prevention of Youth Violence through Supporting Healthy Youth Development by:**
  - **More than doubling the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative by investing \$247 million.** To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, last year at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President launched a Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school and youth violence. It empowers parents, principals, police, and others to collaborate on local solutions to the problem of youth violence. In September 1999, the President announced over \$100 million in Safe Schools/Healthy Student grants for 54 school districts. With the expansion of this initiative, approximately 40 additional communities will be awarded grants in FY 2001.
  - **Providing \$1 billion to ensure that more than 2.5 million children have the opportunity to attend safe and enriching after-school and summer school programs.** The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is already supporting thousands of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools across the country, including weekend and summer programs. In FY 2001, the President will provide \$1 billion in after-school and summer school funds to ensure that all children in low-performing schools have the opportunity to gain academic enrichment and be in a safe place during the after school and summertime hours. This year, the Education Department released a report, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic

performance.

- **Including a new \$120 million initiative to create Small, Safe, and Successful High Schools.** In order to provide safe learning environments where students are connected to adults in the school and are being pushed to learn to high standards, the President has provided \$120 million to help school districts support comprehensive, research-based reform in high schools by creating smaller learning environments.
  
- **Encouraging youth-driven solutions to community problems, such as youth violence, by including \$8 million in two new National Service initiatives.** The President's Corporation for National Service budget includes \$5 million for a Community Coaches initiative that will support AmeriCorps members as community coaches in schools helping students to develop and implement their own community service projects. It also includes \$3 million to support Youth Empowerment Grants that will provide fellowships to reward and support the creativity of youth who have developed innovative youth-driven strategies for addressing youth related concerns in their own communities.
  
- **Supporting community, parent, and school efforts to help youth incorporate good citizenship in their learning experiences through a \$2 million increase in Character Education.** The President's budget includes over \$9 million for the U.S. Department of Education's Character Education grants to school/community partnerships that develop curriculum materials, provide teacher training, gauge and build community consensus on common values, involve parents in character education and integrate character education into the school curriculum.
  
- **Renewing commitment to youth violence prevention efforts in the areas of Health and Labor.** The President's budget recommits \$80 million for Youth Violence Prevention Activities under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and promotes positive youth development opportunities by providing \$250 million for the U.S. Department of Labor's **Youth Opportunity Grants**, which address the special problems of out-of-school youth, especially in inner-cities and other areas.
  
- **Expands President Clinton's commitment to directly targeting the issue of youth violence by:**
  - **Providing \$19.1 million in new funding for a 12-city expansion of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII),** to help trace guns retrieved in crimes and to provide additional ATF agents in YCGII cities to crack down on illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to youth and criminals.
  
  - **Investing \$10 million for the development of smart gun technology.** The \$10 million in new funds through the National Institute of Justice will promote the

expansion and replication of "smart gun" technologies that limit a gun's use to the proper owner – preventing accidental deaths and injuries of children who might have access to a firearm, gun theft, and other unauthorized use.

- **Including \$75 million for a new Department of Labor initiative to reintegrate youthful and first-time offenders into society.**
- **Increasing the investment in the COPS school safety program from \$15 million to \$55 million. This increase (which includes \$20 million for Safe Schools/Healthy Students) would enhance community programs to combat violence in schools, including the funding of school resource officers.**



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## Study: Violence Among Teens Is Down

Tuesday, August 3, 1999; 6:22 p.m. EDT

CHICAGO (AP) -- Despite concerns over school shootings in recent years, violent acts by American high school students declined between 1991 and 1997, researchers reported in a study released Wednesday.

The study found a significant drop in the number of students who said they got into fights or carried weapons. The decline was steeper for girls than it was for boys.

The study, based on data collected through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The findings are similar to the results of other recent national surveys. But the report's authors warned against interpreting them too optimistically. They wrote that rates of youth homicide and other violence are still at "historically high levels."

The researchers said that in 1991, 42.5 percent of high school students said they had been in a fight in the previous year, but the figure was 36.6 percent in 1997. And in 1991, 26.1 percent said they had carried a weapon in the previous month, but the rate dropped to 18.3 percent in 1997.

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**President Clinton:  
Announces Comprehensive Legislation to Keep Guns Away  
From Youth and Criminals  
April 27, 1999**

Today, President Clinton will announce new legislation to strengthen federal firearms laws and make it more difficult for kids and criminals to have access to guns and explosives. The President's proposed bill will include new proposals to: (1) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (2) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (3) ban the juvenile possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (4) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (5) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives; (6) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source; and (7) authorize repeat inspections to crack down on gun dealers involved in illegal gun trafficking. The President's package represents the most comprehensive gun legislation any Administration has put forward in 30 years.

**BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE BRADY LAW.** Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has prevented over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales. The President's legislation will propose strengthening the Brady Law by:

- **Extending the Brady Law's requirements to purchases of explosives.** Under current law, no Brady background check is required to buy explosives. The President's bill will help cut off easy access to explosives by requiring Brady background checks before the sale of explosives, and by extending the same prohibitions in our gun laws to prospective purchasers of explosives. The bill will also prohibit convicted felons from purchasing any quantity of black powder, which is used to make most pipe bombs, and require all explosives dealers to keep records of their sales of black powder.
  
- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** In 1998, there were more than 4,000 gun shows held in states across the country as well as flea markets and other events at which guns can be traded anonymously. An estimated 25-50 percent of the sellers at these gun shows are unlicensed and the guns sold by the unlicensed sellers are not subject to background checks. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. In fact, a recent review by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) of 314 gun show investigations found that 46 percent of these investigations involved the purchase or sale of firearms by felons, and 34 percent involved the sale of firearms later used in serious crimes, including homicides. To end this policy of firearms being sold at gun shows on a "no questions asked" basis, the President's bill will require : (1) Brady background checks on all firearms transferred at

gun shows, with the assistance of federally-licensed dealers; (2) vendors to report information on firearms sold at gun shows to the ATF, so that they can be traced by law enforcement if they are later used in crimes; and (3) gun show promoters to register with the ATF and notify it of all gun shows.

