

POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE TO DATE

- Violence Against Children (POTUS event 12/28)
- Military Readiness (Radio Address 1/2)
- Food Safety Announcement (1/2)
- Long-Term Health Care (POTUS event 1/4)
- Prisoner Drug Testing (POTUS event 1/5)
- FY99 Budget Surplus Projection (POTUS event 1/6)
- After-School/Social Promotion (POTUS event 1/7)
- Manufacturing Export Support (Radio Address 1/8)
- Medicare Buy-In (1/9)
- Health Insurance for Small Business (1/10)
- Liveability (VP event 1/11, POTUS event 1/12)
- Life Long Learning (VP event 1/12)
- Disability (POTUS event 1/13)
- COPS announcement (POTUS event 1/14)
- Promoting Untapped Markets (POTUS event 1/15)

Reducing Violence in the Lives of Children December 29, 1998

Today, President Clinton will launch a new Children Exposed to Violence Initiative (CEVI) designed to prevent violence against children and improve the way the justice system deals with children who are victims of or witnesses to violence. CEVI will include four components: (1) reforming state and federal laws to provide swift and certain punishment for those who commit child abuse and neglect; (2) improving the way the justice system treats children who are the victims of, or witnesses to, acts of violence; (3) strengthening local prevention and intervention programs directed towards children exposed to violence; and (4) increasing public awareness of this serious problem through a National Summit next May. To get this new effort underway, the President will announce the availability of \$10 million in "Safe Start" grants from the Justice Department to help up to 12 cities reduce the impact of violence on young children.

The Need for Action

Too many child victims. The Department of Health and Human Services found that in 1996, three million children were maltreated or abused. Recent Department of Justice statistics show that last year, 2.8 million adolescents (12 to 17 year-olds) were victims of violent crime and another 9 million witnessed serious violence -- with nearly 2 million of these teenagers suffering from some kind of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Child victims more at risk to become offenders. Children who are abused or neglected are far more likely than other children to become criminals themselves. These children are more than 50 percent more likely to be arrested while a juvenile, and nearly 40 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime when they become adults. They are also 33 percent more likely to become substance abusers.

What CEVI Will Do

Reform Laws Dealing with Child Victims and Witnesses. The Justice Department, in consultation with the states, will propose federal legislation that would (1) amend federal homicide statutes by making child abuse offenses predicates for felony murder and defining murder to include the death of a child resulting from a pattern of child abuse, and (2) provide a sentencing enhancement whenever a violent crime prohibited by federal law is committed in the presence of a child. The Department also will work with states to develop similar model legislation and to put in place additional reforms that will allow children to testify through closed circuit television, limit the number of interviews to which a child can be subjected, and allow children to use testimonial aids and have an adult present when testifying in court.

Improve Justice System Response. CEVI will improve the way participants in the justice system treat child victims and witnesses by providing the information and training necessary to prevent "secondary victimization." The Justice Department will use approximately \$12 million in current funding to produce and distribute specialized training videos, best practice manuals, and other in-the-field user guides -- such as the guide on *Forming a Multidisciplinary Team to*

Investigate Child Abuse released by the Justice Department today -- to law enforcement agents, prosecutors, victim and witness coordinators, and court personnel. Under this new initiative, the Justice Department also will work with state and local law enforcement to use Child Death Review Teams to investigate suspicious child fatalities; expand child victims' assistance programs; help create "Court Schools," which serve to acclimate children to the courtroom setting; and develop other similar programs.

Strengthen Prevention and Intervention. CEVI will assist states and localities to develop prevention and intervention initiatives focusing on children exposed to violence. These initiatives, often involving partnerships between law enforcement officers and other community members, will provide services and support to children and promote parent education. One example is the New Haven Child Development/Community Policing (CD-CP) program, a partnership between the New Haven Police Department and the Yale University Child Study Center that coordinates the work of law enforcement and mental health professionals in responding to children in violent situations. Today, the President will announce the availability of \$10 million in "Safe Start" grants to help up to 12 more cities promote and build on proven initiatives like the New Haven CD-CP.

Increase Public Awareness. The Department of Justice will sponsor a National Summit on Children Exposed to Violence in May, with the Department of Health and Human Services, law enforcement organizations, child advocacy and media organizations, governors, county officials, mayors, legislators and prosecutors. The goal of the Summit will be to bring together experts in law enforcement, mental health, child development, domestic violence prevention, and related fields to increase public awareness of this issue and discuss additional ameliorative efforts.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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January 2, 1998

FACT SHEET

Strengthening America's Military

To ensure that America's Armed Forces are fully prepared to meet the challenges of the next century, the President will propose in his next budget a long-term, sustained increase in defense spending. In keeping with his pledge to work with military leaders to address the nation's defense needs, the President has determined that additional resources are necessary to maintain military readiness; procure modern and effective weapons systems; and to provide appropriate pay, benefits and quality of life improvements for our servicemen and women.

The President's defense budget for next year, fiscal year 2000, will provide an additional \$12 billion for readiness needs through a combination of new spending and budgetary savings. This is the start of a six year effort to ensure that America's military continues to be fully prepared to protect our national interests as the world's most powerful fighting force.

The President's FY 2000 budget will:

Provide significant increases for military readiness programs. In order to enhance our military readiness -- to guarantee that our military forces can respond fully at any time -- the President's budget will provide additional resources to:

- Strengthen recruitment and retention programs;
- Improve unit "manning levels;"
- Increase and enhance training, unit operations and flight hour programs;
- Provide additional spare parts;
- Counter emerging threats such as terrorism and the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Build for the future by funding weapons modernization programs. In order to insure that our armed forces remain the best equipped in the world into the next century, this budget will provide resources to begin paying for the next generation of weapons systems, ships and planes. The FY 2000 defense budget will provide resources to:

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- Upgrade and replace aging equipment and weapons with newer, more technologically advanced systems, such as surveillance and tactical aircraft, tactical missile systems, and Humvees and other ground vehicles;
- Integrate cutting edge computer technology into battlefield weapons and communications systems;
- Continue procurement of several ship classes, including DDG-51 Aegis destroyers and LPD-17 Amphibious Transport Dock Ships, and advanced funding for new attack submarines and the next nuclear aircraft carrier;
- Support key aircraft programs, including the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, F-22 Raptors and Joint Strike Fighter; and
- Develop defense systems against both theater and strategic ballistic missiles.

Take care of our military men and women and their families. By improving pay, rewarding performance and increasing retirement benefits, the President's budget provides America's servicemen and women with the quality of life they deserve. These improvements will help recruit talented young men and women, and will provide additional incentive for long-term service. The President's budget will provide additional resources to:

- Increase across-the-board pay by 4.4%;
- Target additional pay raises to reward performance as well as longevity;
- Raise retirement benefits from 40% to 50% of base pay for members retiring after 20 years;
- Improve educational programs for military and eligible dependents, including construction and maintenance of schools and support for the President's School Technology Initiative, which aims to provide one computer for every four students and one for every teacher.

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Food Safety in FY 2000 Budget Proposal

President Clinton will recommend increasing funds for food safety by \$105 million -- or 12 percent -- in his fiscal 2000 budget proposal. If enacted, the increase would result in a third year of significant growth in government efforts to prevent potentially deadly foodborne illness by putting into place a modern, science-based food safety system involving improved inspection, surveillance, research, and education activities. The new funds are to be shared by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), which would receive \$65 million, and the Department of Health and Human Services, which would receive \$40 million.

Improving Domestic and International Food Safety Inspections

The President's proposal would significantly expand inspections of domestic food products. New funds for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which protects the safety of all food products except meat and poultry, would enable the agency to use more than 60 new inspectors to inspect, at least once each year, every domestic manufacturer of high-risk food products (generally, products that are not cooked by consumers). Currently, these manufacturers are inspected every three to four years. Additional funds for USDA would permit the broad expansion of its science-based, prevention-oriented meat and poultry inspection system, called Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), which already has significantly reduced contamination in these food products. HACCP is now in effect at the nation's 300 largest meat and poultry facilities. USDA would use the proposed new funds to introduce HACCP at 2,700 smaller plants (those employing 10 to 499 employees), which would mean that 90 percent of all meat and poultry would be covered.

The President's budget would also increase scrutiny of imported food products. Under the proposal, the FDA would more than double the number of inspections conducted of foreign food processors. In addition, FDA technical experts would work with food safety officials abroad to ensure that their food-growing, processing, and transportation systems meet high standards for safe production. The President will also continue to push Congress to pass legislation enabling the FDA to cut off all imports from foreign countries whose food safety systems are not equivalent to those in this country.

Public Health Research and Surveillance

The President's FY 2000 budget proposal also includes a significant component for surveillance and research activities. To help officials track pathogens back to their source and prevent outbreaks of foodborne illnesses from spreading, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) would use new funds to almost double the number of laboratories that do "DNA fingerprinting" of foodborne pathogens. FDA and USDA also would use new funds to expand research to develop more effective ways of testing for and identifying dangerous contaminants such as Salmonella and Cyclospora.

A Record of Accomplishment

The President's proposal builds on a strong record of actions to ensure that Americans eat the safest possible food. Last year, the President proposed a \$101 million increase in food-safety funding, more than \$80 million of which was ultimately approved by Congress in the final budget. The Administration has put in place improved safety standards for meat, poultry, and seafood products and has begun the process of developing enhanced standards for fruit and vegetable juices.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE UNVEIL HISTORIC LONG-TERM CARE INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND HELP ADDRESS GROWING LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

January 4, 1999

Today, President Clinton is unveiling an historic new initiative to support Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of family members who care for them. This four-part, \$6.2 billion (over five years) initiative takes important steps to address complex long-term care needs through: (1) an unprecedented \$1,000 tax credit that compensates for formal or informal costs, Americans of all ages with long-term care needs or the family caregivers who support them; (2) a new National Family Caregivers Support Program that provides a range of critical services for caregivers such as respite, home care services, and information and referral; (3) a national campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the programs' limited coverage and how best to evaluate long-term care options; and (4) a proposal to have the Federal government serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees at group rates.

The President will be joined by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary Rubin, Secretary Shalala, and OPM Director LaChance to unveil this initiative at the White House. The Vice President and Mrs. Gore are participating from an adult day care center in California, one of four states with model statewide family caregiving resource programs.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

- **More and more Americans have a range of long-term care needs.** Over five million Americans have significant limitations due to illness or disability and thus require long-term care. Approximately two-thirds are older Americans. Also, millions of adults and a growing number of children have long-term care needs because of health conditions from birth or a chronic illness developed later in life.
- **The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options.** The number of Americans age 65 years or older will double by 2030 (from 34.3 to 69.4 million), so that one in five Americans will be elderly. The number of people 85 years or older, nearly half of whom need assistance with everyday activities, will grow even faster (from 4.0 to 8.4 million).

MULTI-FACETED INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND ADDRESS GROWING LONG TERM CARE NEEDS. The President is unveiling a four-part initiative that is designed to address the broad-based and varied long-term care needs. It will: (1) provide immediate support and assistance for the millions of Americans who care for family members with major long-term care needs; (2) educate the elderly and people with disabilities about long-term care issues and options; and (3) promote new promising strategy directions for long-term care policy for the twenty-first century. The President is also asking the Vice President to host a series of forums around the nation to raise awareness about the need to support family caregivers and address the growing need for long-term care options.

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The long-term care proposal being unveiled today by the President and Vice President includes:

- **Supporting families with long-term care needs through an historic \$1,000 tax credit.** This initiative, for the first time, acknowledges and supports millions of Americans with long-term care needs or the family members who care for and house their ill or disabled relatives through a \$1,000 tax credit. This new tax credit supports the diverse needs of families by compensating a wide range of formal or informal long-term care for people of all ages with three or more limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) or a comparable cognitive impairment. This proposal, which supports rather than supplants family caregiving, would provide needed financial support to about 2 million Americans, including 1.2 million older Americans, over 500,000 non-elderly adults, and approximately 250,000 children. It costs \$5.5 billion over five years and phases out beginning at \$110,000 for couples and \$75,000 for unmarried taxpayers.
- **Creating an unprecedented National Family Caregiver Support Program.** Recent studies have found that services like respite care can relieve caregiver stress and delay nursing home entry, and that support for families of Alzheimer's disease patients can delay institutionalization for as long as a year. This new nationwide program, strongly advocated by the Vice President, would support families who care for elderly relatives with chronic illnesses or disabilities by enabling states to create "one-stop-shops" that provide: quality respite care and other support services; critical information about community-based long-term services that best meet a families' needs; and counseling and support, such as teaching model approaches for caregivers that are coping with new responsibilities and offering training for complex care needs, such as feeding tubes. This program, which costs \$625 million over five years, would assist approximately 250,000 families nationwide.

Launching a national campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the programs' limited coverage of long-term care and how best to evaluate their options. Nearly 60 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are unaware that Medicare does not cover most long-term care, and many do not know what long-term care services would best meet their needs. This \$10 million nationwide campaign would provide all 39 million Medicare beneficiaries with critical information about long-term care options including: what long-term care Medicare does and does not cover; how to find out about Medicaid long-term care coverage; what to look for in a quality private long-term care policy; and how to access information about home-and community-based care services that best fit beneficiaries' needs.

- **Having the Federal government serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees.** The President will also call on Congress to pass a new proposal that allows OPM to use its market leverage and set a national example by offering non-subsidized, quality private long-term care insurance to all federal employees, retirees, and their families at group rates. This proposal, that costs \$15 million over five years, will provide employers a nationwide model for offering quality long-term care insurance. OPM anticipates that approximately 300,000 Federal employees would participate in this program.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF CRIME AND DRUGS

January 5, 1999

Today, President Clinton will announce significant budget initiatives to help break the cycle of crime and drugs. The President will announce new resources to help states and localities systematically test, treat, and sanction drug-involved offenders -- including \$215 million in his FY 2000 budget proposal to enforce "zero tolerance" for drug use by prisoners, parolees, and probationers.

A new Department of Justice report, also released today, shows that in 1997 more than three-quarters of the nation's prisoners reported past drug use, more than half reported using drugs in the month before their offense, and one in six committed their crimes so they could purchase drugs.

The President's initiative responds to these findings.

Prisoner Drug Use. Today the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics will release a new study on prisoner drug use (*Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*). Key findings regarding prisoner drug use include:

Vast majority of all prisoners report drug use. In 1997, 83 percent of state prisoners and 73 percent of federal prisoners reported past drug use --considerably more than the 21 percent of state prisoners and 60 percent of federal prisoners who are serving time for drug offenses. In addition, 57 percent of state prisoners and 45 percent of federal prisoners reported using drugs in the month before their arrest.

Many prisoners commit crimes to buy drugs or while on drugs. Nearly 20 percent of state prisoners and 15 percent of federal inmates reported committing their offense to get money to buy drugs. Thirty-three percent of state prisoners and 22 percent of federal prisoners were actually under the influence of drugs at the time of their offense.

Drug offenders have long "rap sheets." State prisoners serving sentences for drug offenses reported extensive criminal histories: 76 percent had been previously sentenced to prison or probation; 54 percent were on probation or parole at the time of their arrest; 45 percent had three or more prior sentences; and 23 percent had previously committed a violent crime. Although federal drug offenders generally reported less severe criminal histories, 59 percent had prior criminal records.

New Resources for "Zero Tolerance" Drug Supervision. The President will announce measures to ensure that the criminal justice system operates to keep offenders drug- and crime-free: (1) \$215 million in his FY 2000 budget proposal -- an increase of about \$100 million -- to drug-test and treat more people under criminal justice supervision; and (2) the availability of about \$120 million already appropriated for FY 1999 to help make prisoners and parolees drug-free.

(1) \$215 million for the most comprehensive drug supervision ever. The President's FY 2000 budget will include \$215 million for drug supervision, including an increase of about \$100 million for a proposed new program to help states and localities implement tough new systems to drug-test, treat, and punish prisoners, parolees, and probationers. This initiative

will ensure that states fully implement the comprehensive plans to drug-test prisoners and parolees that they are required by law to submit to the Justice Department. The initiative will also support the efforts of states like Maryland and Connecticut to begin drug testing probationers on a regular basis. The President's FY 2000 budget also will include \$50 million -- an increase of 25 percent -- to expand the number of local drug courts and \$65 million for residential drug treatment in state prisons.

(2) About \$120 million this year for drug-free prison initiatives. The President will announce the release of the following grants to ensure that states fully implement their comprehensive plans for prison drug testing, treatment, and sanctions:

--Up to \$50 million for prison drug testing and intervention. Today the Justice Department will release new guidance informing states that they can use up to 10 percent of their prison construction funds (Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth-in-Sentencing grants) to drug-test and treat prisoners and parolees. Last year, President Clinton called on Congress to give the states this flexibility, and he fought for it to be included in the final budget agreement.