- **Creating a mandatory Brady waiting period.** Although the NICS has generally improved law enforcement's ability to conduct background checks, a mandatory waiting period will provide a cooling-off period for handgun purchases and allow local law enforcement officers to check additional, non-computerized records. Accordingly, the President's legislation will: (1) require a minimum 3-day waiting period for all handgun purchases; (2) add up to an additional two days to the waiting period if law enforcement officers need more time to clarify arrest records; and (3) provide authority for dealers to notify local law enforcement officials of all proposed handgun purchases.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. Violent juveniles should be treated as adults for their adult crimes, and stopped from getting weapons to hurt again. The President's legislation will permanently ban all violent juveniles from buying guns, so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.

**RESTRICTING YOUTH ACCESS TO GUNS.** Keeping guns out of the hands of juveniles has been one of President Clinton's top priorities. He fought for and signed legislation prohibiting the juvenile possession of handguns, requiring "zero tolerance" for guns in schools, and establishing the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) to help identify and arrest adults who traffic guns to children. The President's bill will do even more to restrict unauthorized youth access to guns by:

- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibited adults from transferring handguns to juveniles -- except in limited circumstances. A separate provision of the 1968 Gun Control Act also prohibits federally-licensed gun dealers from selling handguns to any one under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns -- and even to buy them from unlicensed sellers, such as from a neighbor who is a private collector. Additionally, ATF gun trace data show that the more crime guns are traced to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. The President's legislation will extend the provisions of the youth handgun ban to youth between 18 and 21 years of age.
- **Banning juvenile possession of semiautomatic assault rifles.** Although the Youth Handgun Safety Act generally banned the possession of assault pistols, it did not include assault rifles and large capacity magazines manufactured before the Assault Weapons Ban went into effect. Thus, it remains legal for juveniles under the age of 18 to possess

these deadly weapons and ammunition. The President's bill will prohibit their possession by juveniles in any instance.

- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to loaded firearms. According to a study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, CAP laws help reduce fatal unintentional shootings by an average of 23%. The President's legislation will impose felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have unlawful access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury. Individuals sentenced under this provision could be imprisoned for up to three years, fined a maximum of \$250,000, or both.
- **Requiring child safety locks for guns.** Child safety locks and other devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: it is estimated that one third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. To address this problem, the President's bill will require federally-licensed firearms dealers, manufacturers, and importers to provide a child safety lock or device with every gun they sell.
- **Increasing penalties for transferring guns to juveniles.** The President's bill will increase penalties for adults who transfer handguns to juveniles knowing that they will be used in a violent crime -- establishing a new mandatory minimum sentence of at least 3 years and up to 10 years.

**CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKERS.** In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to our children. Since that time, YCGII has been expanded to 20 more cities and conducted more than 200,000 traces for local law enforcement. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new ATF agents and more than 40 new federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

- **Reduce illegal gun running by limiting handgun sales to no more than one per month.** The President's legislation will crack down on gun trafficking by limiting handgun sales to a maximum of one per month. Gun runners should not be able to circumvent Brady background checks, and employ "straw purchasers" -- or persons not prohibited from purchasing firearms -- to buy guns in bulk and divert them to the street. The President's bill will implement a national system as soon as practicable to limit handgun sales to one per month.
- **Allowing law enforcement to trace all firearms used in crimes.** Under current law it is much more difficult for law enforcement to trace used firearms that are later used in crimes. To improve law enforcement's ability to trace crime guns, the President's

legislation will require that federal gun dealers also report the manufacturer, model, and serial number of all used guns sold to ATF's National Tracing Center. No information on the purchaser would be provided to ATF unless the gun later became the subject of a crime gun trace.

- **Doubling the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII).** Over the past 2 years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President's bill will increase the number of cities participating in YCGII over the next 4 years to a total of 75.
- **Increasing penalties on gun kingpins.** To send a strong message to gun runners that their illegal gun trafficking will not be tolerated, the President's bill will double the maximum penalty for illegally selling firearms without a license (from 5 to 10 years of imprisonment), and instruct the U.S. Sentencing Commission to enhance the current penalty for offenses where over 50 firearms have been illegally trafficked.
- **Cracking down on gun dealers involved in illegal gun trafficking.** While most gun dealers are not associated with unlawful activities, some are involved in the illegal gun trade. The President's legislation will allow for more inspections of federal firearms licensees (from 1 to 3 per year), tougher penalties for serious violations that interfere with trafficking investigations, and suspension of a gun dealer's license for willful violations of the Gun Control Act.

**STRENGTHENING THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN.** In 1994, the President fought for and signed into law legislation to ban the manufacture and importation of the 19 deadliest assault weapons, their copies, and large capacity ammunition clips. Last year, the President also took action to ban the importation of over 50 models of modified assault weapons. The President's bill strengthens the assault weapons law by:

- **Banning the importation of all large capacity ammunition magazines.** Although the 1994 assault weapons law banned the future domestic manufacture and importation of large capacity ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, those manufactured before the law's enactment were grandfathered. Because of the difficulty in determining when large capacity ammunition magazines manufactured by foreign companies were made, it has become relatively easy for foreign gun manufacturers to circumvent the ban. As a result, the President's bill will close this loophole by banning the importation of all large capacity magazines -- regardless of when they were manufactured.

**DRAFT**

July 14, 1999

**MEETING AND STATEMENT WITH *S.A.F.E. COLORADO* STUDENTS  
DRAFT**

**DATE:** July 15, 1999  
**LOCATION:** Meeting – State Dining Room  
Statement – South Portico  
**BRIEFING TIME:** 10:45am – 11:00am  
**EVENT TIME:** Meeting -- 11:05am – 11:35am  
Statement – 11:40am – 12:00pm  
**FROM:** Bruce Reed

**I. PURPOSE**

To meet with 90 Colorado high school students visiting Washington to urge passage of gun legislation.

**II. BACKGROUND**

You will meet with 90 high school students from the Denver metropolitan area, who have traveled to Washington, D.C. with the help of *S.A.F.E. Colorado. Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic (S.A.F.E.) Colorado* is a bi-partisan political action group formed in the aftermath of the Columbine High School tragedy. Their mission is to "advocate the reasonable regulation of the manufacture and sale of handguns, automatic rifles and ammunition, while recognizing the right of Colorado citizens to own and use firearms designated for legitimate hunting, sport and defensive purposes." The organization was founded by John Head and Arnold Grossman, former Governors John Love and Dick Lamm serve as honorary co-chairman, and the board of directors include Mary Estill Buchanan and J.D. MacFarlane.

In June *S.A.F.E. Colorado* approached two recent graduates from Denver area high schools (David Winkler of George Washington High School and Ben Gelt of Denver East High School), and asked them to help organize a large group of students willing to march on Washington to ask for meaningful gun control legislation. The group includes 6 students from Columbine High School, and is accompanied by 11 chaperones including John Head, Arnold Grossman, and Dottie Lamb. Yesterday the students attended a reception on Capitol Hill with the Colorado delegation, and following the White House event they will participate in a press conference with Members of Congress and meet with Vice President Gore and Rep. Gephardt.

### **III. PARTICIPANTS**

#### Briefing Participants:

Bruce Reed  
Loretta Ucelli  
Jose Cerda  
June Shih

#### Meeting Participants:

Secretary Larry Summers  
Attorney General Janet Reno  
90 Colorado high school students  
Approximately 20 adult chaperones from S.A.F.E. Colorado and Handgun Control, Inc.

### **IV. PRESS PLAN**

Meeting: White House Photo Only  
Statement: Open

### **V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

- YOU will proceed to the State Dining Room, make informal remarks to the students, and greet students and chaperones.
- YOU will be announced on to the South Portico stage, via the Red Room stairs, accompanied by S.A.F.E. Colorado students.
- YOU will make remarks and introduce student TBD.
- Student TBD will make remarks.
- YOU will make concluding remarks and depart.

### **VI. REMARKS**

To be provided by speechwriting.

# SAFE Colorado

(Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Arnie Grossman, 303-285-0106 or 303-331-9190

A contingent of 90 Colorado students, including several from Columbine High School, will gather on the West steps of the U.S. Capitol at 1:15 p.m., Thursday, July 15, to call on House and Senate members to put aside politics and pass reasonable gun legislation.

The press conference will follow a private meeting of the students in the White House with President Clinton, and will precede a visit with Vice President Gore.

"SAFE Trip" was organized by SAFE Colorado, a bi-partisan political action group formed in the aftermath of the Columbine High School tragedy. The group is asking for passage of gun legislation that can begin to stem the flow of guns into the hands of juveniles, criminals and the mentally unstable.

Immediately following the press conference, the students will break into groups of five and six people and visit offices of members of the Colorado Congressional delegation, majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate and leaders of both political parties.

"This trip is truly by and for Colorado students," said David Winkler, a recent graduate of Denver's George Washington High School and co-leader of the trip. "The leadership of SAFE Colorado approached Ben Gelt and me at the Governor's Conference on Youth Violence last month," Winkler added, "and asked us to help organize a large group of students who were willing to march on Washington and ask for meaningful gun control legislation."

Gelt, who immediately went to work with Winkler to sign up students, is a June

-more-

-2-

graduate of Denver East High School. "This is our chance to make a difference," he said. "And maybe make some history, too."

When asked what the group hopes to accomplish, David Winkler said, "At the very least, we want the House of Representatives to pass the gun-control bill that was approved in the Senate but died in the House. That bill would, among other things, close gun-show loopholes that allow criminals or juveniles to easily buy guns."

Gelt said, "We don't want to see another school year begin in September without some action in Congress to get at this gun epidemic that took 15 lives in one day in Colorado. That's 15 more gun deaths than took place in an entire year in the nation of Japan. It's insane. And it's got to stop."

Winkler said, "Look, there are 240,000,000 guns in the United States. That's almost one for every man, woman and child. And the National Rifle Association, which represents only about six per cent of American gun owners, continues to oppose any new gun restrictions. They're totally out of step with the American public. The vast majority of Coloradans and Americans support more restrictive gun controls. And that's what we're here to ask for."

In addition to urging Congressional action, the student group will tour the House and Senate, attend a reception in their honor, hosted by the Colorado delegation, and visit national monuments.

###

The Denver Post  
July 2, 1999

# Taking the gun message to D.C.

By Ben Gelt and David Winkler

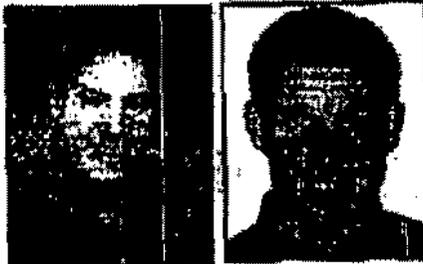
**T**he Columbine and Castle Rock shootings reminded our community of how easily someone can illegally obtain a deadly weapon. The tremendous impact that gun violence has had on our schools, communities and lives is a mandate for change.