--\$63 million for residential drug treatment in state prisons. The Justice Department also will announce the availability of \$63 million for state prisons to provide long-term drug treatment and intensive supervision for prisoners with the most serious drug problems.

--\$6 million for new Drug-Free Prison initiatives. The President will announce that the Office of National Drug Control Policy will award \$6 million in grants to help eight states (AL, AZ, CA, FL, KS, MD, NJ, NY) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons make and keep their prisons drug-free. These grants will support surveillance systems, drug-sniffing K-9 teams, advanced technologies for drug detection, and other efforts to detect and deter drug use in prisons.

A Record of Accomplishment.

Pushed for drug testing and intervention in all states. The President fought for and signed the legislation requiring states to drug test prisoners and parolees as a condition for receiving prison grants. As a result, states were required to put in place comprehensive drug-testing and intervention plans for prisoners and parolees.

Expanded testing and treatment in federal prisons. The President has promoted drug testing and treatment in the federal prison system. In 1998, federal prisoners were subjected to nearly 133,000 drug tests. Additionally, the number of inmates required to receive treatment increased by fourfold from 5,450 in FY 1993 to 21,995 in FY 1998.

Leading the national drug court effort. Under the President's leadership, the number of drug courts has increased from an estimated 12 in 1994 to more than 400 today. Drug courts provide frequent drug testing, treatment, and tough supervision, and have been shown to reduce recidivism substantially.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: AT LEAST A \$76 BILLION SURPLUS IN 1999

January 6, 1999

President Clinton and Vice President Gore Have Put America's Fiscal House In Order and Closed The Book On A Generation of Deficits. In 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore put in place a three-part economic strategy: to cut the deficit to help reduce interest rates and spur business investment; to invest in education, health care, and technology so that America was prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century; and to open markets abroad so that American workers would have a fair chance to compete and win across the globe. Today, America's fiscal house is in order. The Office of Management and Budget now projects that the budget surplus in fiscal year 1999 will exceed \$76 billion.

- **Instead of \$404 Billion Deficit, At Least \$76 Billion Surplus This Year.** When President Clinton took office, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected the deficit to be \$404 billion this year; using preliminary information, the Administration expects the surplus to be at least \$76 billion this year.
- **At Least \$76 Billion Surplus -- The Biggest Dollar Surplus in History.** In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion -- the biggest dollar deficit in American history. This year, the Administration expects the surplus to be at least \$76 billion -- the biggest dollar surplus in American history. As a share of GDP, the budget surplus would be almost one percent this year -- the largest since the 1950s. And for the first time in 40 years, we will have a budget surplus for two years in a row.
- **Seven Years in A Row of Fiscal Improvement -- The First Time in U.S. History.** Reaching a surplus in 1999 would mark the seventh consecutive year of improved fiscal balance -- the longest period of consistent improvement in all of American history.
- **While Cutting Federal Spending To Its Lowest in a Quarter Century, President Clinton Has Expanded Critical Investments in the Future, Such As Education and Training.** President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan included \$255 billion in spending cuts over five years -- more than half of the total deficit reduction package. As a result, federal spending as a share of the economy has declined for each of the past six years and is now the lowest in 24 years. However, as spending has been cut in lower priority areas, President Clinton has dramatically increased funding in critical areas, such as education and training, children, the environment, health care, and research and development.
- **While Eliminating The Budget Deficit, President Clinton Has Provided Tax Relief for Middle-Income Families.** Because of the tax cuts for working families signed into law by President Clinton, the typical American family of four will face the lowest federal tax burden in over two decades (since 1976). President Clinton proposes to build upon this record to provide additional targeted, paid-for tax relief for child care, education, pensions, affordable housing, and the environment.

We Cannot Turn Back: We Have Fixed The Fiscal Deficit, Now We Must Fix The Generational Deficit. President Clinton is committed to taking advantage of this historic opportunity to save Social Security for the 21st century. We must act now to tackle this tough, long-term challenge; and President Clinton believes that we must do it in a way that maintains universality and fairness, ensures that Social Security continues to provide a benefit people can count on, protects low-income and disabled beneficiaries, and maintains our fiscal discipline.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
INCREASING THE QUALITY OF LEARNING**
Expanding After School Programs and Ending Social Promotion
The East Room, The White House
January 7, 1999

Today, President Clinton will be joined by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Gore as he announces his FY 2000 budget proposal to triple funding (from \$200 million to \$600 million) for the 21st Century Learning Center Program, which funds after-school and summer school programs throughout the country. The President will also announce that in awarding these funds, the Education Department will give priority to school districts that are ending social promotion by requiring that students meet academic standards in order to move to the next grade.

Tripling Funding for a Program that Works. President Clinton's FY 2000 budget will propose to increase funding -- from \$200 million in FY 1999 to \$600 million in FY 2000 -- for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, which gives schools funds to operate after-school and summer school programs. This proposal builds on the President's budget victory last year, in which he obtained an increase in funds for the program, from \$40 million to \$200 million. The 21st Century Learning Center Program increases the supply of after-school care in a cost-effective manner, primarily by funding programs that use public school facilities and existing resources. Over 190,000 children in 800 schools, in 46 states and the District of Columbia, are already benefiting from this program, by participating in after-school programs that provide students with enrichment activities, tutoring, recreation and other activities. The President's proposal would help roughly 1.1 million children each year participate in these programs.

Giving Priority to School Districts that End Social Promotion. Under the President's proposal, school districts with comprehensive policies in place to end social promotion will receive priority in the grant-making process. After-school and summer school programs are a critical tool in ending social promotion because they give students who are not on track an opportunity to get extra help so they can meet promotion standards. The President's proposal will target the new 21st Century funds to districts providing after-school and summer school programs to help these students, while enabling these districts to keep these programs open to all students.

Social promotion is the practice of promoting students from grade to grade without regard to whether they have met academic standards required to succeed at the next grade level. School districts with comprehensive policies to end social promotion: (1) require students to demonstrate that they have met academic standards at key grade levels in order to be promoted; (2) use valid objective measures and other indicators to determine whether a student has met the standards; (3) strengthen learning opportunities in the classroom through steps such as clear standards, small classes, well trained teachers, challenging curriculum, and the use of proven instructional practices; and (4) provide for the early identification of students who need extra help to meet the standards and use extended learning time -- particularly after-school instruction

and summer school -- to help students meet the standards. The President's proposal would help local school systems use after-school and summer school as part of their comprehensive strategy to end social promotion.

Responding to Huge Demand for After-School Programs. Today's announcement responds to the millions of parents across the country who want their children to meet high standards and to stay safe and secure in after-school hours. Today, over 28 million school-age children have both parents or their only parent in the workforce. At least 5 million children -- and possibly as many as 15 million -- are left alone at home each week. Experts agree that school-age children who are unsupervised during the hours after school are far more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, commit crimes, receive poor grades, and drop out of school than those who are involved in supervised, constructive activities. Statistics also show that most juvenile crime takes place between the hours of 2 and 8 pm, and that children are at much greater risk of being the victims of crime during the hours after school.

The nationwide demand for expanded after-school programs has made the 21st Century Community Learning Center program one of the most highly competitive programs ever managed by the U.S. Department of Education. In the Education Department's last completed grant competition for this program, the Department received nearly 2,000 applications, requesting more than \$550 million to fund programs in over 6,000 schools in every state in the nation.

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PROMOTING MANUFACTURING EXPORTS TO SUSTAIN U.S. JOBS

January 9, 1999

Following years of double-digit growth, U.S. manufacturing exports slowed in 1998 as a result of global economic problems, which have also led to layoffs by U.S. manufacturing firms. The President's initiative expands and enhances the Administration's export promotion efforts to reflect these new global realities and respond to stepped-up export advocacy by other countries. By expanding the availability of export credit, reaching out to new customers and markets, and delivering higher quality services to U.S. exporters, we can increase U.S. manufacturing exports and protect high-wage jobs. *This \$108 million initiative will generate \$1.8 billion in new U.S. manufacturing exports and sustain 16,000 high-wage U.S. manufacturing jobs.* The initiative:

INCREASES FUNDING FOR THE U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK BY 10% TO SUPPORT MORE MANUFACTURING EXPORTS IN MORE MARKETS

For 65 years, Ex-Im Bank has helped U.S. exporters by providing prudent financing for customers in developing countries when private funds are not available and by leveling the playing field against aggressive, foreign export-credit subsidies. The Bank generates more than \$16 of U.S. exports for every \$1 it spends, and small exporters account for most of its transactions. Ex-Im Bank's role is particularly critical now, because banks have stopped providing credit to many developing countries that are key markets for U.S. exports. The President's initiative provides \$81 million in additional funds for Ex-Im Bank -- 10% above its FY99 budget of \$815 million -- so that Ex-Im Bank can:

- *Help meet the demand for financing aircraft and capital equipment exports in developing markets.* One of every four U.S. commercial aircraft is sold to an Asian airline, but many of these airlines cannot get commercial credit because of Asia's economic problems. Ex-Im Bank currently finances 10% of all U.S. capital equipment exports to the developing world. The President's proposal would allow Ex-Im Bank to provide significantly more financing for exports of U.S. manufactured capital goods and aircraft -- sales that would otherwise have to be deferred or canceled altogether.
- *Expand short-term and medium-term credit to keep U.S. products flowing to emerging markets where private sector financing is no longer available.* Ex-Im Bank supported 2,400 transactions involving more than \$1 billion in U.S. exports to Korea in 1998 (up from \$50 million in 1997). By providing insurance for short-term and medium-term export financing, Ex-Im Bank can help stem the decline of U.S. trade with Latin America, Asia and other developing country markets, which purchase 40% of all U.S. exports.
- *Finance exports to riskier markets.* U.S. exporters increasingly seek Ex-Im Bank financing to meet demand for their products in riskier markets, but the higher cost of providing such financing strains the Bank's budget. Ex-Im Bank support is critical in these markets because commercial bank financing often is unavailable and U.S. exporters compete with foreign firms whose governments often subsidize export credit.

- *Expand environmental technology exports that create U.S. jobs while protecting the environment in developing countries.* Since 1995, Ex-Im Bank has financed \$2 billion in U.S. environmental products and capital goods with very low pollutant emissions. The Bank is key to expanding the U.S. share of this rapidly growing market.

EXPANDS THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (TDA); PROVIDES NEW OPIC RISK INSURANCE TO SUPPORT EXPORT-GENERATING PROJECTS

- Provides \$4 million increase for TDA-funded feasibility studies that allow U.S. companies to enter the planning stages of major export-generating infrastructure projects overseas.
- Offers a new type of political risk insurance through the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC) to make possible up to \$1 billion in new, export-generating investment.

INCREASES RESOURCES FOR EXPORT ADVOCACY AND SERVICE DELIVERY TO SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS

The President's initiative provides an additional \$14 million for the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) for the following:

- The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service will significantly increase the number of its commercial officers in key overseas markets, including China, Latin America and Africa.
- The Department will lead 25 trade missions in 1999 focused on manufacturing, including aircraft parts, auto parts, machine tools, environmental technology, telecommunications equipment and information technology.
- ITA will work with Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) to begin delivering export assistance services to our 350,000 small manufacturers through MEP's 100+ locally run manufacturing extension centers.

EXPANDS U.S. EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL "INFRASTRUCTURE" IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The initiative provides \$9 million for ITA and Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to make it easier and cheaper for U.S. exporters to sell their products in developing markets:

- Expands Commerce efforts to help developing countries establish the legal and regulatory "infrastructure" to facilitate commercial transactions, including: commercial law development, intellectual property rights protection, and internationally recognized product standards.
- Provides support through NIST for greater participation by U.S. industry and government in international standard-setting bodies, to counter the use of exclusive, non-transparent products standards as barriers to trade.
- Assigns Commerce "standards attaches" to key foreign markets to promote use of product standards that help expand U.S. exports.

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RAISING LABOR STANDARDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

January 9, 1999

The enormous growth and integration of the international economy since the end of the Cold War promises a higher standard of living for more people in more countries than ever before. But we must ensure that spirited economic competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom on labor standards. More and more countries are learning from the financial crises in Asia that strong worker protections promote social stability during times of economic turmoil. But developing nations need our help if they are to put in place basic labor protections and strong social safety nets for their workers. President Clinton's FY2000 budget will provide up to \$40 million for the first time ever to help those countries making a determined effort to raise labor standards.

A NEW ARM TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PROTECT WORKERS

In many cases, governments lack the internal expertise or resources needed to implement and enforce core labor and workplace safety standards and build social safety net programs like unemployment insurance and pensions. The U.S. will assist those countries that are willing -- but unable to move forward alone -- by:

- Establishing a new multilateral program at the International Labor Organization (ILO) to provide technical assistance to developing nations;
- Encouraging other nations to join us in supporting the ILO's new program.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORE LABOR STANDARDS

The international community recognizes certain core labor rights as fundamental human rights:

- freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining;
- the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor;
- the abolition of child labor; and
- the elimination of discrimination in the workplace.

The failure of some governments to afford their workers core labor rights and adequate social safety nets has further exacerbated the financial crisis gripping some Asian nations by eliminating from public dialogue the very people upon whose shoulders economic recovery must be built and exacerbating the adjustment process. Free trade unions and other core labor standards are a vital component of a vibrant democracy and a thriving economy, and they must be an integral part of any stable, democratic, and prosperous society.

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BUILDING ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RECORD OF AGGRESSIVE SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS

President Clinton has made leveling up, not down, a key priority as we build a trading system for the 21st Century.

- At the World Trade Organization last May, President Clinton called upon the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) to work together to make certain that open trade lifts living standards and respects the core labor standards that are essential not only to worker rights, but to human rights.
- In an October speech, President Clinton called on the international financial institutions, like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, to build a commitment to core labor standards and labor market institutions into their investment policies.
- The U.S. pressed an effort that led, in June, to the ILO adopting an historic, new declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work that obliges all member countries to respect and promote core labor rights and that includes a meaningful follow-up mechanism to assure accountability.
- Last year, President Clinton fought and obtained from Congress a ten-fold increase -- to \$30 million a year -- for the U.S. contribution to the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). The U.S. now leads the world in supporting programs to move children from work to school and build lasting economic solutions for their families.

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Clinton Revives Proposal to Expand Medicare

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 — In his new budget request, President Clinton will again ask Congress to open Medicare to people 55 to 64 years old, Administration officials said today.

Though the proposal died in Congress last year, Mr. Clinton will resubmit it, in part because he is concerned about the erosion of private insurance coverage among people 55 to 64, the officials said. Medicare now covers people who are 65 and older or who are disabled.

The number of people without health insurance rose by 4 percent in 1997, to 43.4 million, the Census Bureau said. The number of uninsured people age 55 to 64 rose more sharply, by 7 percent, to 3.2 million.

Administration officials said they also intended to propose cutbacks in Medicare payments to hospitals. The cuts, in the range of \$5 billion to \$10 billion over five years, would reduce spending by 1 percent to 2 percent.

Administration officials said such cutbacks were justified because a Federal advisory panel had found that hospitals were making relatively high profits on their Medicare business. The panel, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, said last month that hospital profit margins averaged nearly 16 percent on patients admitted overnight.

Hospital executives said the figures were misleading because one-fourth of all hospitals were losing money on their Medicare inpatient business. And hospitals of all sizes said that they had much lower profit margins on Medicare payments for outpatient services.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, introduced a bill to carry out Mr. Clinton's proposal to expand Medicare last year. Under that proposal, people ages 55 to 64 could have bought Medicare coverage by paying premiums of \$300 to \$400 a month. People 62 to 64 who chose this option would also

have had to pay surcharges on their premiums after they reached the standard eligibility age of 65.

The Administration says the proposal is needed because commercial insurance is often unavailable or unaffordable for people age 55 to 64.

The Administration says its new proposal would cost \$1.4 billion over five years, and the Congressional Budget Office has made a similar estimate. But some insurance experts said last year the plan would not work in the long run because it would attract sicker patients. As premiums were raised to cover the cost of such patients, they said, healthier people under 65 would drop out, and the program would lose money.

Republicans, who control Congress, have shown little interest in Mr. Clinton's plan. But the idea of allowing more people to purchase Medicare coverage will be seriously considered this year as Congress weighs proposals to increase the eligibility age and redesign Medicare.

The New York Times

Sunday, January 10, 1999

Clinton to Offer Transportation Plan, Initiative on Health Care at Small Firms

By BOB DAVIS
And LAURIE MCCONLEY

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration is set to unveil proposals to boost transportation spending and to encourage small businesses to provide health insurance for employees.

Vice President Al Gore plans to announce today that the administration wants to increase spending on public transportation in the next fiscal year by about 13% to \$6.1 billion and, separately, add \$341 million in federal spending for local efforts to control traffic congestion. Such projects would include high-occupancy-vehicle lanes, traffic-monitoring systems and bicycle paths.