The U.S. House has refused to pass any legislation that would close the gun-show loophole or reduce youth access to firearms. It is becoming evident that our representatives need a strong message to put aside politics and pass simple, common-sense gun regulations. In the American

**GUEST COMMENTARY** tradition of grassroots democracy, we, Ben Gelt and David Winkler, are organizing a march on Washington by Colorado high school students.

We will take a charter plane with 75 students to D.C. on July 14 and return on July 16. We are looking for smart, motivated students from all over Colorado to join us. We are also seeking sponsors to lower the cost of the trip for students that require financial aid. This is a great opportunity for students to express their views on guns while learning about the political process in our nation's capital.

In D.C., we will march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol to speak about the need for action on the gun issue. Then we will break into small groups to visit each Colorado representative personally.



Ben Gelt

David Winkler

We also will speak to the House and Senate leadership, and hopefully visit the White House.

We are working with SAFE Colorado, a bipartisan organization that calls for reasonable gun reform while recognizing the right of citizens to own firearms for legitimate hunting, sport, and defensive purposes. SAFE Colorado recognizes the need for compromise. The time has come for all Americans to seek compromise on the gun issue, from rural hunters to families of those killed by guns. Those who cling to the 2nd Amendment and those who call for the abolition of handguns must realize that guns and gun laws are both necessary parts of our society, and we must all work together to create a system of laws that can satisfy everyone.

Our first effort was a silent march to protest the National Rifle Association's membership meeting, two weeks after the Columbine massacre. As a special-interest group, the NRA has ignored over-

whelming public support for regulated gun ownership. We promoted this protest by visiting area high schools, passing fliers, and sending e-mails to hundreds of people. On May 1, 10,000 people gathered at the state Capitol. Many of those marchers were students our age who also wanted to eliminate the influence gun violence has on their lives.

We both feel that the current gun debate in our country is out of control. Extremists on both sides seem unwilling to compromise. Due to party politics and the influence of special-interest groups, our gun laws are so complicated and riddled with loopholes that they resemble our nation's tax code. Most law officers have neither the time nor the knowledge to enforce our meandering assortment of gun laws. It is time to pass simple gun laws that are enforceable by our police.

It is our hope that this trip will cause our congressional representatives to put aside the radical desires of the extreme sides of this issue. We want reasonable gun regulations — without loopholes that invalidate the intent of the law. Our gun laws should be clear and concise, much like the Constitution.

If you are interested in helping the SAFE trip or if you know of high school students who would like to attend, please contact SAFE Colorado at (303) 583-SAFE.

Ben Gelt graduated from East High School. David Winkler graduated from George Washington High School.

The Denver Post  
July 1, 1999

AFTER COLUMBINE

# Group to march in D.C.

## SAFE Colorado seeks 'responsible' gun laws

By Beth DeFalco  
Special to The Denver Post

It's not yet an official political action committee, but later this month SAFE Colorado will take political action in Washington, D.C. Safe Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic plans to fly 100 students to the nation's capital to lobby for what it calls "responsible" gun legislation. The bipartisan group was born out of the Columbine High School massacre to counter the National Rifle Association's political clout.

"We are taking a plane full of students to the capital and will talk to anyone that will listen," said David Winkler, who graduated from George Washington High School in Denver last spring. Winkler last month accompanied a friend to the Denver Gun Show where they bought a TEC-9 assault weapon to show what gun-control supporters call a loophole in gun-buying laws.

"We need gun laws that people can understand and comply with," Winkler said Wednesday. "Right now the tax code is more compli-



The Denver Post / Dave Marsh

Recent Denver high school graduates David Winkler, left, and Ben Golt are part of SAFE Colorado, a group of 100 students that plans to fly to Washington, D.C., to lobby for stricter gun legislation.

cated than the gun code."

SAFE's founders say the group believes in the right to bear arms, but advocates stricter gun regulations.

In Washington, the group plans to march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol, where

participants will try to meet with Colorado's legislative delegation, Democratic and Republican party leaders, and President Clinton.

SAFE co-founder Arnie Grossman said that while the group is not an official PAC, it plans to keep raising money and hosts to

various political campaigns. The group already has raised \$30,000 for the trip to Washington and for advertising.

"Right now we hope to be influential yet influential and get something done before another school year starts," Grossman said.

# QUIT BELLYYACHING ABOUT GUNS.

## Do something about them.

Everyone seems to be complaining about all the deadly guns that find their way into the hands of the wrong people.

For good reason.

The Columbine High School tragedy was a terrible reminder of what can happen if we don't act to stop the torrent of dangerous weapons. We have become the most heavily-armed society on earth, with the highest incidence of gun violence and deaths.

If you've been wanting to speak out against the National Rifle Association and its rigid rhetoric against all gun controls, SAFE Colorado (Safe Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic) is your voice.

But we can only be heard with your help.

Please, join SAFE Colorado today. Send us your check for \$25\* and be a charter member.

Better still, send us \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more, and our voice will be that much louder and more effective.

You don't have to complain about guns anymore.

Now you can do something about them.

**Mission Statement**  
SAFE Colorado (Safe Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic) is a bipartisan political action committee formed to advocate the reasonable regulation of the manufacture and sale of handguns, automatic rifles and ammunition, while recognizing the right of citizens to own and use firearms for legitimate hunting, sport and defensive purposes.



[www.safecolorado.org](http://www.safecolorado.org)

\*Please note that the NRA's annual contribution is \$25. However, we will do the job for one because there will be more of us! Contributions to this organization are not tax deductible.