The proposals fall under Mr. Gore's so-called Livable Communities Initiative, which aims to reduce urban sprawl and enhance suburban living. As part of the program, the administration plans to provide \$700 million over five years in tax credits for what are being dubbed "Better America Bonds." The administration estimates that the tax credits can generate as much as \$9.5 billion in investments by state and local governments to preserve green space, create urban parks and clean up abandoned industrial sites.

The communities initiative also pledges about \$100 million to encourage different government jurisdictions to coordinate development plans and share information concerning crime.

All the transportation and health-care proposals will be included in the president's budget for fiscal year 2000, which begins Oct. 1, and must be approved by Congress.

On the health-care front, the administration plans to propose temporary tax breaks to encourage small businesses to offer insurance to their workers. The size of the initiative is small by federal standards—about \$44 million over five years. But administration officials said it would provide some relief for a pressing problem: Workers at small firms are much less likely to have health insurance than ones at big companies.

Under the plan, businesses with 50 or fewer employees, which didn't provide health insurance during 1997 or 1998, would receive two-year tax credits if they buy insurance through nonprofit purchasing coalitions. These are organizations made up of small businesses that collect premiums and negotiate with health insurers.

The tax credit would equal 10% of employers' contributions to worker-health plans, as much as \$500 for a family policy and \$200 for an individual policy.

To further encourage the formation of the purchasing groups, the administration will propose that private foundations that provide financial support to such coalitions have their contributions treated as tax exempt. The tax exemption would last for two years and apply to grants and loans made for start-up purposes.

Meanwhile, administration officials confirmed that they are planning to propose further reductions in expected Medicare payments to hospitals. They declined to specify an exact amount, but hospital lobbyists are bracing for five-year reductions in the neighborhood of \$5 billion.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
A HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING OUR LANDS

January 12, 1999

Today, at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., President Clinton and Vice President Gore announce a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative -- the largest one-year investment ever in the protection of America's land resources. This FY 2000 budget proposal -- a 125-percent increase over FY 1999 -- expands federal efforts to save America's natural treasures and provides significant new resources to states and communities to protect local green spaces. To sustain these efforts in the new century, the President commits to work with Congress to create a permanent funding stream beginning in FY 2001. In addition, the President calls on Congress to extend permanent wilderness protection to more than 5 million acres within 17 national parks and monuments. This landmark initiative charts a new conservation vision for the 21st century, preserving irreplaceable pieces of our natural legacy within easy reach of every citizen.

Saving America's Natural Treasures. At the start of this century, President Theodore Roosevelt called on Americans to save the best of our natural endowment for all time. His legacy is seen across the country, in our parks, our forests, and our wildlife refuges. President Clinton has continued to fulfill this vision by protecting Yellowstone Park from mining, creating a 1.7 million-acre national monument in Utah's spectacular red-rock country, and forging a historic agreement to save ancient California redwoods. The Lands Legacy Initiative expands these efforts with \$442 million for federal land acquisitions. Priorities include:

- Mojave Desert - Acquiring 450,000 acres within and around Mojave and Joshua Tree National Parks.
- New England Forests - Acquiring additional land within national forests and wildlife refuges in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York.
- Everglades - Acquiring lands critical to ongoing federal-state restoration efforts.
- Lewis and Clark Trail - Protecting the explorers' historic route along the Missouri River.
- Civil War Battlefields - Acquiring lands within Gettysburg, Antietam and other battlegrounds.

Protecting our Parks. In addition, the President is calling on Congress to grant permanent wilderness protection to over 5 million acres within the backcountry of Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Glacier, Great Smoky Mountains, Cumberland Gap and 12 other national parks and monuments, giving these lands the highest level of federal protection available.

A Conservation Vision for the 21st Century. A new century poses new conservation challenges. Beyond saving America's "crown jewels," we must work as well to preserve natural wonders in our very backyards that grow scarcer every day. Protecting local green spaces helps improve air and water quality, sustain wildlife, provide families with places to play and relax, and make our communities more livable. Lands Legacy, to be coordinated with the Livability Agenda announced yesterday by Vice President Gore, provides \$588 million to state and local governments, private land trusts, and other nonprofit groups for:

Land Acquisition Grants - \$150 million in matching grants for land or easements for urban parks, greenways, outdoor recreation, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

Planning Grants and Loans - \$50 million in matching grants for open space planning, and \$10 million to support \$50 million in low-interest loans to rural areas for "smart growth" planning and development.

Farmland Protection - \$50 million for easements on threatened farmland and open space.

Urban Parks and Forests - \$40 million to maintain and expand urban and community forests, and \$4 million to renovate parks in distressed urban neighborhoods.

Forest and Wildlife Protection - \$50 million for easements to protect critical forest habitat, and \$80 million for habitat conservation plans to protect endangered species.

Protecting our Oceans and Coasts. Lands Legacy includes funds for federal and state efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources: \$29 million to expand and protect national marine sanctuaries; \$90 million to states to protect and restore coastlands; \$19 million to states for estuary protections; and \$45 million to restore coral reefs, fisheries and marine habitats.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S LANDS LEGACY INITIATIVE:
Forging a Conservation Vision for the 21st Century
January 12, 1999**

President Clinton, in the FY 2000 budget he will submit to Congress, is proposing a \$1 billion Lands Legacy initiative to expand federal protection of critical lands across America, help states and communities preserve local green spaces, and strengthen protections for our oceans and coasts.

This landmark initiative -- a 125 percent increase over FY 1999 funding -- represents the largest one-year investment ever in the preservation of America's lands legacy. It includes \$900 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), marking the first time any Administration has requested full funding from LWCF, which draws revenues from federal offshore oil sales. To sustain these efforts in the new century, the President commits to work with Congress to create a permanent funding stream beginning in FY 2001.

The Lands Legacy initiative continues the Clinton-Gore Administration's vigorous efforts to save America's natural treasures. And, by providing significant new resources to states and local communities, it forges a new conservation vision for the 21st century -- one that recognizes the importance of preserving irreplaceable pieces of our natural legacy within easy reach of every citizen.

Lands Legacy will be administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), \$579 million; the Department of Agriculture (USDA), \$268 million; and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), \$183 million. It will be coordinated with the \$1 billion Livability Agenda announced by Vice President Gore of January 11 through interagency cooperation and consultation.

In addition, the President is calling on Congress to extend permanent wilderness protection to more than 5 million acres in 17 national parks and monuments, including Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Glacier, Great Smoky Mountains and Cumberland Gap.

Saving America's Natural Treasures

Federal Acquisitions - The initiative increases federal land acquisition funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 26 percent to a total of \$413 million (\$295 million for DOI, and \$118 million for USDA). In recent years, the Administration has dedicated LWCF funds to protecting Yellowstone National Park from mining, saving ancient redwoods in California's Headwaters Forest, preserving Civil War battlefields, completing the Maine-to-Georgia Appalachian Trail, and acquiring more than 100 other natural and historic sites across the country. Priorities for FY 2000 include acquisition of over 450,000 acres in California's Mojave Desert, 100,000 acres for addition to New England wildlife refuges and national forests, and lands critical to the ongoing restoration of Florida's Everglades.

Protecting Our Parks - The President also is calling on Congress to grant permanent wilderness protection to over 5 million acres within Arches, Big Bend, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Crater Lake, Glacier, Grand Teton, Great Smoky Mountains, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone and Zion National Parks; Cedar Breaks, Colorado and Dinosaur National Monuments; Assateague Island

National Seashore, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, and Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Granting these areas the highest level of federal protection available would, in the words of the Wilderness Act of 1964, recognize them as areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Helping States and Communities Preserve Green Spaces

Land Acquisition Grants - Lands Legacy includes \$150 million through LWCF for matching grants to state, local and tribal governments, and nonprofit land trusts, for acquisition of land and easements for urban parks, greenways, outdoor recreations, wildlife habitat, and coastal wetlands. The DOI program retools the LWCF state grants program for "smart growth" and open space preservation. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, with priority going to projects consistent with statewide "smart growth" plans.

Open Space Planning Grants - The initiative proposes a new \$50 million program of matching grants to states to develop open space preservation and "smart growth" strategies. States would use a variety of data and tools to identify priority areas for urban development, farmland, and conservation. The program, administered by DOI, would award grants competitively, with priority going to proposals that tie state plans to regional strategies for managing the economy, job growth, and infrastructure development.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - The initiative proposes \$80 million -- a \$66 million increase -- for state and local land acquisition to protect threatened and endangered species. By supporting Habitat Conservation Plans and other flexible tools under the Endangered Species Act, the Fund promotes collaborative strategies that sustain both wildlife and economic development. The program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Forest Legacy Program - To protect private forest land that provides critical wildlife habitat and is threatened by development, the initiative proposes \$50 million -- an increase of more than six-fold -- for matching grants to states for the purchase of permanent conservation easements. Use of protected lands for forestry and compatible activities is permitted. The program is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the proposed funding would protect roughly 135,000 acres.

Urban and Community Forestry - The initiative proposes \$40 million -- a 29 percent increase -- for matching grants to states and communities to establish, maintain, and expand urban and community forests and related green spaces. The program, administered by USFS, operates in partnership with 8,000 volunteer organizations in more than 10,000 communities. The proposed funding would support 75,000 projects in more than 10,000 communities.

Farmland Protection Program - To protect farmland and sustain rural economies, Lands Legacy would provide \$50 million in matching grants to states, communities, tribes and land trusts for the purchase of permanent conservation easements on farmland threatened by development. The program, administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was created by the 1996 Farm Bill. Through mid-1998, \$35 million in federal funding had leveraged an estimated \$230 million in easements, protecting about 127,000 acres.

Smart Growth Partnership - Lands Legacy proposes a new revolving loan program to support acquisition of land and easements in rural areas. The Partnership, administered by USDA, would make loans to intermediate borrowers (state, local and tribal governments, and nonprofit corporations), which in turn would loan funds to rural businesses, land trusts and other nonprofit organizations. Proposed funding of \$10 million would support \$50 million in loans. Priorities are supporting "smart growth" strategies and helping owners of underproducing forest land at risk of sale improve forest productivity.

Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery - The initiative proposes \$4 million in matching grants and technical assistance for the restoration of parks in economically distressed urban communities. The program, administered by the National Park Service, awarded over 1200 grants from 1978 to 1995 but has remained unfunded since 1995.

Protecting Our Oceans and Coasts

National Marine Sanctuaries - Lands Legacy proposes \$29 million -- a 107 percent increase -- to strengthen protections at 12 marine sanctuaries off California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, and American Samoa, and to plan for future marine sanctuaries. The funding will allow NOAA to accelerate the adoption and implementation of management plans for existing sanctuaries and expand outreach activities with coastal communities.

Coastal Zone Management Act Program - To help promote "smart growth" strategies along America's coasts, the initiative proposes \$90 million, a 55 percent increase, to help states implement Critical Coastal Area Management and Restoration Plans. The matching grants can be used to acquire lands or to undertake other efforts to protect wildlife habitat, protect life and property from coastal hazards, and revitalize ports and urban waterfronts.

National Estuarine Research Reserves System - The initiative proposes \$19 million, a 375 percent increase, to expand a network of critical estuaries representing all the biological regions along America's coasts. NOAA provides guidance and matching funds to states to acquire land, protect resources and conduct research and education. Twenty-two reserves in 19 states and territories manage about 500,000 acres. The proposed funding would double the protected acreage.

Coral Reef Restoration - Lands Legacy proposes \$10.3 million -- a \$10 million increase -- to protect fragile coral reefs from pollution and other human impacts. NOAA, in conjunction with DOI, would restore injured reefs in Puerto Rico, Florida, Hawaii and U.S. territories, and develop a coral nursery to grow donor material for restoration projects.

Coastal Dredge Area Restoration - The initiative proposes \$10 million for NOAA to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use material dredged from ports and shipping channels to restore coastal habitats. Dredging is critical to keep shipping lanes open and deepen channels to accommodate larger ships. Reusing dredge spoils benefits the environment and reduces disposal costs.

Fisheries Habitat Restoration - To restore declining fisheries, the initiative proposes \$25 million for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service to acquire and protect critical habitat. Efforts would focus on Northeast and Middle Atlantic coast, the Gulf Coast, the West Coast, Alaska, and other regions that participate in the National Estuary Program or have multiple threatened or endangered species.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, January 13, 1999

Contact:
(202) 456-7035

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES 20 NEW EMPOWERMENT ZONES

Zones Now Eligible to Receive Billions for Long Term Revitalization and Job Creation

WASHINGTON, DC – Vice President Gore today named 20 economically distressed communities as new Empowerment Zones, making them eligible to share in \$3.8 billion in proposed federal grants and tax-exempt bonding authority to finance sweeping revitalization and job creation programs over the next 10 years.

If Congress approves full funding for the Empowerment Zones, the federal investment is expected to help create and retain about 90,000 jobs and stimulate \$20.3 billion in private and public investment in the next 10 years in the Zones. This would have a dramatic effect in the areas of our country which face high unemployment, weak economies, shortages of affordable housing and challenges.

"Empowerment Zones create a successful partnership between all levels of government, private businesses, community groups and local residents to bring new life to inner cities and rural communities suffering from hard economic times," Vice President Gore said. "These Zones do exactly what their name says – they empower people willing to work hard to improve their communities, improve their lives, and build better futures for their children. They help to connect the communities that need it most to new opportunity."

This Second Round of Empowerment Zones builds on the experience of the program's First Round, which included eleven Zones (as well as 94 Enterprise Communities), awarded in December 1994. The First Round has resulted in more than \$8 billion in private-sector investment to the designated communities and unprecedented public-private partnerships.

The Second Round offers additional potential to link communities to their broader regional economies. Second-Round Zones were able to designate up to 2,000 acres of underutilized "developable property" outside the formal Zone area that can receive Zone benefits and be used for job-creation for Zone residents. For the first time, Indian tribes with poverty areas also qualified to apply for and receive designation.

NEW ZONES

New Urban Empowerment Zones announced today by the Vice President are in:

Boston, MA,
Bridgeton/Vineland, NJ
Cincinnati, OH
Columbia/Sumter, SC
Columbus, OH
El Paso, TX
Gary/East Chicago, IN
Huntington, WV, Ironton, OH

Knoxville, TN
Miami, FL
Minneapolis, MN
New Haven, CT
Norfolk/Portsmouth, VA
Santa Ana, CA
St. Louis, MO
East St. Louis, IL

New Rural Empowerment Zones announced today by the Vice President are in:

Cordele, GA
Fargo, ND
Oglala Sioux Reservation in Pine Ridge, SD

Riverside County, CA
Ullin, IL

The Vice President, who chairs the Administration's Community Empowerment Board, announced the new Zones and Enterprise Communities at a White House event with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

"Empowerment Zones are making the American Dream of a good job, a healthy community and a good home a reality for growing numbers of our people," Cuomo said. "The Zones are a powerful engine generating economic growth and prosperity."

"These designations will further reduce government red tape and help these rural communities thrive," added Glickman.

ZONE BENEFITS

The 20 new Empowerment Zones designated today will share \$55 million in federal grants already approved for this year - \$3 million for each Urban Zone and \$2 million for each Rural Zone.

The Clinton Administration has already won Congressional approval of \$2.2 billion in tax-exempt bonding authority for the group of 20 Zones announced today, along with other tax incentives over the next 10 years.

The Administration is seeking Congressional approval for \$1.5 billion in federal grants for the group of 15 Urban Zones spread over 10 years, and \$100 million in such grants for the group of five Rural Zones for the same period.

This works out to \$130 million in bonding authority and \$100 million in grants for

each Urban Zone, and \$60 million in bonding authority and \$20 million in grants for each Rural Zone over 10 years.

FUNDING FOR MORE CITIES

The Vice President also announced that President Clinton's proposed federal budget for the 2000 fiscal year will seek an additional \$65 million in special grants that would go to some of the cities that applied for but did not receive designation as Urban Empowerment Zones. A total of \$45 million of the grants would go to the 15 communities – called Strategic Planning Communities – that were finalists in the competition for selection as Urban Empowerment Zones.

The Strategic Planning Communities, which would each get \$3 million next year under the President's budget request are in:

Anchorage, Alaska	Las Vegas/North Las Vegas, Nevada
Birmingham, Alabama	Little Rock/North Little Rock, Arkansas
Burlington, Vermont/Plattsburgh, New York	New Orleans, Louisiana
Charleston/North Charleston, South Carolina	New York City/Brooklyn, New York
Jackson, Mississippi	Newark/Elizabeth, New Jersey
Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas City, Kansas	Providence, Rhode Island
Louisville, Kentucky	San Antonio, Texas
	Tacoma/Lakewood, Washington

The remaining \$20 million would help Urban Zone applicants fund strategic planning and technical assistance.

FUNDING FOR MORE RURAL AREAS

In addition to announcing the new Empowerment Zones, the Vice President today announced 20 additional communities have been designated as Rural Enterprise Communities, making them eligible for a share of \$50 million in proposed federal grants over the next 10 years. The grants are expected to help the Rural Enterprise Communities create and retain 16,000 jobs and stimulate \$500 million in additional private and public investment over 10 years.

The 20 new Rural Enterprise Communities selected for designation today will share \$5 million in federal grants already approved for this year – \$250,000 for each.

The Rural Enterprise Communities are in:

Ada, Oklahoma	Juneau, Alaska
Hallandale, South Carolina	Keshena, Wisconsin
Austin, Indiana	Leoti, Kansas
Bowling Green, Kentucky	Lewiston, Maine
Charleston, West Virginia	Orange Cove, California
Collie, Washington	Poplar, Montana

Deming, New Mexico
Harrison, Michigan
Immokalee, Florida
Kaunakakai, Hawaii

Rutledge, Tennessee
Uniontown, Pennsylvania
Uvalde, Texas
Window Rock, Arizona

USDA will seek \$5 million for additional special grants next year for rural communities, known as Champion Communities, that applied for but did not get Empowerment Zone designation.

ZONE SELECTION

This year 279 communities and groups of adjacent communities competed for the Empowerment Zone designation -- 119 in urban areas and 160 in rural areas. In order to compete for Empowerment Zone status, communities must submit strategic revitalization plans that act as roadmaps for transforming troubled communities.

Zones were selected based on a scoring system that measured the quality of revitalization plans and private and public sector commitments made to implement the plans. Career civil servants made the selections.

Further information on today's announcement may be obtained via the world wide web at: <http://www.ezec.gov> or by contacting HUD's public affairs office at 202-708-0685 or USDA's public affairs office at (202) 720-2091.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE UNVEIL NEW INITIATIVE
TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

January 13, 1999

Today, President Clinton will unveil a historic new initiative that will remove significant barriers for people with disabilities to go back to work. This three-part budget initiative, which invests more than \$2 billion over five years, includes: (1) full funding of the Work Incentives Improvement Act which will be introduced by Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth, and Moynihan next week; (2) a new \$1,000 tax credit to cover work-related costs for people with disabilities; and (3) expanded access to information and communications technologies. With these new proposals, the Administration will have taken action on every recommendation made in the report of the President's Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities, which the Vice President accepted last month. Justin Dart, one of the foremost leaders of the disability community, stated in response to today's proposals: "The Clinton-Gore Administration has a long history of supporting the disability community. This policy initiative is one of the boldest since the landmark passage of the ADA."

CRITICAL NEED TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO WORK

Since President Clinton took office, the American economy has added 17.7 million new jobs, and unemployment is at a 29-year low of 4.3 percent. The unemployment rate among all working-age adults with disabilities, however, is nearly 75 percent. According to current estimates, about 1.6 million working-age adults have a disability that leads to functional limitations and 14 million working-age adults have less severe but still significant disabilities.

People with disabilities can bring tremendous energy and talent to the American workforce, but institutional barriers often limit their ability to work. Most critically, people with disabilities often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work. This means that many people with disabilities are put in the untenable position of choosing between health care coverage and work. In addition, advances in technology and communications are often not accessible to people with disabilities.

THREE-PART INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Funding the Work Incentives Improvement Act in the President's budget. Health care -- particularly prescription drugs and personal assistance -- is essential for people with disabilities to work. Today, the President is announcing that his FY 2000 budget will fund the full cost of the Work Incentives Improvement Act. This proposal, which costs \$1.2 billion over 5 years, would:

- Improve access to health care by:
 - Expanding states' ability to provide a Medicaid buy-in to people with disabilities who return to work. This provision would enable states to offer the buy-in to people whose assets and/or income exceed current limits. It also would give states the option of offering the buy-in to people with medical conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, who do not meet the current disability standard, but who can work only because of medical treatment. Finally, this provision would give health care grants to those states that do so.

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- Extending Medicare coverage, for the first time, for people with disabilities who return to work. Although Medicare does not provide as comprehensive a benefit as Medicaid, this aspect of the proposal ensures that all people with disabilities who return to work have access to health care coverage, even if they live in a state that does not take the Medicaid option.
- Creating a new Medicaid buy-in demonstration to help people with a specific physical or mental impairment that is not yet severe enough to qualify for health care assistance, but that is reasonably expected to lead to a severe disability in the absence of medical treatment. This demonstration could help people with muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's Disease, HIV or diabetes who are able to work with appropriate health care.
- Modernize the employment services system by creating a "ticket" that will enable SSI or SSDI beneficiaries to go to any of a number of public or private providers for vocational rehabilitation. If the beneficiary goes to work and achieves substantial earnings, providers would be paid a portion of the benefits saved.
- Create a Work Incentive Grant program to provide benefits planning and assistance, facilitate access to information about work incentives, and better integrate services for people with disabilities working or returning to work.

Providing a \$1,000 tax credit for work-related expenses for people with disabilities. The daily costs of getting to and from work, and being effective at work, can be high if not prohibitive for people with disabilities. Under this new proposal, workers with significant disabilities would receive an annual \$1,000 tax credit to help cover the formal and informal costs that are associated with employment, such as special transportation and technology. Like the Jeffords-Kennedy-Roth-Moynihan Work Incentive Act, this tax credit, which will assist 200,000 to 300,000 Americans, will help ensure that people with disabilities have the tools they need to return to work. The credit will cost \$700 million over 5 years.

Improving access to assistive technology. Technology is often not adapted for people with disabilities and, even when it is, people with disabilities may not be able to afford it. This new initiative would accelerate the development and adoption of information and communications technologies that can improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and enhance their ability to participate in the workplace. The initiative would: (1) help make the Federal government a model user of assistive technology; (2) support new and expanded state loan programs to make assistive technology more affordable for Americans with disabilities; and (3) invest in research and development and technology transfer in areas such as text to speech for people who are blind, automatic captioning for people who are deaf, and speech recognition and eye tracking for people who can't use a keyboard. It would provide \$35 million in FY 2000, more than double the government's current investment in deploying assistive technology.

With these steps, the Administration has taken action on all Task Force Recommendations. In December, the Vice President accepted the report of the President's Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities, took action on some of their recommendations, and pledged that the Administration would review others in the budget process. With the new steps taken today, as well as an announcement that Mrs. Gore will make tomorrow, the Administration has taken action on all the Task Force formal recommendations:

- Work to pass the Work Incentive Improvement Act.
- Work to pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights.
- Examine tax options to assist with expenses of work.
- Foster interdisciplinary consortia for employment services.
- Accelerate development and adoption of assistive technology.
- Direct Small Business Administration to expand outreach.
- Remove Federal hiring barriers for people with mental illness -- Mrs. Gore will unveil this tomorrow.
- Direct OPM to develop model plan for Federal hiring of people with disabilities.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES 21st CENTURY POLICING INITIATIVE

January 14, 1999

Today, President Clinton will announce the inclusion in the FY 2000 budget of nearly \$1.3 billion for a new 21st Century Policing Initiative. The new initiative builds on the President's successful COPS program by helping communities to continue to hire, redeploy, and retain police officers; giving law enforcement officers access to the latest crime-fighting technologies; and targeting funds to engage the entire community -- including community leaders, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, school officials, and faith-based organizations -- in preventing and fighting crime.

In addition, the President will announce the release of new crime statistics showing that crime rates continued to drop significantly in 1998.

Giving Police the Support and Tools They Need

Renewing the COPS program. The President's FY 2000 budget proposes nearly \$1.3 billion -- and nearly \$6.4 billion over the next five years -- for a new 21st Century Policing Initiative to help communities build on their efforts under the successful COPS program. Without these new funds, the COPS program would be phased out this year, shortly after meeting its goal of helping communities put 100,000 more police on the street. National law enforcement organizations support extending funding for the COPS program.

21st Century Policing Initiative. The 21st Century Policing program is designed to help communities continue to hire, redeploy, and retain police officers; to give law enforcement officers access to the latest crime-fighting technologies; and to engage the entire community -- including community-based prosecutors, probation and parole officers, school officials, faith-based organizations, and many others -- in preventing and fighting crime. Specifically, the initiative, as outlined in the FY 2000 budget, calls for the following investments:

\$600 million for more police on the street. These funds would be used primarily to hire and redeploy between 30,000 and 50,000 more law enforcement officers over five years, with an effort to target new police officers to crime "hot spots." A portion of the funds would also be used to help economically-distressed communities absorb the long-term costs of their new police hires, and for programs to train, educate, and recruit police officers.

\$350 million for crime-fighting technologies. These funds would be used to help state and local enforcement agencies tap into new technologies that will allow them to communicate more effectively, solve more crimes, and conduct comprehensive crime analysis. Examples include:

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Improved police communications. The World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings dramatically illustrated the need for law enforcement officials from different agencies and jurisdictions to communicate effectively in joint operations. In Alexandria, the police department is piloting a number of different technologies (computers, wireless communications, videocams, software, and databases) that will enable police and other public safety officials to communicate and send data and images seamlessly across many jurisdictions. The President's new initiative will allow other communities to do the same, as well as to improve their communications in other ways.

New crime-solving technologies. We can solve many more crimes by improving the nation's overburdened and underfunded crime labs. The President's initiative proposes making high-end technologies --such as DNA analysis, photo enhancement, and voice recognition --available to even the smallest police departments.

Bolstering Crime Analysis. As more police departments move toward community policing, many have found that their greatest tool is real-time crime and arrest data, which allows them to achieve a detailed understanding of their crime problem and determine how to best combat it. A notable example is New York's COMPSTAT project, which utilizes computerized statistics and mapping to analyze crime trends and allocate police resources. The President's new initiative will help local police departments tap into crime mapping and other technologies that will improve officers' ability to analyze, predict and respond to local crime problems.

\$200 million for community prosecutors and neighborhood district attorneys. As police and community residents have joined forces to fight crime on a proactive basis, communities also have turned to local prosecutors to play a more active role in the crime-fighting effort. In Multnomah County, OR, neighborhood DAs work closely with local police, spend time in neighborhoods, and help solve local crime problems. The President's initiative will help communities throughout the country hire more community-based prosecutors and develop community-based prosecution programs.

\$125 million for community-wide crime prevention. Finally, the President's 21st Century Policing proposes specifically targeting funds to engage the entire community in preventing and fighting crime. These funds could be used to: work with probation and parole officers in supervising released offenders; work with local school officials in adopting community-wide plans to prevent school violence; involve faith-based organizations in juvenile crime prevention; and establish citizens' police academies that teach neighborhood residents problem-solving skills.

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Crimes Rates Continued to Decline in 1998

New mid-year data for 1998. Today, for the first time, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will release mid-year data showing that crime rates continued to decline in 1998. According to BJS, the total number of serious violent crimes -- including crimes not reported to police -- is expected to fall below 3 million in 1998 for the first time since the start of its National Crime Victimization Survey in 1973. Property crimes will also continue to decline to record lows. By the end of 1998, both violent and property crime rates will have fallen by well over 20 percent since 1993.

Murder rates down dramatically. Recently, BJS also released a study showing that homicide rates have dropped to their lowest level in 30 years. If the current rates remain steady through the end of 1998, the murder rate will have dropped by more than 30 percent since 1993.

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PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S NEW MARKETS

January 15, 1998

Despite the longest peacetime economic expansion in history, marked by tremendous business and job growth, and much capital in search of good investment opportunities, many urban and rural areas of the country have not participated in the capital investment that has spurred job growth and economic development elsewhere at home and abroad. President Clinton's commitment to building one America is a commitment to making progress for all Americans, in every home and community in the nation.

President Clinton challenged the leaders of Wall Street, who are fueling America's economic growth, to take the lead in investing in America's own "New Markets" -- inner-city areas, like New York's East Harlem, and distressed rural areas like parts of Appalachia. The President's FY 2000 balanced budget includes a new initiative designed to create the conditions for success by:

- providing tax credit and loan guarantee incentives to stimulate billions of new private capital investment in targeted areas;
- building a network of private investment institutions to funnel credit, equity, and technical assistance into businesses in America's new markets; and
- providing the expertise to targeted small businesses that will allow them to use new investment to grow.

WORKING WITH EXPERTS AND CONGRESS

The President's New Markets Initiative was developed by an Administration task force that consulted with investment advisors, community development financial and venture capital pioneers, and Members of Congress who have lead efforts to promote investment in underserved areas. President Clinton has laid out a solid framework from which to build, but he will further solicit the reactions and ideas of a wide range of experts and Congressional leaders before he sends the legislation to Congress.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE PRIVATE MARKET TO REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

The New Markets initiative will prompt approximately \$15 billion in new investment in urban and rural areas through:

1. *The New Markets Tax Credit* -- To help spur \$6 billion in new equity capital for investment in America's New Markets, President Clinton has proposed a tax credit worth up to 25 percent for investments in a wide range of vehicles serving these communities,

including community development banks, venture funds and corporations, the new investment company programs announced by the President (see descriptions below), and other targeted investment funds. Credits would be allocated to the targeted investment vehicles which could use the tax credits to attract investors. The investment funds would make their own decisions about what investments or loans to make to help create and grow businesses in the New Markets. A wide range of businesses could be financed by these investment funds, including small technology firms, inner-city shopping centers, manufacturers with hundreds of employees, and retail stores.

2. ***America's Private Investment Companies (APICs)*** – For years, America has supported OPIC, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, to promote growth in emerging markets abroad. Now we must do the same thing in America's New Markets. Under this program, investors will put a minimum of \$100 million in equity into new private investment partnerships to be known as America's Private Investment Companies (APICs). HUD and SBA working together will provide up to another \$200 million in loan guarantees for each. APICs will make equity investments in larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner cities and rural areas. Under the financing structure, the private investors' funds are at risk ahead of the government. However, the individual investment decisions must be approved by the government for consistency with the public policy mission of the program.
3. ***SBICs Targeted to New Markets*** --Over 40 years, the SBA's small business investment company (SBIC) program has provided roughly \$20 billion in equity and debt financing to more than 85,000 different companies, helping them at a critical stage to grow from small businesses to household names, like AOL and Staples. However, too little of the capital invested has benefited our cities and rural distressed communities. Last summer, the Vice President challenged the SBA to find ways to meet better the needs of minority firms and underserved markets. In response, SBA determined that, under existing legislation, the Agency can offer more flexibility and new financing terms to make it more attractive for SBICs to invest in businesses in low and moderate income (LMI) areas. Specifically, SBICs making LMI investments will be eligible for a new type of federally guaranteed loan to augment their capital for business investment. Interest on the guaranteed funding will be deferred for the first five years of the 10-year term to give SBICs more time to nurture their investments in small businesses before they must produce a return. In addition, SBA will conduct an aggressive outreach campaign around the country to promote LMI investments.
4. ***New Markets Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs)*** -- There are thousands of inner-city and rural entrepreneurs who need both capital and expert guidance to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies. SBA will select ten-to-twenty NMVC firms whose management has successful records in community-based venture capital. The equity funds of private investors will be matched with government debt guarantees of up to \$10 million per NMVC, with interest on the debt deferred. Investors

must also provide at least \$1.5 million in technical assistance over five years to the target firms, matching SBA's grants of technical assistance. The program should provide long-term, patient growth capital and facilitate critically needed technology and management skills development for smaller businesses in new markets.

5. ***New Markets Lending Companies (NMLC)*** -- For the first time in many years, SBA will approve approximately 10 new non-bank lenders -- firms authorized to originate loans under SBA's largest loan program -- the 7(a) General Business Loan Guaranty program. Under the 7(a) program, SBA guarantees up to 80% of a loan that is made by a lender to a creditworthy small business that cannot otherwise secure financing on reasonable terms. The firms selected must have a strategy to target their lending to underserved areas.
6. ***Continued Growth for CDFIs*** -- The President's initiative to develop community development financial institutions (CDFIs), locally-based institutions with expertise in lending and investment in underserved areas, will continue to grow. His FY 2000 balanced budget will include \$125 million for the CDFI fund. Thus far, CDFI has made over \$180 million in awards to community development organizations and financial institutions.
7. ***BusinessLINC*** -- The President's budget will include \$3 million in seed money to expand BusinessLINC -- an innovative public-private partnership launched by Vice President Gore and led by Treasury Secretary Rubin and SBA Administrator Alvarez -- to new markets in economically distressed communities. BusinessLINC (Learning, Information, Networking and Collaboration) is designed to encourage large businesses to work with small business owners and entrepreneurs in order to improve the economic competitiveness of smaller firms located in distressed areas, both urban and rural. The funds will be used to leverage private sector efforts to spur new BusinessLINC partnerships at the national and local level.
8. ***Specialized Small Business Investment Companies (SSBICs)*** -- The President's budget will expand current tax incentives to increase the amount of equity capital available to economically disadvantaged people by making it easier for Specialized Small Business Investment Companies (SSBICs) to qualify as tax-favored regulated investment companies.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

More than \$1 Trillion of Financial Commitments to Underserved Communities

President Clinton Said Today That He Will Protect the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), Which Has Helped Bring More than \$1 Trillion of Financial Commitments to America's Underserved Communities. In 1977, Congress enacted CRA to combat the practice of "red-lining" communities by publicly insured banks and thrifts. CRA encourages banks and thrifts to meet the credit needs of their communities, consistent with safe and sound banking practices. Federal bank and thrift supervisors assess financial institution's performance: loans made, services provided, and investments in their communities. Banks and thrifts make their CRA ratings public and the public has an opportunity to comment on CRA performance before the start of a scheduled examination.