SAFE Colorado  
 Safe Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic  
 P.O. Box 461152, Denver, Colorado 80246  
 (303) 563-SAFE (7233)

Please make me a charter member of SAFE. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I want to help as a volunteer. Please contact me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director: Edward D. Latta, Chairman, President Emeritus: John A. Long, President: Eugene Swisher, Board of Directors: Nancy Kay Swisher, Secretary: Patricia Burgess of Stone, Arnold Greenman, Rosencind, Michael Greenman, John A. Reed, Republican, Mayor: J.D. McWhorter, Treasurer: Thomas Adams Greenman, Scott A. Sprague, Republican, Lawyer: Jim Thomas, Democratic, Former State Senator

# **SAFE**

## **(Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic)**

### **Mission Statement**

**Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic ("SAFE") is a bipartisan political action committee formed to advocate the reasonable regulation of the manufacture and sale of handguns, automatic rifles and ammunition, while recognizing the right of Colorado citizens to own and use firearms designed for legitimate hunting, sport and defensive purposes.**

### **Objectives**

**Safe supports the reasonable regulation of firearms. In stark contrast to the National Rifle Association, we believe that the uncontrolled manufacture and sale of handguns, rifles and related paraphernalia, poses a serious and continuing threat to public health and safety, particularly among our children. Such weaponry, including the kind used in the Columbine High tragedy, is designed to kill human beings and goes far beyond a citizen's need for defense or sport. Further, any gun, of any type, in the hands of criminals, juveniles, the mentally unstable or the untrained, constitutes an unacceptable threat to society.**

**SAFE is committed to giving a voice to those who do not accept the NRA dogma, which opposes any gun regulation. While the NRA has the right to state its case, the majority of Americans, who believe that gun ownership and use must be reasonably regulated, are not being heard over the NRA's no compromise position. We will provide a voice and a forum for people of good will who believe that a sane alternative to the carnage caused by guns must be achieved without delay.**

**SAFE recognizes that the NRA has become one of America's most powerful lobbies by financing candidates in federal, state and local political campaigns. It lobbies elected officials and opposes virtually all measures that would in any way regulate firearms. SAFE will combat this powerful gun industry group by supporting candidates who will oppose NRA-backed politicians. SAFE will also support Colorado legislative measures and ballot initiatives to make our streets, schools, homes and businesses safer places.**

**Although SAFE is a Colorado organization, focusing on gun control issues at the state and local level, we will gladly cooperate with similar organizations in other states which are working to stop the carnage of gun violence.**

# SAFE COLORADO

Chairmen:

## Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic

Richard D. Lamm  
Democrat  
Former Governor

P.O. Box 461152  
Denver, Colorado 80246  
Telephone: 303-563-SAFE (7233)  
Teletopic: 303-623-4211  
Email: JFH@JFH-PC.COM

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John F. Head, President  
Arnold Grossman, Vice President  
David A. Spreccace, Secretary-Treasurer

John A. Love  
Republican  
Former Governor

Board of Directors:

Mary Estill Buchanan  
Republican  
Former Secretary of State

July 1, 1999

Arnold Grossman  
Democrat  
Political Consultant

James M. Lyons, Esq.  
Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons LLP  
Suite 3000  
1200 Seventeenth Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

John F. Head  
Republican  
Lawyer

J.D. MacFarlane  
Democrat  
Former Attorney General

Dear Jim:

David A. Spreccace  
Republican  
Lawyer

Thank you for your kind offer to help with SAFE Colorado's project of sending a plane-load of Colorado high school students to Washington to urge our political leaders to adopt meaningful gun control laws.

*Stephanie*  
*I think this would be great for the President to do if it fits into his schedule*  
*Barc*

Jim Thomas  
Dem  
Senator

On July 14 and 15, some 100 Colorado high school students and recent graduates will be in Washington to talk to political leaders about gun control. They would like to meet with the President on either of these days to enlist the President's support of their effort with Congress.

SAFE Colorado is a bi-partisan political action committee which was formed by Arnie Grossman and me. As the letterhead indicates, former Governors Joan Love and Dick Lamm have agreed to serve as honorary co-chairmen and the board of directors include Mary Estill Buchanan and J.D. MacFarlane. As our Mission Statement says, we want meaningful gun control legislation, both at the federal level and at the state level. The response we have received to that message has been overwhelming and it has been bi-partisan.

We were deeply disappointed by the recent failure of the House of Representatives to pass the bill containing gun control legislation which passed the Senate. That disappointment was shared by many of the high school students who attended the Summit on Youth Violence which Governor Owens and Attorney General Salazar chaired several weeks ago. Out of that disappointment came the project of sending a large contingent of Colorado high school students and recent graduates (ages 15 to 20) to Washington to express their views to the Colorado delegation, the leadership of the House and the Senate, the campaign committees of both parties in both bodies, and the chairmen of the two parties. The point to be made is that:

- Both parties should lay aside politics and pass meaningful gun control legislation. The overwhelming majority of the people of this State want gun control; they don't want the political posturing and they don't want a sell-out to the gun lobby.

James M. Lyons, Esq.  
July 1, 1999  
Page 2

- The House of Representatives should pass gun control legislation in the form it passed the Senate.

SAFE Colorado and the student organizers of the SAFE trip to Washington would like to enlist the President's support of their effort. We are aware that he has already been quite active and has contributed mightily to the debate. In that regard, we submit that the effort would be advanced if the President would find time in his schedule to meet with the students either in the afternoon of July 14 or anytime on July 15.

Any help you can give us will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,



John F. Head

Enclosure  
JFH/ns

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1999

**WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION ON  
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**DATE:** Monday, May 10, 1999  
**LOCATION:** East Room (Meeting)  
Rose Garden (Statement)  
**BRIEFING TIME:** 9:30am - 10:00am  
**MEET & GREET:** 10:00am - 10:20am  
**MEETING:** 10:30am - 12:45pm  
**STATEMENT:** 1:00pm - 1:30pm  
**FROM:** Bruce Reed

**I. PURPOSE**

To convene parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry, to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem.