CRA Helps Bring Capital To Our Neighborhoods Without Being Burdensome to Banks:

- In April 1995, the Clinton Administration dramatically simplified and strengthened CRA. Under the new regulations, CRA compliance is less intrusive and burdensome -- and more productive. The emphasis is now on results -- not paperwork and process. As James McLaughlin of the American Bankers Association said: "For the vast majority of banks it reduced record keeping, exams went quicker, and banks now know what is required of them."

CRA Is Working To Bring The Spark of Private Enterprise To America's Communities:

- According to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), the private sector has pledged more than \$1 trillion going forward in loans to distressed communities -- and more than 95 percent of these financial commitments have been made since 1992. That means that there have been 23 times more financial commitments to distressed communities from banks in the past six years than in the previous 15 years combined.
- According to Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data, lending to minorities and low-income borrowers is on the rise. For example, since 1993, the number of mortgage loans to African Americans increased by 58 percent, to Hispanics by 62 percent, and to low- and moderate-income borrowers by 38 percent -- well above the overall market.

CRA Helps Small Businesses -- The Engine of Our Economic Growth:

- Small business lending is an integral part of bank CRA compliance. Banks are assessed on their effort to support small businesses under the lending, investment, and services tests. And for the first time, large banks are reporting small business loan data by census tract.

CRA IS GOOD BANKING BUSINESS

- **Lawrence Lindsey, former Governor of the Federal Reserve:** "Many [institutions] now recognize that in an era of growing competition, CRA performance may be critical to an institution's ability to adjust to the new banking environment. CRA-related activities can help develop new markets, potentially profitable business, and improve a bank's public image."
- **Mario Antoci, Chairman and CEO of American Savings:** "Lending in the inner city [has] turned out to be the most profitable part of our business over the past few years."

A NATION TRANSFORMED

Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments: 1993 - 1999

Over the last six years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have led America in preparing for the 21st Century. The President and Vice President have put our economic house in order while providing tax relief for middle income families, expanding critical investments in the future and continuing American leadership in the world. The accomplishments of the Clinton-Gore Administration are giving Americans the tools to realize their potential, providing opportunity while demanding responsibility and building One America in which all are challenged to serve.

Economy: the Strongest Economy in a Generation

Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits -- in 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs -- more than 90% of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

Fastest Real-Wage Growth In More Than Two Decades -- after adjusting for inflation, wages have increased 2.5% in the past 12 months -- the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades.

Lowest Unemployment in Nearly Thirty Years -- down from 7.5% in 1992 to 4.3% today -- staying below 5% for 18 months in a row.

Highest Homeownership Rate in History -- there are more than 7 million new homeowners since the President took office.

Families and Communities: Strengthening America's Working Families

\$500 Per-Child Tax Credit -- 26 million families with 40 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit.

Tax Cuts for Working Families -- 15 million working families receive additional tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Largest Four-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s -- Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7% to 19.9% -- the biggest four-year drop in nearly 30 years.

Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million workers.

Protecting Families -- Family and Medical Leave allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. Millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act -- this law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.

Putting Families First -- put in place first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco. Required the installation of V-chips in all new televisions. Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to deter school violence and promote discipline. Produced guidelines on religious expression in public schools.

Supporting Community Service -- In just five years, AmeriCorps has allowed more than 100,000 young people to serve their communities while earning money for college or skills training.

Building One America -- established the President's Initiative on Race to lead the nation towards becoming One America in the 21st Century. In FY99 budget, won first real increase in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in several years.

Education: Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years

Making 13th & 14th Grades as Universal As High School -- making the first two years of college universally available with \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship credits.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, Work Study and Increased Pell Grants -- 20% tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded IRA allows penalty and tax-free withdrawals for education. This year, nearly one million students will be able to work their way through college because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever.

Making College More Affordable -- cut student fees and interest rates on all loans, expanded repayment options including income contingent repayment, and improved service through the Direct Loan Program.

More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Class Sizes -- won a down payment on the President's new initiative to hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers, helping school districts reduce class size in the early grades.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade -- more than 1000 colleges have committed Work Study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. Won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year -- expanded the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.

Preparing for the 21st Century by Expanding Access to Education Technology -- created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet by 2000, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. Increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million in 1993 to \$698 million this year. Secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals.

Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children -- created a new mentoring initiative to help up to 100,000 low income middle school children prepare for college.

Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public School -- supported increase of public charter schools, from one charter school in the nation in 1993 to more than 1,000 charter schools in 1998, on track toward 3,000 quality charter schools early next century.

Providing Early Education to 835,000 Children with Head Start -- now reaching more kids than at any time since its creation in 1965 and more than 200,000 additional children than in 1992.

Crime and Drugs: Lowest Crime Rates in 25 Years

Violent Crime at Lowest Level since 1973 -- violent crime fell 7% in 1997 and 21% since 1993. The murder rate is down more than 25% since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Street -- in 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities.

Over 250,000 Felons, Fugitives and Stalkers Denied Handguns -- since the President signed the Brady Bill into law. And the historic 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, keeping assault weapons off our streets.

Developed Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy Including an Unprecedented \$2 Billion Anti-Drug Youth Media Campaign -- appointed four-star General Barry McCaffrey as the nation's Drug Czar.

Fighting Hate Crimes -- enacted the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act in 1994. Announced sponsorship of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act during the historic White House Conference on Hate Crimes in 1997.

Health Care: Increasing Access for Millions of Americans

Protected Medicare – protected, modernized and extended the Medicare trust fund for at least a decade while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care.

Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965 -- the \$24 billion Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will provide health care coverage for up to five million children.

Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform -- signed the Kassebaum/Kennedy Health Care Bill which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.

Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High -- 90% of toddlers in 1996 received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines -- surpassing the President's 1993 goal.

Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families -- issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry, and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.

Welfare Reform and Community Empowerment: Largest Drop in the Welfare Rolls in History

Lowest Percentage of People on Welfare in Thirty Years -- 5.7 million people are off welfare today, a more than 40% decrease from 1992 and the largest decline in the welfare rolls in history. Signed the landmark welfare reform law to require work, impose time limits and dramatically expand child care spending. Between 1996 and 1998, the number of people who were on welfare in one year and working in the next year increased 28% to 1.5 million people.

80% Increase in Child Support Collections -- signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history.

Moving from Welfare to Work -- the Balanced Budget included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients into jobs and a tax credit for employers.

Helping People Get to Work -- the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants will help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Helping Families Move from Welfare to Work with New Housing Vouchers -- 50,000 new housing vouchers will help families get or keep a job.

Expanded Investment in Urban and Rural Areas -- by creating 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that have created new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities.

Environment: Protecting Natural Treasures and Public Health

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation -- approved new clean air standards for smog and soot that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment -- cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe -- proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. Required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming -- negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way. Secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Protecting Our Natural Treasures -- protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. Reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

Science and Technology: Leading America into the Next Millennium

Historic Investments in Biomedical Research -- the FY99 budget contained the largest-ever dollar increase in funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including a 14% increase in NIH research funding. This expansion will enable scientists to pursue a wide range of cutting edge research from cancer to AIDS to genetic discoveries.

Supporting University Research, Training the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers -- the FY99 budget contained a 7% increase in the National Science Foundation research budget to support science and engineering research across all fields and disciplines.

Strengthening the Economy and National Security with Information Technology -- provided \$1 Billion investment to help ensure that America leads the world in information technologies that predict tornados, design life-saving drugs, and make air travel safer and more efficient, and maintain our nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing.

Ensuring U.S. Leadership in Space Science and Exploration-- increased investments in space science that supported space exploration as well as new discoveries about the creation of the universe.

Foreign Policy: World's Strongest Force for Peace, Freedom and Prosperity

Promoting Peace and Strengthening Democracy

- **Restored momentum to the Middle East peace process**, brokering the Wye River Memorandum and visiting Israel and Gaza.
- **Led efforts that produced Good Friday peace agreement in Northern Ireland**, ending decades of bloodshed.
- **Negotiated cease-fire in Kosovo**, preventing humanitarian catastrophe and new war in Europe.
- **Building a self-sustaining peace in Bosnia** through implementation of the Dayton Peace accords.
- **Restored democracy in Haiti**, ending military dictatorship and stopping refugee flows.
- **Helped settle Peru-Ecuador border dispute and end civil war in Guatemala**.
- **Pressing for human rights, religious freedom, and an elimination of child labor worldwide**.

Combating New Threats

- **Protecting Americans from Weapons of Mass Destruction** by reducing Russian nuclear arsenals, ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention, and signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- **Combating terrorism** by developing a national counterterrorism strategy and striking terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. **Addressing threats to our infrastructure** like cyberterrorism and biological and chemical weapons.
- **Containing Saddam Hussein** through diplomacy, economic sanctions and military force.
- **Preventing North Korea from developing nuclear weapons** through deterrence, diplomacy and non-proliferation.
- **Improving military readiness** through increased defense spending.

Strengthening Alliances and Building Partnerships

- **Built a stronger and larger NATO** to ensure a more stable, democratic Europe and a fully-integrated Russia.
- **Deepening security alliances with Japan and South Korea**.
- **Built more constructive relationship with China** through engagement and frank dialogue on human rights, security and trade.
- **Expanding trade relations and strengthening democracy in Asia and Latin America**.
- **Building partnerships with Africa** during historic Presidential trip.

Expanding Prosperity

- **Opening markets abroad** through NAFTA, GATT and 270 other free trade agreements
- **Addressing global economic crisis** by leading international relief efforts and stimulating worldwide growth
- **Leading efforts** to establish world finance and trade systems for 21st century economy that benefits ordinary citizens in all countries.

THE CLINTON-GORE ECONOMIC RECORD

	<u>Before</u>	<u>After Six Years</u>
Budget Deficit/Surplus	\$290 billion <u>deficit</u> in 1992 -- the highest dollar level in history	First budget <u>surplus</u> in a generation -- the largest dollar surplus on record
Job Growth	Previous Administration: worst record since the Great Depression	17.7 million new jobs -- with the highest percentage in the private sector in 50 years
Unemployment	7.5% in 1992	4.5% in 1998 -- the lowest in 29 years and lowest peacetime rate in 41 years
Median Family Income (Adjusted for Inflation)	Down \$1,835 from 1988-1992	Up \$3,517 since 1993
Real Hourly Wages	Down 5% from 1981-1992	Up about 2.5% over past year -- the fastest real wage growth in over 20 years
Private-Sector Growth (Average Annual Rate)	2.4% from 1981-1992	3.9% -- the fastest rate since Johnson was President
Business Investment (Producer's Durable Equipment Average Annual Growth Rate)	1.9% from 1988-1992	12.1% -- the fastest rate since Kennedy was President
Federal Government Spending (As A Share of GDP)	Up from 21.7% in 1980 to 22.5% in 1992	Cut from 22.5% in 1992 to 19.6% in 1998 -- lowest level in 25 years
Welfare Rolls	14.1 million people on welfare in Jan. 1993	8.4 million people on welfare -- down 41% since 1993 -- lowest percentage since 1968
Inflation (Average Annual Rate)	4.2% from 1981-1992	2.5% -- the lowest since Kennedy was President
Homeownership Rate	Down, from 65.4% in 1981 to 64.2% in 1992	7.4 million new homeowners -- the highest homeownership rate in history (66.8% in 3rd qtr of 1998)
Auto Production	1992: Trailed Japan for 13th consecutive year	World's #1 auto producer for five years in a row
Competitiveness	1992: Trailed Japan, Germany, Denmark, and Switzerland	World's most competitive economy for five years in a row

FRIDAY

Wolf Blitzer (A)	CNN
Gloria Borger	US News
Ken Bode	CNN
David Broder (A)	Washington Post
Margret Carlson (A)	Time
Eleanor Clift (A)	Newsweek
Maria Coco	News Day
Richard Cohen	Washington Post
E.J.Dionne (A)	Washington Post
San Donaldson (A)	ABC
Michael Duffy(A)	Time
Rowland Evans(D)	Evans and Novack
Jack Germond (D)	Baltimore Sun
Paul Gigot (A)	Wall Street Journal
Mark Halperin (A)	ABC
Carl Leubsdorf (D)	Dallas Morning News
John McLaughlin	McLaughlin Group
Mary McGrory (A)	Washington Post
Bob Novack (D)	Evans and Novack
Clarence Page (D)	Chicago Tribune
Susan Page (D)	USA Today
Cokie Roberts (D)	ABC
Steve Roberts (A)	US News
Tim Russert (D)	NBC
Bob Schieffer (A)	CBS
Frank Sesno (A)	CNN
Mark Shields (A)	PBS
Tony Snow (D)	Fox
Evan Thomas (A)	Time
Jules Whitcover	Baltimore Sun
Juan Williams	FOX

Regional TV News Services Invited to State of the Union Background Briefing

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(18 -- NM, TX, OR, HI, WA, MO,
AZ, OK, ID, CA, NC, KY, VA, VA, LA)
David Cassidy
(202) 661-8400

Bonneville Broadcasting
(1 -- UT)
Charles Sherrill
(202) 737-3100

CONUS Communication
(Satellite newsgathering -- nationwide)
Jeff Ballou
(202) 467-5600

Cox Broadcasting
(9 -- CA, TX, IL, FL, OH, MI, PA, GA, NC)
Steve Gasque
(202) 737-0277

Fisher Broadcasting
(2 -- OR, WA)
Glenn Elvington
(202) 783-0322

Hearst-Argyle Television
(12 -- AR, MO, OK, CA, MS, MD, MA, WI, OH, FL, NY, PA)
Gary Griffith
(202) 457-0220

Medill News Service
(12 -- LA, TX, VT, ND, IA,
IL, WI, VT, KY, OH)
Mary Coffman
(202) 347-8700

NBC Newschannel
(200 NBC affiliates nationwide)
Jay Hurt
(202) 885-4224

Potomac News Service

(150 - Nationwide)

Mike Ryan

(202) 783-6464

Tribune Broadcasting

(17 -- IL, TX, CA, CO, FL, LA, GA, MA, NY, PA, CT, IN)

Cissy Baker

(202) 824-8474 or 8251

The Washington Bureau

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Richard Tillery

(202) 347-6396

Washington News Network

(100 - Nationwide)

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(202) 628-4000

Regional Newspaper Services Invited to State of the Union Background Briefing

Block Newspapers

Pat Griffith

BNA

Mark Thesanthal

Cleveland Plain-Dealer

Tom Brazaitis

Copley News Service

George Condon

Cox Newspapers

Bob Deans

Donrey Newspapers

Stephen Tetreault

Gannett Newspapers

Deborah Mathis

Griffin-Larrabee News

Betty Mills

Hearst Newspaper Group

Stewart Powell

Johnson Newspaper Group

Marc Heller

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Jodi Enda/Bob Rankin

McClatchy News Service

Leo Rennert

Medill News Service

Mary Coffman

Newhouse News Service

Miles Benson

Northwest Newspapers

Larry Swisher

Phillips News Service
Pete Pichaske

Scripps Howard News Service
Ann McFeatters

Small Newspaper Group
Edward Felker

States News Service
Leland Schwartz

New York Times Regional Newspaper Group
Carl Hulse

Thomson Newspaper Group
Maureen Groppe

Mark Sandalow
San Francisco Chronicle

Bill Douglas
Newsday

Susan Feeney
Dallas Morning News

Tim Loughran
Bloomberg

Ken Bazinet
New York Daily News

Roger Simon
Chicago Tribune

Lynn Sweet
Chicago Sun-Times

Nancy Mathis
Houston Chronicle

Accomplishments

The Clinton Presidency: A Historic Era of Progress and Prosperity

- **Longest economic expansion in American history**
The President's strategy of fiscal discipline, open foreign markets and investments in the American people helped create the conditions for a record 115 months of economic expansion. Growth has averaged 4 percent per year since 1993.
- **Lowest federal income tax burden in 35 years**
President Clinton enacted targeted tax cuts such as the Earned Income Tax Credit expansion, \$500 child tax credit, and the HOPE Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits. Federal income taxes as a percentage of income for the typical American family have dropped to their lowest level in 35 years.
- **Highest homeownership in American history**
A strong economy and fiscal discipline kept interest rates low, making it possible for more families to buy homes. The homeownership rate increased from 64.2 percent in 1992 to 67.7 percent, the highest rate ever.
- **More than 22 million new jobs**
More than 22 million jobs were created in less than eight years -- the most ever under a single administration, and more than were created in the previous twelve years.
- **Lowest unemployment in 30 years**
Unemployment dropped from more than 7 percent in 1993 to just 3.9 percent in October 2000. Unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics fell to the lowest rates on record, and the unemployment rate for women is the lowest in more than 40 years.
- **Lowest crime rate in 25 years**
Because of President Clinton's tough and smart anti-crime strategy of enacting tougher penalties, increasing prosecution and prevention, and fighting for common sense gun safety laws, the crime rate declined for 8 consecutive years, the longest continuous drop on record, and is at the lowest level since 1973.
- **100,000 more police on the street**
As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, President Clinton enacted a new initiative to fund 100,000 community police officers for more than 11,000 law enforcement agencies.
- **Smallest welfare rolls in 32 years**
In 1992, the President pledged to end welfare as we know it and signed landmark bipartisan welfare reform legislation in 1996. Since then, welfare caseloads have been cut in half, to the lowest level since 1968, and millions of parents have joined the workforce.
- **Family and Medical Leave Act for 20 million Americans**
To help parents succeed at work and at home, President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. Over 20 million Americans have taken unpaid leave to care for a newborn child or sick family member.
- **Higher incomes at all levels**
After falling by nearly \$2,000 between 1988 and 1992, the median family's income rose by \$6,338, after adjusting for inflation, since 1993. African American family income increased even more, rising by nearly \$7,000 since 1993. After years of stagnant income growth among average and lower income families, all income brackets experienced double-digit income growth since 1993. The bottom 20 percent saw the largest income growth at 16.3 percent.
- **Lowest teen birth rate in 60 years**
In his 1995 State of the Union Address, President Clinton challenged Americans to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy. The birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined every year of the Clinton Presidency, from 60.7 per 1,000 teens in 1992 to a record low of 49.6 in 1999.

- Largest Expansion of College Opportunity Since the GI Bill**
 President Clinton and Vice President Gore have nearly doubled financial aid for students by increasing Pell Grants to the largest award ever, expanding Federal Work-Study to allow 1 million students to work their way through college, and by creating new tax credits and scholarships such as Lifetime Learning tax credits and the HOPE scholarship. At the same time, taxpayers have saved \$18 billion due to the decline in student loan defaults, increased collections and savings from the direct student loan program.
- Lowest poverty rate in 20 years**
 Since Congress passed President Clinton's Economic Plan in 1993, the poverty rate declined from 15.1 percent to 11.8 percent last year – the largest six-year drop in poverty in nearly 30 years. There are now 7 million fewer people in poverty than in 1993. The child poverty rate declined more than 25 percent, the poverty rates for single mothers, African Americans and the elderly have dropped to their lowest level on record, and the Hispanic poverty rate dropped to its lowest level since 1979.
- Deactivated more than 1,700 nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Union**
 Efforts of the Clinton-Gore Administration led to the dismantling of more than 1,700 nuclear warheads, 300 launchers and 425 land and submarine based missiles from the former Soviet Union.
- Protected millions of acres of American land**
 President Clinton protected more land in the lower 48 states than any president since Theodore Roosevelt. He has protected 5 new national parks, designated 11 new national monuments and expanded two others and proposed protections for more than 40 million acres of roadless areas in America's national forests.
- Paid off \$360 billion of the national debt**
 Between 1998-2000, the national debt was reduced by \$363 billion — the largest three-year debt pay-down in American history. We are now on track to pay off the entire debt by 2012.
- Converted the largest budget deficit in American history to the largest surplus**
 Thanks in large part to the 1993 Deficit Reduction Act, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, and President Clinton's call to save the surplus for debt reduction, Social Security, and Medicare solvency, America has put its fiscal house in order. The deficit was \$290 billion in 1993 and expected to grow to \$455 billion by this year. Instead, we have a projected surplus of \$237 billion.
- More families own stock than ever before**
 The number of families owning stock in the United States increased by 40 percent since 1992.
- Lowest infant mortality rate in American history**
 The Clinton Administration expanded efforts to provide mothers and newborn children with health care. Today, a record high 82 percent of all mothers receive prenatal care. The infant mortality rate has dropped from 8.5 deaths per 1,000 in 1992 to 7.2 deaths per 1,000 in 1998, the lowest rate ever recorded.
- Most diverse cabinet in American history**
 The President has appointed more African Americans, women and Hispanics to the Cabinet than any other President in history. He appointed the first female Attorney General, the first female Secretary of State and the first Asian American cabinet secretary ever.
- Lowest government spending in three decades**
 Under President Clinton federal government spending as a share of the economy has decreased from 22.2 percent in 1992 to a projected 18.5 percent in 2000, the lowest since 1966.
- Connected 95 percent of schools to the Internet**
 President Clinton and Vice President Gore's new commitment to education technology, including the E-Rate and a 3,000 percent increase in educational technology funding, increased the percentage of schools connected to the Internet from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore

Eight Years of Peace, Progress and Prosperity

1993

January 22

Abolished Restrictions on Medical Research and the Right to Choose

As his first executive actions, President Clinton revoked the Gag Rule, which prohibited abortion counseling in clinics that receive federal funding to serve low-income patients. He also revoked restrictions on a woman's legal right to privately funded abortion services in military hospitals, restrictions on the import of RU-486, and the award of family planning grants. The President also lifted the moratorium on federal funding for research involving fetal tissue, allowing progress on research into treatments for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and leukemia. (Executive Memoranda, 1/22/93)

February 5

Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. The previous administration vetoed the bill twice. (PL 103-3, signed 2/5/93)

May 20

"Motor Voter" Registration

The Clinton Administration made it easier for millions of Americans to register to vote by allowing registration at the same time they get a driver's license. The Motor Voter law led to the registration of more than 28 million new voters, more registered voters than the passage of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18 years. (PL 103-31, signed 5/20/93)

August 10

Clinton-Gore Deficit Reduction Plan

Passed without a single Republican vote, the Clinton-Gore Administration's economic plan established fiscal discipline by slashing the deficit in half -- the largest deficit reduction plan in history -- while making important investment in our economic future, including education, health care, and science and technology research. Fiscal discipline established by the Clinton-Gore Administration has turned the largest deficits in our country's history into the largest surplus. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion/Working Family Tax Cut

President Clinton succeeded in passing an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, giving a tax cut to 15 million of the hardest-pressed American workers. In 1999, the EITC lifted 4.1 million people out of poverty -- nearly double the number lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

*Here, Bruce,
are we missing any key top
executive action? —
L.*

Student Loan Reform

Created the Direct Student Loan Program, which cut red tape and administrative costs by eliminating subsidies and bureaucracy in the Student Loan Program. The program has saved taxpayers \$4 billion since 1993 and allowed interest rate reductions for students. (PL 103-66, signed 8/10/93)

Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities Program

Created nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities with tax incentives and \$100 million per EZ in discretionary investment dollars to spur local community planning and economic growth in distressed communities. At the President's request, Congress expanded the program in 1994 and again in 1997. To date, the EZ program has leveraged over \$10 billion in additional private investment into EZs. The EZ program represents the most ambitious incentives program ever offered by the federal government to promote private sector investment in distressed areas in America.

Childhood Immunization Initiative

In 1992, less than 60 percent of two-year-olds were fully immunized – the third lowest rate in the Western Hemisphere. The Clinton-Gore Economic Plan contained investments to guarantee the health of children and prevent the easily avoidable costs of preventable childhood diseases. Today, the nation's overall immunization rate for preschool children is at the highest rate ever recorded.

September 21

AmeriCorps Community Service Initiative

AmeriCorps allows Americans to serve communities across the country while earning money for college or skills training. Since its inception, 150,000 volunteers have participated in Americorps; that means that more people have enrolled this Clinton Administration initiative in its first 5 years than did in the Peace Corps' first 20 years. (PL 103-82, signed 9/21/93)

November 30

Brady Act Signed

After seven years of debate under previous administrations, the President signed legislation creating a five-day waiting period and background check before the purchase of a handgun. The Brady Law has helped to prevent a total of more than 536,000 felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns. Since 1993, the gun-related crime rate has declined by more than 35%. (PL 103-159, signed 11/30/93)

December 8

NAFTA Ratified

President Clinton worked to pass bipartisan legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement, creating the world's largest free trade zone. Since passage of NAFTA, the U.S. manufacturing sector has created 400,000 jobs, and exports to Canada and Mexico support 600,000 more jobs today than in 1993. (Signed 12/8/93)

March 31**Goals 2000 Education Standards**

This legislation provided assistance to states to implement high standards and challenging curricula to help all children succeed. Today, 49 states have used Goals 2000 to adopt strong new academic standards. (PL 103-227, signed 3/31/94)

May 18**Head Start Expansion and Reform**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and passed legislation increasing Head Start participation and quality. The new bill established minimum performance standards, strong accountability and created the Early Head Start program for early childhood development. The Administration has increased funding for Head Start by more than 90% since 1993. (PL 103-252, signed 5/18/94)

September 13**Crime Bill**

Enacted the Clinton-Gore Administration's tough and smart crime fighting strategy. The Bill contained tougher penalties, including "three strikes and you're out" legislation, helped states build more prisons and increased prevention and victims rights. As a result, the overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 26 year low. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

Assault Weapons Ban

President Clinton and Vice President Gore overcame intense opposition by the gun lobby to ban 19 of the most dangerous assault weapons. Thanks in part to the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to take these dangerous guns off the streets, gun violence has declined by more than 35 percent since 1993. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

100,000 Community Police Officers

The Clinton-Gore Administration succeeded in passing a bill providing local governments funding to hire and redeploy 100,000 community police officers. COPS helped contribute to a decline that brought the overall crime rate to the lowest level in 25 years. In 1999, crime fell for the eighth consecutive year nationwide. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

Violence Against Women Act

The Clinton-Gore Administration fought for and signed this bill, which contains new penalties, resources to prosecute more domestic violence offenders, and funding to triple domestic violence shelters. The Administration also established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline. This initiative represents the first federal effort to address domestic violence and violence against women. Today, the number of victims of domestic violence has fallen from 1.1 million in 1993 to 876,340 in 1998. (PL 103-322, signed 9/13/94)

September 23

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund Created

Meeting an early campaign commitment, the President signs legislation creating the CDFI Fund to support both specialized financial institutions and traditional banks that serve lower-income communities. As of late 2000, the CDFI Fund had certified over 400 community development banks, community development credit unions, housing and business loan funds and venture capital firms as CDFIs. The CDFI Fund has provided over \$427 million in funding to institutions that provide capital and financial services to underserved markets.

October 31

California Desert Protection Act

The largest land protection bill since 1980 protected nearly 8 million acres of wilderness and created three new national parks. (PL 103-433, signed 10/31/94)

December 8

GATT Ratified

The Clinton-Gore Administration worked with a bipartisan majority in the Senate to pass legislation implementing the General Agreement on Tariffs and trade (GATT). This agreement allows American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system. (PL 103-465, signed 12/8/94)

1995

January 31

President Clinton Issues Loans Preventing Economic Collapse in Mexico

After Congress refused to act, President Clinton issues \$20 billion in emergency loans to Mexico to stabilize the country's financial markets. Loans from the United States and the International Monetary Fund stopped the collapse of the peso, prevented economic crisis, and helped the country return to solid economic growth. Mexico repaid the loans with interest three years ahead of schedule. U.S. taxpayers made a net gain of nearly \$580 million from the loan. (1/31/95)

March 8

Executive Order Preventing Permanent Striker Replacement Issued

In order to maintain fairness and balance between workers and management, President Clinton issued an executive order preventing the federal government from contracting with businesses that hire permanent replacements for employees engaging in lawful strikes. (E.O. 12954)

December 14

Dayton Peace Accords Signed

Leaders of the rival factions in the Bosnian civil war signed a treaty to end the nearly four-year-old conflict, formally approving the pact they had initialed in November in Dayton, Ohio after three weeks of U.S.-sponsored talks.

February 8**Telecommunications Reform Signed**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore achieved the first major overhaul of the telecommunications laws in 60 years. Reforms of the 1934 Telecommunications Act finally achieved by the Clinton-Gore Administration opened up competition between local telephone companies, long distance providers and cable companies; and requires the use of new V-chip technology to enable families to exercise greater control over the television programming that comes into their homes. The act also contained the Vice President's E-Rate proposal, which provides low-cost Internet connections for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals. (PL 104-104, signed 2/8/96)

April 26**Minimum Wage Increased**

President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for and won a 90-cent per hour increase in the minimum wage – increasing wages for 10 million workers. This increase was the first in 6 years and in 1996 it was the largest single-year increase ever. (PL 104-134, signed 4/26/96)

August 3**Food Quality Protection Act Signed**

This Act established toughest standards for pesticide residues in food ever, and for the first times required that the standards take into account special risks to children. (PL 104-170, signed 8/3/96)

August 6**Safe Drinking Water Act**

Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act required the strongest standards of safety and purity in America's drinking water while establishing a revolving loan fund to help communities upgrade their water treatment facilities. (PL 104-182, signed 8/6/96)

August 21**Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Reform**

This bipartisan health insurance reform bill guarantees that workers can keep their insurance if they lose or leave their jobs and expands coverage for small businesses and self-employed individuals. Roughly 25 million people have benefited from the greater flexibility that this law ensures. (PL 104-191, signed 8/21/96)

August 22**Welfare Reform Enacted**

President Clinton kept his promise to end welfare as we know it by requiring welfare recipients to work, limits the time they can stay on welfare, and provides child care and health care to help them make the move from welfare to work. It also enacted tough new child support enforcement measures proposed by the President. Since January 1993, the number of people on welfare has fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.3 million and has resulted in the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years. (PL 104-193, signed 8/22/96)

September 18

Created Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The creation of this National Monument preserved unspoiled remote canyons and extensive geologic and world-class paleontological sites. President Clinton was the first President to designate a National Monument since 1978 and throughout his term the President has protected more land as national monuments in the lower 48 states — over 4.6 million acres — than any president in history. (Presidential Proclamation, 9/18/96)

1997

April 24

Chemical Weapons Convention Ratified

In April, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, which makes the production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons illegal. (Ratified 4/24/97)

June 4

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act Reauthorized

The expanded IDEA ensures that children with disabilities can be in the classroom and be included in school activities like work experience, science clubs and field outings. It also applies the same high standards and ensures that children with disabilities learn the same things with the same curricula and the same assessments as all other children. (Signed 6/4/97)

July 16

Stronger Air Quality Regulations

On July 16, 1997, the President approved the strongest air quality standards in history to control pollution from smog and soot. The standards could prevent 15,000 premature deaths every year and will improve the lives of millions of Americans suffering from respiratory illness. Enforcement of the new standards has been delayed by court action. (7/16/97)

August 5

Balanced Budget Agreement

In February, the President submitted the first plan to finish the job of eliminating the deficit and the balanced budget in 27 years. On August 5th, he signed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which finished the job of eliminating the \$290 billion budget deficit. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

\$500 per Child Tax Credit

As part of the Balanced Budget Agreement, the President secured a \$500 per child tax credit for approximately 27 million families with children under 17, including thirteen million children from families with incomes below \$30,000. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Children's Health Insurance Program Created

At the urging of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the largest increase in children's health coverage since the creation of Medicaid -- the five year, \$24 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), which will provide health care coverage for up to five million children. As of June 2000, approximately 2.5 million children were enrolled in S-CHIP. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

HOPE Scholarships/Lifetime Learning Tax Credits

President Clinton proposed and passed the largest increase in college opportunity since the GI bill. The Hope Scholarship provides a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for tuition and fees for the first two years of college. When fully phased-in, the Lifetime Learning tax credit will provide a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 of tuition and fees for students beyond the first two years of college, or taking classes part-time. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Landmark Education Investments: America Reads, Charter Schools, Head Start

The President succeeded in doubling investments in education technology, increasing charter school funding, expanding Head Start to reach more than 800,000 children, and increasing Pell Grant maximum grants by the largest amount in two decades. The Budget also provided \$300 million for the President's America Reads Challenge. Together, these programs are the most significant increase in education funding at the national level in 30 years. (PL 105-34, signed 8/5/97)

Created 20 more Empowerment Zones and 20 more rural Enterprise Communities

Following Congress' 1994 designation of Cleveland and Los Angeles as EZs, the President requested a Round 2 of 20 new EZs and 20 new rural Enterprise Communities. The Round 2 EZs received expanded tax-exempt bonding authority to increase their ability to stimulate private-sector job creation for low-income residents.