**II. BACKGROUND**

At today's strategy session, you will announce several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE**

Today, you will announce that you are asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

## **GUN INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS**

Today, leaders in the firearms industry announced their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, released a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. You have proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. You have proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement trace more crime guns to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. You have proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching and military service.
- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. You have proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past 2 years, you have expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. You have proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

## **MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK**

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. You and the Vice President led the successful fight for legislation that requires the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session you will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

### **III. PARTICIPANTS**

#### Briefing Participants:

John Podesta  
Maria Echaveste  
Bruce Reed  
Loretta Ucelli  
Larry Stein  
Audrey Tayes-Haynes  
Richard Socarides  
Neera Tanden  
Jeff Shesol  
Trooper Sanders

#### Meeting Participants:

See attached list.

#### **IV. PRESS PLAN**

Meeting: Pool Press (at the top)  
Statement: Open Press

#### **V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

- YOU will greet meeting participants in the State Dining Room.
- YOU will proceed to the Blue Room for a brief hold.
- YOU will be announced, accompanied by the Vice President, the First Lady, and Mrs. Gore, into the East Room, and will proceed to your seat at the table.
- YOU will make a brief statement, after which the press will depart.
- YOU will begin the discussion.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, YOU will proceed to the Map Room for a brief hold.
- YOU will be announced, accompanied by the Vice President, the First Lady, and Mrs. Gore, into the Rose Garden.
- YOU will make remarks and introduce the First Lady.
- The First Lady will make remarks and introduce Mrs. Gore.
- Mrs. Gore will make remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks.
- Upon conclusion of the Vice President's remarks, YOU will depart.

#### **I. REMARKS**

To be provided by speechwriting.

#### **II. ATTACHMENTS**

- Participants List
- Suggested Discussion Format
- Administration Accomplishments

White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility  
May 10, 1999

Participants

Administration

Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General  
Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Honorable Richard Riley, Secretary of Education  
General Barry McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Honorable John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President  
Honorable Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Domestic Policy Council  
Honorable William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Students

Shane Cambronero, City Year Staff member and former Americorp member ✓  
Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High ✓  
Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School ✓  
Maris Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High ✓  
Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School ✓

Gun Manufacturers and Gun Owners

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates; NRA Board Member  
Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.  
Georgia Nichols, Vice-President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg and Sons  
Robert Ricker, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council  
Ed Shultz, President and CEO, Sruith and Wesson

Law Enforcement

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court  
Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police

Television/Motion Pictures

Leslie Moonves, President and CEO, CBS Television  
Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International  
Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America  
Decker Austrom, President, National Cable Television Association  
Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters  
Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation ✓

Internet/Video Games

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line  
Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist  
Hillary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America

Teachers/Parents/Mentors

Bob Chase, President, National Education Association ✓  
Pam Eakes, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence ✓  
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers ✓  
Ginny Markell, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association ✓  
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association  
Dr. Samuel Sava, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals  
Roxanne Spillet, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ✓

Faith-based Leaders

Abraham Foxman, National Director, Anti-Defamation League ✓  
Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA ✓  
Monsignor Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference ✓  
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten-Point Leadership Foundation ✓

Experts

Dr. Maya Angelou, Professor and Poet  
Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania ✓  
Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois ✓  
James Garbarino, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University ✓  
Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute ✓

Foundations/Non-profits

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation  
Sarah Brady, Handgun Control, Inc.  
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association  
Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc. ✓  
Honorable Eli Segal, President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership

Elected Officials

Honorable Ken Salazar, Attorney General, Colorado ✓  
Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis ✓

Members of Congress

Honorable (Rep.) Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri ✓  
Honorable (Senator) Harry Reid, D-Nevada ✓  
Honorable (Senator) Sam Brownback, R-Kansas ✓  
Honorable (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn, R-Washington

TOTAL (56)

## SUGGESTED PROGRAM SEQUENCE

### Opening:

**YOU** will be announced into the East Room, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore.

**YOU** will be seated and will make brief opening remarks from your seat with the press present, after which the press will depart.

There will be a brief interval while the press depart.

**Note:** **YOU** will moderate the roundtable discussion. The Vice President, the First Lady and Mrs. Gore should participate in the discussion and questioning as appropriate. To organize the discussion and maximize involvement of the 56 other participants, we recommend dividing the discussion into the following categories.

### Talking with Students (15-20 minutes):

**YOU** should begin by calling on the students present to describe the problem. **YOU** may call on one or both of the following:

**Terrence Gray**, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High (you met him at roundtable)

**Simonna Woodson**, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School, Indianapolis

Other students available for comment:

Shane Cambronero, City Year staffer, former Americorp member

Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA

Maria Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High

At this point, **YOU** may want to call on **Colorado AG Ken Salazar** for comment.

**YOU** should ask **James Garbarino**, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University and author of *Lost Boys*, to discuss briefly what we know about which factors contribute to youth violence.

Other experts available:

Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois

Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, Univ. of Pennsylvania

### The Responsibility of Gun Manufacturers and Those Who Use Guns (15-20 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of gun manufacturers and those who use guns.

**YOU should call on Bob Ricker**, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council: ask him to discuss their agreement with elements of your latest gun proposals. He may ask **Georgia Nichols**, VP & General Counsel, O F Mossberg (largest shotgun manuf.) and **Ed Shultz**, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson to comment.

**Sarah Brady**: ask her to comment.

Others available to comment: Attorney General Janet Reno

Gun Industry:

Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates

Law Enforcement:

Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

### The Responsibility of the Entertainment and Internet Communities (40 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of the entertainment and internet communities. **YOU should call on each of the following:**

#### **Internet:**

**Steve Case**, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line: ask him to describe AOL's new efforts to empower parents.

**Eric Heydenberk**, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA: Ask him to describe the conflict resolution web site he is building.