November.19

Adoption and Safe Families Act

This bipartisan legislation enacted many of the recommendations of the President's Adoption 2002 report. In order to meet the President's challenge of doubling the number of adoptions by 2002, the Act provides incentives to states to permanently place children in foster care. In 1999, 46,000 foster care children were adopted -- more than a 64 percent increase since 1996 and the biggest increase in adoptions since the National Foster Care Program was created almost 20 years ago. (PL 105-89, signed 11/19/97)

November 21

FDA Reform Legislation Signed

The President supported and signed the FDA Modernization Act of 1997, the first major food and medical products reform in 35 years. The act cut approval times of new drugs in half, simplified the review process for medical devices, expanded participation in experimental treatments for AIDS, Alzheimer's and cancer patients, and protected consumers by ensuring accurate food labeling. (PL 105-115, signed 11/21/97)

December 16

NATO Expanded to Eastern Europe

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright signed protocols for the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO. The expansion of NATO to include these three former Warsaw Pact nations was a historic step in ensuring peace and stability in Eastern Europe. NATO expansion was ratified in May 1998 after it was approved by a strong bipartisan Senate majority.

1998

April 11

Good Friday Peace Accords Signed

On April 11, President Clinton helped conclude the Good Friday Peace Accords, a historic peace agreement between all the major parties to the long conflict over Northern Ireland. The accord represents the best hope in a generation for a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. (4/11/98)

October 7

GEAR UP Initiative Created

In his 1998 State of the Union address, President Clinton urged Congress "to support our efforts to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children, starting in the 6th grade, so that they can get the guidance and hope they need so they can know that they, too, will be able to go on to college." Congress enacted GEAR UP without a single dissenting vote. GEAR UP provides intensive early intervention services that will help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)

October 21

Class Size Reduction Initiative Launched

After initially refusing to provide any funding at all, Congress agreed to provide \$1.2 billion for the first year of the President's new initiative to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades to a national average of 18. This initiative is the first comprehensive effort at reducing class size across the nation. (PL 105-277, signed 10/21/98)

October 23

Wye Middle East Peace Agreement Signed

On October 23, 1998, after nine days of negotiations at the Wye Conference Center in Maryland, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat signed an agreement that will strengthen Israeli security, expand the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhance opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. (10/23/98)

October 27

Head Start Expansion and Reauthorization

The Reauthorization of the Head Start paved the way for further quality improvements, doubled participation in the Early Head Start program and moved toward the President's goal of providing quality Head Start opportunities for 1 million children. (PL 105-285, 10/27/98)

December 12

Global Warming Protocol Signed in Kyoto, Japan

With critical leadership from the Clinton-Gore Administration, 160 nations agreed on the basic architecture of a strategy to combat global warming on December 12, 1997. This agreement is the first time that major nations of the world ever committed themselves to a comprehensive plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

December 16

Air Attacks on Saddam Hussein

Beginning December 16, 1998, American forces attacked Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological programs, and its military capacity to threaten its neighbors. Saddam Hussein had announced that he would no longer cooperate with U.N. inspectors to conduct inspections that would guarantee that Iraq does not try and rebuild its capacity to create weapons of mass destruction.

1999

June 16

Leading the World in Eliminating Child Labor

In June 1999, the President traveled to the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva, Switzerland to urge adoption of an historic international convention that would ban the worst forms of child labor. The next day, the Child Labor Convention was unanimously adopted by delegates at the conference. It represents the largest investment in American history to end abusive child labor around the globe.

June 20

Achieving Victory in Kosovo

President Clinton led the NATO Alliance in a 79-day air war that expelled Serb forces from Kosovo and restored self-government to the province, ending a decade of repression and reversing Slobodan Milosovic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the face of Allied unity, American military superiority, and strong Presidential leadership, Milosovic withdrew his troops and permitted international peacekeepers to begin returning refugees. (3/24-6/20/99)

November 12

Financial Modernization Legislation Enacted

President Clinton signed the Financial Modernization Act into law, finally revamping a banking system that had been in place since the Great Depression. The new law will increase innovation and competition in the financial services industry, including traditional banking, insurance and securities industries, giving consumers greater choice and lower prices. The President insisted that the new regulatory structure permit banking institutions to expand into these newly authorized lines of business only if they satisfactorily serve the credit needs of their communities, and that the law include many of the consumer privacy provisions he proposed. (PL 106-102, signed 11/12/99)

November 29

Work Incentives Improvement Act Signed

After months of congressional inaction, President Clinton insisted that Congress pass the Work Incentives Improvement Act as a condition of the budget agreement. This bipartisan Act allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work. This law represents one of the most important legislative advances for people with disabilities since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

21st Century Policing Initiative Launched

The President's successful community policing initiative funded 100,000 officers around the country and played a key role in producing the longest continuous drop in crime on record. In 1999, President Clinton secured funding for the first installment of the 21st Century Policing Initiative over Congressional opposition. The new initiative will fund up to 50,000 additional community police officers by 2005 and equip them with new, advanced tools to fight crime. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

Leveraged \$90 Billion in International Debt Relief

President Clinton has been an international leader in recognizing and solving the debt problems of developing countries. To meet the commitments he made at the G-7 Economic Summit in Cologne in June and at his address to the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in September, President Clinton secured funds from Congress to leverage over \$90 billion of debt relief for developing nations. Along with funds from other creditor nations, this plan tripled the amount of debt relief available to the world's poorest nations. (PL 106-113, signed 11/29/99)

2000

April 7

Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act Passed

In his January 1999 State of the Union Address the President stated that "we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on Social Security can earn." In 2000, the House and Senate unanimously voted to eliminate the retirement earnings test for people above the normal retirement age. (PL 106-182, signed 4/7/00)

May 18

Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act

Expands two-way trade and create incentives for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the Caribbean Basin to continue reforming their economies and participate more fully in the benefits of the global economy. This area forms the 6th largest export market for the United States. (PL 106-200, signed 5/18/00)

- June 30** **Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act**
This act eliminated legal barriers to using electronic technology to form and sign contracts, collect and store documents, and send and receive notices and disclosures. It also contained important protections making sure that consumers shopping on-line are protected to the same extent as paper transactions. (PL 106-229, signed 6/30/00)
- July 1** **Campaign Finance Disclosure**
President Clinton signed the first new campaign finance reform legislation in 20 years, closing a loophole that allowed tax-exempt groups to use undisclosed donors to pay for political ad campaigns. (PL 106-230, signed 7/1/00)
- July 13** **Plan Colombia Enacted**
President Clinton proposed a new aid package to bolster democracy and combat drug trafficking in Colombia. The agreement will enhance alternative development, strengthen civil justice and democratic institutions, and provide assistance aimed at reducing the flow of cocaine and other narcotics to the United States. (PL 106-246, signed 7/13/00)
- October 10** **China-PNTR Enacted**
This act was a crucial step to complete a major trade goal of the Clinton-Gore Administration, opening China's markets to American manufactured goods, farm products and services by allowing China to become part of the WTO, forcing it to slash import barriers against American goods and services. The United States agreed to maintain market access policies we currently apply to China. (PL 106-286, signed 10/10/00)

The Clinton Presidency: Historic Economic Growth

President Clinton and Vice President Gore launched a new economic strategy of fiscal discipline, invested in the American people and opened foreign markets so that American workers could compete abroad. President Clinton also worked to foster growth of the New Economy by investing in education, expanding research and development in high technology areas and reforming telecommunications laws. After eight years, the results of President Clinton's economic leadership for the American people are clear. America is in the midst of the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

Reversing Years of Economic Decline with the 1993 Economic Plan

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, the United States economy was in trouble. Ten million Americans were unemployed, the country faced record deficits and welfare rolls were growing. Family incomes were losing ground to inflation and jobs were being created at the slowest rate since the Great Depression.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the 1993 Economic Plan, which passed Congress without a single Republican vote and put the country on the path of fiscal discipline. Eight years later, we have the lowest unemployment in 30 years, more than 22 million new jobs, the highest homeownership rate in history, the smallest welfare rolls in 32 years, and the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. The 1993 economic plan included:
 - \$500 billion in deficit reduction, including \$255 billion in spending cuts. The new emphasis on fiscal discipline and deficit reduction led to a drop in interest rates, which spurred investment and an increase in the rate of job creation, wage growth and productivity.
 - Tax cuts and investment incentives for 90 percent of small businesses to help create jobs, including a targeted capital gains tax cut, an extension of health insurance deductions and increased expensing.
 - An expansion in the Earned Income Tax Credit that provided tax cuts to 15 million working families, with the average family with two children receiving more than \$1,000.
 - Investments in preserving Medicare that dedicated some of the taxes paid by Social Security beneficiaries to the Medicare Trust Fund and extended the life of Medicare by three years to 2002. Further reforms and a crack-down on waste and fraud have extended the life of Medicare a total of 26 years.
 - Creation of the Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities initiative, which provided nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities with a total of \$3.5 billion in job and wage credits and other incentives to build and revitalize cities and rural areas.
 - Student loan reforms which created the Direct Student Loan Program, leading to less paperwork and reduced costs for students and families – saving taxpayers money by lowering federal administrative costs and providing competition and flexibility for students.
 - Extension of the 20 percent tax credit for research and development expenditures, making it easier for new companies to take advantage of the tax credit. The plan also included credits to encourage employer-provided educational and training assistance and a targeted jobs tax credit.

Clinton-Gore Economic Plan Has Dramatically Improved the Economy

"My colleagues and I have been very appreciative of your [President Clinton's] support of the Fed over the years, and your commitment to fiscal discipline has been instrumental in achieving what in a few weeks-- will be the longest economic expansion in the nation's history."

-- Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Board Chairman, January 4, 2000, with President Clinton at Chairman Greenspan's re-nomination announcement

"The deficit has come down, and I give the Clinton Administration and President Clinton himself a lot of credit for that. [He] did something about it, fast. And I think we are seeing some benefits."

-- Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Board Chairman (1979-1987), in *Audacity*, Fall 1994

One of the reasons Goldman Sachs cites for the "best economy ever" is that "on the policy side, trade, fiscal, and monetary policies have been excellent, working in ways that have facilitated growth without inflation. The Clinton Administration has worked to liberalize trade and has used any revenue windfalls to reduce the federal budget deficit."

-- Goldman Sachs, March 1998

"Clinton's 1993 budget cuts, which reduced projected red ink by more than \$400 billion over five years, sparked a major drop in interest rates that helped boost investment in all the equipment and systems that brought forth the New Age economy of technological innovation and rising productivity."

-- *Business Week*, May 19, 1997

Ensuring that All Americans Benefit from the Strong Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, unemployment reached 7.5 percent, the highest level in eight years. At the same time, unemployment and poverty rates for African Americans and Hispanics were alarmingly high: unemployment reached 14.2 percent for African Americans and 11.8 percent for Hispanics. Poverty rates for both groups were nearly 30 percent. Working American families were struggling to get by. And a 1992 Gallup Poll reported that by a two-to-one margin, Americans said that the next generation would be the first American generation to do worse than their parents, and those in the middle class were the most pessimistic.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore made smart investments in the American people to ensure that all Americans would benefit from the New Economy:
 - Making work pay. Expansions in the Earned Income Tax Credit included in the President's 1993 Economic Plan are making work pay for 15 million working families, lifting roughly twice as many people out of poverty in 1999 as in 1993. Low income families have also benefited from a \$1 increase in the minimum wage and incentives to save for the future through Individual Development Accounts, created under this Administration.
 - Investing in education and training. The Clinton-Gore significantly increased investments in education, expanded college opportunity and transformed the job training system to more effectively provide needed job skills and promote lifelong learning.
 - Promoting homeownership and community development. The Clinton-Gore Administration helped an unprecedented number of Americans become homeowners and put in place key initiatives to help bring economic development and renewal to communities that have not yet benefited from the soaring economy, including Empowerment Zones, the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, and the reformation of the Community

Reinvestment Act regulations. The Clinton Administration also launched the New Markets Initiative, aimed at bringing economic development to urban and rural underserved areas to insure that all Americans benefit from prosperity.

- Supporting working families. In 1996, the President signed a welfare reform bill that promoted work and responsibility. This Administration has also doubled child support collections and funding for child care, and made significant investments in transportation, and housing for low-income working families, and created incentives for employers to hire those moving from welfare to work.

Making the Dream of Homeownership a Reality

"I feel true independence in owning my own home. To those who think it's impossible: It is possible. Don't let anyone talk you out of it."

-- **Lucy Vocu, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.** Lucy is a first-time homeowner who moved from a two-bedroom rental house into a new three-bedroom home.

Empowerment Zones Are a Potent Weapon Against Poverty

"I am living proof that the Empowerment Zone works! If it wasn't for the Empowerment Zone, I would have never have had the chance to buy this building or to expand my business. We are fighting the war against poverty throughout our neighborhoods and cities, but we have a very potent weapon — the Empowerment Zones. And we will use that weapon to win this war because, after all, our future and our children's future depends on it. We must never give up hope."

-- **Nancy Santana, North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** Nancy is a single mother of three who used resources and a loan she obtained through her local Empowerment Zone to move from welfare to start her own business, Nancy Santana's Cleaning and Maintenance Services. Four years later, her business employs over 25 people, many of whom she recruited off of welfare.

Community Development Financial Institutions Expand Economic Opportunity

"President Clinton's efforts have been very helpful to me. I had trouble getting funding from other sources. The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta has worked with me and people in my community, helping us improve our position in life. Now, I can get into this business, where otherwise I could not have."

-- **Ephron Lewis** co-founded Lewis & Sons Rice Processing — the only African-American-owned rice processing company in the country — with his father. The construction of his plant was made possible by a loan and technical assistance from the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, a community development financial institution supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He now farms roughly 3,000 acres, producing rice, wheat and soybeans.

Encouraging the Growth of Small Businesses

"I started my small consulting and legal firm with the principle that everyone should have a shot at the twin American dreams of owning your own business and owning your own home. I look for the dreamers, the ones who want to be a part of this country in the best way, but who don't have the tools and information they need. I hope to be an instrument of growth and change in Brooklyn's Latino community through increased business opportunities. This SBA loan will allow me to set up an office outside my home, close to where I can make the most of the services I have to offer."

— **Enealia Nau, Small Business Owner from Brooklyn, NY.** Enealia Nau is a first-generation American, operates a small business consulting firm from her home in Brooklyn. After putting herself through college and law school, Ms. Nau started her consulting firm that focuses on the legal and financial needs of the minority communities from which she draws her clients. Ms. Nau helps families from minority communities realize the American dream through starting their own businesses—from beauty shops to corner stores—and buying their first homes.

Opening World Markets to American Goods

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, 10 million Americans were unemployed, new job creation was slow, and wages were stagnant. Other nations' high trade barriers limited the ability of American businesses and farmers to sell their goods abroad and hampered economic recovery. In addition, the country's trade policies failed to reflect our values by failing to take into account the responsibility to protect our environment, eliminate child labor and sweatshops and protect the rights of workers around the world.
- ✓ NOW: Increasing markets for American goods was a critical piece of President Clinton's economic strategy, and his work in reducing trade barriers has helped fuel our record economic growth over the last eight years.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the difficult fights to pass NAFTA and GATT through the Congress, creating the world's largest free trade zone and allowing American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration also concluded a historic agreement with China and won passage of Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, opening China's markets for U.S. goods and services, strengthening U.S.-China relations and continuing to pave the way toward economic freedom for the Chinese people.
 - For the past eight years, the United States has also led the world in developing successful responses to international economic crises, such as those in Asia, Mexico and Russia.
 - Progress made over the last eight years has recognized the importance of American values as the Administration has made historic strides in reaching global agreements to eliminate child labor, advance workers rights and protect the environment.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has guaranteed future competitiveness by making key investments in education and training for American workers, funding research and development and putting us on a path to eliminate the debt, which will keep interest rates low and investment and productivity high.
 - Because of these efforts, jobs supported by American exports grew by 1.4 million between 1994 and 1998, with jobs supported by exports paying about 13 percent to 16 percent above the U.S. national average. Lower foreign trade barriers contributed to the 36 percent growth in U.S. exports over the last five years.

Trade Expands Opportunity for American Workers

"Kodak and its employees have experienced significant gains because of NAFTA. The NAFTA has enabled Kodak to realize considerable tariff savings and to make production decisions based on rational economic grounds rather than on tariff considerations. For example, the agreement has enabled Kodak to transfer a high-cost sensitizing operation for color negative film from Mexico to Rochester, New York. In all, NAFTA has been a win-win-win for Kodak's operations in Canada, Mexico and the United States."

-- **Dan Carp, President and CEO of the Eastman Kodak company**, credits NAFTA with Kodak's rapid growth in export sales. The Eastman Kodak company manufactures a wide array of high technology imaging products for sale in 160 countries. Under NAFTA, Mexican duties on film and photo paper have been reduced from 15-30 percent to 6-9 percent, and they will be eliminated by 2004. Kodak's exports to Mexico have more than doubled since 1993, creating greater stability and more job opportunities for Kodak's 54,000 employees.