#### **Television/V chip:**

**Leslie ("Les") Moonves**, President, CBS Television: praise him and Iger for voluntary ratings system.

**Bob Iger**, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International

**William Kennard**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission: ask him to describe the FCC's V-Chip project.

**Drew Altman**, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation: ask him to describe their v-chip project.

**YOU** may also call on one or more of the following:

**Motion Pictures:**

**Jack Valenti**, President, Motion Picture Association of America

**Andrew Shue**, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Also available for comment:

Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association

Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters

**Video Games:**

**Doug Lowenstein**, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

**Music:**

**Gloria Estefan**, Recording Artist

Also available for comment:

Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Artists Association

At this point, you may want to parents to respond: Call on either **Ginny Markell**, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association or **Pam Eakes**, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence

And a faith leader: **Monsignor Thomas McDade**, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference

Other faith-based leaders available:

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA

Abraham Foxman, Director, Anti-Defamation League

Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Call on **Congressman Gephardt** and **Senator Brownback** to respond.

**The National Campaign (with 30 minutes remaining):**

**YOU** should ask **Eli Segal** to describe how the Welfare to Work Partnership was formed and how it has worked successfully.

**YOU** should ask participants for suggestion or ideas about how a national campaign against youth violence could work and what they might contribute. **YOU** may call on several of the following:

Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers  
Bob Chase, President, National Education Association  
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association  
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association  
Sam Saba, Executive Director, National Assoc. of Elementary School Principals

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA  
Abraham Foxman, Director, Anti-Defamation League  
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

You may at this point want to ask **Maya Angelou** for her views.

**Governor Roy Romer**, Chairman, Policy Advisory Comm., The Ad Council, Inc.: ask him about the Ad Council's new campaign on youth violence.

**Closing:**

**YOU** should thank participants and invite them to stand with you in the Rose Garden during your brief remarks to the press immediately following the discussion.

**Rose Garden Statements:**

**YOU** will be announced into the Rose Garden, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore. Participants will be on stage behind you.

**YOU** will make brief remarks, followed by the First Lady, Mrs. Gore and last, the Vice President, who will close.

# CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

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## GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

**Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System.** Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

**Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip.** Four years ago, the President Clinton and the Vice President used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

**Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television.** In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

**Encouraging More Educational Television.** At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

**Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet.** The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

**Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page.** Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

## PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY

**Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools.** President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the Federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

**Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems.** To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

**Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement.** Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

**Launching a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence.** To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more -- helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

**Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free.** In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

**Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth.** President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond

to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. More than 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

**Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year.** Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

**Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign.** In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

## **KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH**

**Won Passage of the Brady Bill.** Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

**Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons.** The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

**Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.** In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Over the past two years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

**Requiring Child Safety Locks for Handguns.** Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every Federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to Federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

**Signed into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act.** In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a Federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

**Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools.** In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

**Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act.** The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

5/99

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
OPENING REMARKS  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION  
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY  
THE EAST ROOM  
May 10, 1999**

I want to welcome everyone here to the White House, and to thank you for coming to our Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility. This is a diverse and impressive group: parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The Vice President, Tipper, Hillary and I wanted to bring together so many sectors of society for a simple reason: because America's children deserve safe childhoods.

On Friday, I announced that we would launch a national campaign to prevent youth violence -- a grass-roots effort to involve all Americans, from every community and all walks of life, in protecting our children from violence. I hope the ideas generated here will lay the groundwork for that campaign, and help us to find common ground and concrete solutions.

We're not here to debate who takes the blame, but to show who takes responsibility. I want to be sure that the government continues to do its part. In the weeks to come, I hope to work with Congress to pass legislation that makes our schools and streets safer, and keeps guns out of the wrong hands. Today, I am also directing the Surgeon General to conduct a groundbreaking study -- the first report in more than a decade on youth violence and its causes. This report will infuse our efforts with a new urgency and understanding.

Many of you are already stepping forward and stepping up to your responsibility. I am pleased, first of all, that the gun manufacturers represented here today have expressed support for several important gun measures we proposed here at the White House two weeks ago. Together, we have found common ground on some common-sense measures: banning violent juveniles from buying guns for life; raising the age for handgun-ownership from 18 to 21; closing the gun show loophole so criminals can't buy guns; holding reckless parents responsible for giving children access to guns; and reducing illegal gun trafficking by helping law enforcement trace weapons used in crimes. I commend the gun manufacturers here today for taking responsibility.

Others have agreed to do their part. A few years ago, through the Vice President's leadership, we were able to put in place a voluntary ratings system for television. Les Moonves, the head of CBS, and Bob Iger, the head of ABC, have led the way by putting their networks behind this effort; and they are here today. This year, half the new TV sets sold in America will contain the V-Chip, which parents can use to protect their children from violent programming.

Today, the FCC is announcing a V-Chip Task Force to make sure that next year, every new set contains the V-Chip; and the Kaiser Family Foundation is announcing a massive new public education campaign to make sure parents know about it and how to use it. Also, following this meeting, Kaiser and the Ad Council will produce a campaign of anti-violent ads called "Talking with Kids About Tough Issues."

I am encouraged by all these efforts; and I hope everyone here will talk about the ways we can, together, live up to our responsibility to create a safe future for our children. I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas. I'm especially interested to hear what these young people have to say.

AGENDA  
MAY 10, 1999  
8:30 AM

I. SUPPLEMENTAL

Jack/Larry said they will have an update but that its generally been slow over the weekend.

II. YOUTH, VIOLENCE, RESPONSIBILITY MEETING

The Republicans will be introducing their juvenile justice proposal this week. And, we have our crime announcement on Wednesday. Larry wants to discuss how we spring board from Monday to Wednesday and make the most of today's event. Bruce may also have some last minute issues to discuss.

III. Social Security/Ways & Means Meeting

We have a meeting with the President on Wednesday and the President has a meeting with the House Ways and Means Committee Democrats on Thursday. Gene had a meeting on Friday to discuss options for the President to consider. We should have a discussion either today or tomorrow about how to proceed. Gene is even more convinced that we need to put a social security plan out.

IV. China

A great deal has happen. This may not be the meeting to discuss the status and how best to proceed but Larry and Gene are interested in knowing how to proceed on the Congressional and economic front--if at all.

**PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE  
HOST STRATEGY SESSION ON  
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY  
Monday, May 10, 1999**

Today, the President led a strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting included a broad cross-section of Americans including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President announced several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE**

Today, the President announced that he is asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

**GUN INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS**

Today, leaders in the firearms industry announced their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, released a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. The President has proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. The President has proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.

- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement trace more crime guns to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching and military service.
- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past 2 years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

#### **MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK**

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session the President announced two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign

will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

### **A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE**

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore called for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society – the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people – to focus on this problem, find what's working, spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey, and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

**STRATEGY SESSION ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Monday, May 10, 1999 - 10:00 am  
White House - Business - East Appointments Gate  
(60 Total Participants)

**THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY**

**THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE**

Dr. Drew Altman; President & CEO, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Dr. Maya Angelou; Professor and Poet

Mr. Decker Anstrom; President, National Cable Television Association

Mr. Jonathan Barnett; Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Carl Bell; President & CEO, The Community Mental Health Council and  
Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health, University of Illinois, Chicago

Hon. Sharon Sayles Belton; Mayor of the City of Minneapolis

Mrs. Sarah Brady; Chair, Handgun Control, Inc. and The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

Hon. Bill Brewster; President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates and Board Member, NRA

Hon. (Sen.) Sam Brownback; R/Kansas

Ms. Shane Cambrano; City Year Staff Member and Former Americorps Member

Mr. Steve Case; Chairman and CEO, America Online

Mr. Robert Chase; President, National Education Association

Dr. Nancy Wilson Dickey; President, American Medical Association

Hon. (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn; R/Washington

Mrs. Pamela Eakes; President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence in America

Ms. Gloria Estefan; Recording Artist

Ms. Sandy Feldman; President, American Federation of Teachers

Mr. Abraham H. Foxman; National Director, Anti-Defamation League

Mr. Eddie Fritts; President & CEO, National Association of Broadcasters

Dr. James Garbarino; Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University

Hon. (Rep.) Richard Gephardt; D/Missouri

Mr. Terrance Gray; Student/Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, VA

Mr. Eric Heydenberk; Student/Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA

Mr. Robert A. Iger; Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International

Mr. Paul Jannuzzo; Vice President and General Counsel, GLOCK, Inc.

Hon. William Kennard; Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Mr. Douglas Lowenstein; President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Ms. Ginny Markell; President-Elect, National PTA  
Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis; CEO, YWCA of the U.S.A.  
Ms. Mary Ellen Maxwell; President, National School Boards Association  
Gen. Barry McCaffrey; Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Monsignor Thomas McDade; Secretary of Education, United States Catholic Conference  
Mr. Leslie Moonves; President and CEO, CBS Television  
Ms. Maria Montiel; Student/Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, VA  
Ms. Georgia Nichols; Vice President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.  
Hon. Alan C. Page; Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court  
Hon. John Podesta; Chief of Staff to the President  
Dr. Robert S. Pynoos; Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute and  
Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service  
Hon. Bruce Reed; Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy  
Hon. (Sen.) Harry Reid; D/Nevada  
Hon. Janet Reno; Attorney General, United States  
Mr. Robert A. Ricker; Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council  
Hon. Richard W. Riley; Secretary of Education  
Rev. Eugene F. Rivers III; Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation  
Gov. Roy Romer; Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc.  
Ms. Hilary B. Rosen; President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America  
Hon. Kenneth L. Salazar; Attorney General, State of Colorado  
Dr. Samuel G. Sava; Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals  
Hon. Eli J. Segal; President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership  
Hon. Donna E. Shalala; Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Mr. Andrew Shue; Founder, Do Something Foundation  
Mr. Ed Shultz; President and CEO, Smith and Wesson  
Ms. Roxanne Spillett; President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Hon. Jack Valenti; Chairman and CEO, Motion Picture Association  
Ms. Simonna Woodson; Student/Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School  
Lt. Steve Young; National Vice President, Fraternal Order of Police

Violence Summit

COMMITMENTS

- 1. RICKER / BRADY - GUNS <sup>All-big enough</sup> <sub>Not programmatic</sub> <sup>Biker mentality</sup> <sub>- Part of solution</sub> 3 hrs
- 2. VP - ONLINE RATINGS - ISPS - VIDEOGAMES 50 people spoken
- 3. CASE - PACT / CARE + TVS - 50 YRS FROM NOW
- 4. KAISER FOUNDATION / AD COUNCIL
- 5. NON PROFIT
  - VALENTI
  - SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN / MADD
  - FOXMAN: 6 mos FROM NOW
- 6. VCHIP - IGER / MOONVES SUPPORT

THEMES - NOT BLAME, RESPONS - BIPARTISAN (Brainback + Dinner constructive)

- ① RESPONSIBILITY: Estera quote
- ② KIDS TALK TO KIDS - HELP PARENTS (VP - takes time of kids)
- ③ MEDIA
  - ROMER
  - POTUS

- ASK DATE TO JOIN US

MOMENTS

- ① BRADY
- ② IGER / MOONVES
- ③ POTUS ON A+E
- ④ VP
- ⑤ FELDMAN / SIMONA: SNOOP
- ⑥ ERIC (Jazz Band) - VALENTI / CONGRESS, CASE / JOB