* * *

Bobby Ramsey began working at the Harley-Davidson York plant in 1972 as a Production Helper. He is now an Inspector, responsible for inspecting all incoming motorcycle parts prior to the assembly process. U.S. exports of motorcycles and parts have grown by 15 percent a year from 1987 to 1998, reaching one-third of industry sales. Harley-Davidson will export 22 percent of the motorcycles produced in Mr. Ramsey's plant. By 2003, Harley-Davidson expects to double production from 1996-levels largely because of exports, creating new jobs for American workers.

Building the New Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, America was on the brink of a new information age. Yet the U.S. edge in technology was beginning to erode in some of our prominent industries. Although the Cold War had ended, only 42 percent of the federal government's research and development investments went to civilian research. Computers were becoming more important to success, yet only three percent of America's classrooms had Internet connections.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore understood that to capitalize on the new technology revolution, we needed to support the development of new technologies and expand access to those technologies. Over the past eight years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made smart investments in technology that have helped build the New Economy, expand access to new technologies, and fuel our nation's remarkable economic progress.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration increased funding in civilian research and development by 43 percent, without significantly reducing the investment in defense research.
 - The President signed a 3-year moratorium on Internet access taxes and taxes that discriminate against e-commerce, won an agreement in the World Trade Organization to place a temporary moratorium on duties on electronic transmissions, and worked with Congress to extend the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore also increased education technology investments by over 3,000 percent, which has helped increase the number of classrooms connected to the Internet to 63 percent in 1999.
 - The Administration has worked to eliminate the digital divide so that all Americans can benefit from the new economy. Since 1992, the President and Vice President have tripled funding for

Community Technology Centers, which provide computer and Internet access in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods. President Clinton also challenged the private sector to develop new business models for low-cost computers and Internet access -- to make universal access at home affordable for all Americans. He mobilized major public and private efforts to bridge the digital divide during his third New Markets Tour, securing commitments from over 400 companies and non-profit organizations to help bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and opportunities.

Expanding Economic Opportunity by Closing the Digital Divide

"Bridging the technology gap in Indian Country is a major challenge, and I am grateful for the attention that the Clinton Administration has given to this critical issue. The National Congress of American Indians is building on the initiatives announced during the President's Digital Divide tour stop at the Navajo Nation in April 2000 through its Tribal Leaders Digital Divide Task Force, funded through the AOL Foundation. Through the Task Force, we are actively working with industry, federal officials, and others to forge a new tribal-based partnerships and policy recommendations to close the technology gap."

-- Susan Masten, President, National Congress of American Indians, and Chairwoman, Yurok Tribe. Susan Masten has served as a strong advocate for the betterment of Native communities on a local, state and national level for 22 years.

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"Community technology centers provide low-income individuals with skills training and the ability to produce their dreams. They are also an important entryway to the technology industry. We think of President Clinton as our first angel investor; his Administration's work has been fundamental to Plugged In and to the community technology center movement."

-- Magda Escobar, Executive Director, Plugged In, East Palo Alto, California. East Palo Alto, a low-income community, is located in Silicon Valley, the epicenter of the technological revolution. Plugged In trains teenagers and employs them in a web design business; provides a creative arts and technology studio and after-school program; and provides community members with access to computers and telecommunications equipment to increase their employment opportunities.

* * *

"I've seen teen-agers use technology as hope, hope of reaching a better standard of living, or as a tool of opportunity. By giving teen-agers access to technology, they do better in school and stay out of trouble."

-- Julian Lacey, 29, is a Silicon Valley Web designer who grew up in East Palo Alto, California. As a student at San Jose State University in 1995, Lacey started volunteering at Plugged In, an East Palo Alto community technology center that was supported by the Department of Commerce and a model for a new Department of Education initiative.

Longest Economic Expansion in History

- ✓ **Largest Surplus Ever:** The deficit was \$290 billion in 1993 and expected to grow to \$455 billion in FY 2000. Instead, the surplus in FY 2000 is \$237 billion — the third consecutive surplus and the largest surplus ever.
- ✓ **Largest Three-Year Debt Pay-Down in American History:** Between 1998-2000, the publicly held debt was reduced by \$363 billion — the largest three-year debt pay-down in American history. During the 12-year tenure of Presidents Reagan and Bush, the debt held by the public quadrupled. Under Clinton-Gore budget, we are on track to pay off the entire publicly held debt on a net basis by 2012.
- ✓ **Reduced Interest Payments on the Debt:** Interest payments on the debt were \$125 billion lower than projected. In 1993, the net interest payments on the debt held by the public were projected to grow to \$348 billion in 2000. Instead, Clinton-Gore economic plan slashed this figure by \$125 billion to just \$225 billion.
- ✓ **Americans Benefit From Reduced Debt:** Because of fiscal discipline and deficit and debt reduction, it is estimated that a family with a home mortgage of \$100,000 might expect to save roughly \$2,000 per year in mortgage payments -- effectively a large tax cut.
- ✓ **Double Digit Growth in Private Investment in Equipment and Software:** Lower debt will help maintain strong economic growth and fuel private investments. With government no longer draining resources out of capital markets, private investment in equipment and software averaged 12 percent annually since 1993 — the seventh year in a row of double-digit growth. This compares to 4.5 percent annual growth during the 1981-92 period.
- ✓ **Most New Jobs Ever Created Under a Single Administration:** The economy has created more than 22 million jobs in less than eight years — the most jobs ever created under a single administration, and more than were created in the previous twelve years. Of the total new jobs, 20.6 million, or 92 percent, are private sector jobs.
- ✓ **Strong Economic Growth:** Since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office, economic growth has averaged 4.0 percent per year compared to average growth of 2.8 percent during the Reagan-Bush years.
- ✓ **Lowest Inflation Since the 1960s:** Inflation is at the lowest rate since the Kennedy Administration, averaging 2.5 percent -- down from 4.7 percent during the last administration.
- ✓ **Highest Homeownership Rate on Record:** The homeownership rate reached 67.7 percent for the third quarter of 2000 -- the highest rate on record. In contrast, the homeownership rate fell from 65.6 percent in the first quarter of 1981 to 63.7 percent in the first quarter of 1993.
- ✓ **Family Incomes Up for All Americans:** Economic gains have been made across the spectrum as family incomes increased for all Americans. Since 1993, real median family income has increased by \$6,338 from \$42,612 in 1993 to \$48,950 in 1999.
- ✓ **Unemployment At Lowest Level in More Than 30 Years:** Overall unemployment has dropped to the lowest level in more than 30 years, down from more than 7 percent in 1993 to just 3.9 percent in October 2000. The unemployment rate for African Americans has fallen from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 7.3 percent in October 2000 -- the lowest rate on record. Unemployment for Hispanics has fallen from 11.8 percent in October of 1992 to 5.0 percent in October of 2000 -- also the lowest rate on record.
- ✓ **Lowest Poverty Rates on Record:** The poverty rates for African Americans, Asian Americans and single mothers are the lowest ever recorded. The poverty rate for Hispanics is the lowest since 1979.
- ✓ **Smallest Welfare Rolls in 32 Years:** Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the welfare rolls have dropped dramatically, by 7.8 million or 56 percent, and are now the lowest since 1968. Millions of parents have left welfare for jobs and a record 33 percent of current welfare recipients are now

working. In comparison, between 1981-1992, the number of welfare recipients increased by 2.5 million (a 22 percent increase) to 13.6 million people, and less than 7 percent of welfare recipients were working in 1992.

- ✓ **Lowest Federal Income Tax Burden in 35 Years:** The EITC now lifts 4.1 million working families out of poverty. And thanks in part to the expanded EITC and targeted tax cuts -- such as the child tax credit and the HOPE scholarship and Lifetime learning tax credit -- lower and middle class families bear the lowest income tax burden in 35 years.
- ✓ **Reduced Federal Government Spending:** After increasing under the previous two administrations, federal government spending as a share of the economy has been cut from 22.2 percent in 1992 to 18 percent in 2000 -- the lowest level since 1966: --

The Clinton Presidency: Increasing Technology Access and Innovation

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office with an agenda to use the revolution in information technology to improve Americans' quality of life and reinvigorate the economy. Since 1993, they have made smart investments in science and technology that have helped build the New Economy. The Clinton-Gore Administration's work has created a strong economy spurred by new technologies, increased access to computers and the Internet to share the benefits of the new economy, and put in place a strong research and development strategy that will continue to pay off in the years to come.

Investing in Science, Technology and Biomedical Research

- ✓ THEN: America was on the cusp of a new Information Age. The U.S. edge in technology was beginning to erode in some of our prominent industries, in part due to the lack of a coherent plan on how to effectively tap information technology's potential. The Cold War had ended, but the government continued to invest most of the federal research dollars into defense, rather than into civilian research that directly contributes to long-term economic growth, creates jobs, improves education and protects the environment. In 1993, only 42 percent of the federal government's research and development investments went to civilian research.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore wanted to use information technology to improve Americans' quality of life and reinvigorate the economy. They increased funding in civilian research and development by 43 percent, without significantly reducing the investment in defense research, and increased R&D support to universities by 53 percent. President Clinton also made investments to spur private sector innovation, help improve our environment, and improve the nation's health.
 - Between 1993 and 2000, President Clinton invested an additional \$10 billion in a range of science and technology programs included in the 21st Century Research Fund. This includes the largest increase ever for the National Science Foundation, which supports much of the research that trains the next generation of America's scientists and engineers. President Clinton also fought for the Next Generation Internet, which is connecting universities and national labs at speeds that are 1,000 times faster than today's Internet.
 - The President worked with Congress to extend the Research and Experimentation tax credit for another five years, through 2004, the longest expansion of this policy ever. Extending the tax credit will encourage companies to undertake new multi-year research activities, secure in the knowledge that the 20 percent tax credit will continue to be available.
 - The Clinton Administration has invested in programs such as the Climate Change Technology Initiative to develop clean energy to reduce the pollution that can lead to global warming. This Initiative is a comprehensive program of research investments and targeted tax incentives to spur the development of clean energy technologies. The President has also increased the investment in nanotechnology research, which is the new frontier of technology innovation and has the potential for improving the environment, creating lighter and stronger metals, and fighting disease.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore have made unprecedented investments in biomedical research, increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health by 58 percent since 1993. As a result, NIH supports the highest levels of research ever on nearly all types of disease and health conditions, making new breakthroughs possible in vaccine development

and use, the treatment of chronic disease, and prevention and treatment of disease. The President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission issued recommendations on ethical standards for the conduct of stem cell research. Stem cells may one day be used to replace cardiac muscle cells for people with heart disease, nerve cells for hundreds of thousands of Parkinson's patients, or insulin-producing cells for children who suffer from diabetes.

- As a part of overall NIH funding, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have strongly supported the efforts of the National Human Genome Research Institute to map the entire human genome. The completed map will dramatically change medical care, opening new doors in the effort to learn more about detection, treatment, and prevention of serious diseases. On March 14, 2000, President Clinton announced that he and British Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed on a statement of principle to ensure that discoveries from the human genome are used to advance human health. Their joint statement applauds researchers who have made their raw human genome sequence data freely available to the global scientific community and calls upon others to follow their lead.

Building the New Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, only 10 million people worldwide were connected to the Internet, and as recently as 1994, just 24 percent of American households had a computer. The United States exported \$24.9 billion in computer equipment in 1992, and the nation had not yet experienced the benefits of the coming technology revolution. When President Clinton was elected, 10 million Americans were unemployed, new job creation was slow, and wages were stagnant.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore have fostered the tremendous growth in technology in the past eight years and helped to ensure that the New Economy has flourished, turning around the stagnant economic growth of the 1980s. By 1998, the number of American households with a computers had grown to 42 percent, and over 200 million people worldwide are connected to the Internet – opening a world of possibilities to Americans. Exports of computer equipment had grown to \$41.4 billion in 1997, and the number of patent applications increased by 40 percent since 1992. The increasing prevalence of the Internet led to a growth in electronic commerce, which has expanded the reach of small businesses by allowing them to reach hundreds of millions of customers around the world.
 - President Clinton signed the Internet Tax Freedom Act, a 3-year moratorium on Internet access taxes and taxes that discriminate against e-commerce.
 - The Clinton Administration won an agreement in the World Trade Organization to place a temporary moratorium on duties on electronic transmissions, making cyberspace a “duty-free zone.”
 - In October 1998, the President signed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, helping to protect America's intellectual property in cyberspace.
 - On June 30, 2000, the President signed the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, which gives online contracts the same force of law as paper contracts. Customers can finalize mortgages, sign insurance contracts, or open brokerage accounts online.
 - The President and Vice President have encouraged the private sector to protect individual privacy through self-regulation, third-party audits and enforcement mechanisms. In just over a year, the number of commercial Internet sites with privacy policies has increased from 15 percent to 66 percent.

- President Clinton signed the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, which requires commercial Web sites to get a parent's permission before collecting personal information from minors. In May 1999, Vice President Gore announced the Parents' Protection Page, an important new commitment by Internet companies to give parents the resources to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet and the knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities.
- President Clinton signed the first comprehensive telecommunications reform legislation in over sixty years, which lowered prices, increased customer choice, and sped the deployment of new technology.

Encouraging the Growth of the Internet and Electronic Commerce

"I want to acknowledge the contributions of President Clinton and Vice President Gore in shaping the administration policy, and in legislation supporting research and development that's needed to make Internet a global reality, and to continue its astonishing evolution."

-- Dr. Vint Cerf,

Bridging the Digital Divide

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, the technology revolution was just about to hit. Home computers were rare, and only three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, more homes and schools are connected but a divide still exists – households with incomes of \$75,000 and higher are twenty times more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to bridging the digital divide and creating new opportunity for all Americans.
- ✓ NOW: As the first Administration of the Internet Age, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to make technology available for all Americans. Since 1992, the President and Vice President have tripled funding for Community Technology Centers, which provide computer and Internet access in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods. The President and Vice President are supporting innovative applications of information technology for low-income families through the Department of Commerce, such as telemedicine for prenatal care and distance learning for people who have lost their jobs. The Administration has challenged the private sector to develop new business models for low-cost computers and Internet access -- to make universal access at home affordable for all Americans. President Clinton mobilized major public and private efforts to bridge the digital divide during his third New Markets Tour, when over 400 companies and non-profit organizations signed a "National Call to Action" to bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and opportunities. The Call to Action sets goals such as ensuring that every child is technologically literate, and making home access to the Internet as common as the telephone.

Expanding Access to Computers and Technology Training

"Community technology centers provide low-income individuals with skills training and the ability to produce their dreams. They are also an important entryway to the technology industry. We think of President Clinton as our first angel investor: his Administration's work has been fundamental to Plugged In and to the community technology center movement."

-- **Magda Escobar, Executive Director, Plugged In, East Palo Alto, California.** Magda Escobar's community technology center shares the opportunities created by the information revolution with residents of East Palo Alto, a low-income community located in Silicon Valley, the epicenter of the technological revolution. Plugged In trains teenagers in web development to ensure that the opportunities of the technology revolution are shared with the entire community.

"As we enter the Internet Century, nothing is more important than providing our young people - all our young people - with the skills and resources to thrive in this new age. We're grateful for the support that we've received from across the industry, the non-profit world and government. Something exciting is happening here and the momentum is just beginning."

-- **Steve Case, Chairman of PowerUP and Chairman of AOL Time Warner.** PowerUP is a national initiative to provide underserved youth access to technology and guidance on how to use it. In conjunction with President Clinton's "digital divide" trip in April 2000, PowerUP committed to establishing 250 sites in 43 states at after-school locations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and K-12 schools.

Increasing Technology Access in Schools

- ✓ **THEN:** A decade ago, computers were largely luxuries in the most affluent school districts. In 1993, only three percent of classrooms had computers that were connected to the Internet, and in 1994 only 35 percent of public schools had Internet access. Students had little opportunity to learn to use computers and to explore the Internet, and the government had not mobilized its resources to expand the use of technology in our schools.
- ✓ **NOW:** Understanding the critical importance of incorporating technology into the classroom, the Clinton-Gore Administration made increasing access to technology in our schools a top priority. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created the E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. President Clinton increased investments in educational technology and training from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY 2000. In addition, with the Vice President's leadership the E-rate has secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, providing discounts worth over \$2 billion annually. The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased to 65 percent in 1999, and the number of public schools connected rose to more than 95 percent.

The E-Rate is Opening New Doors for American Students

Victor Shen, Whittier, Alaska. Victor Shen, a 16-year-old high school junior, is one of more than 30 million American children who are online because of the Clinton-Gore Administration's E-rate. Victor lives in Whittier Alaska, which is isolated from the rest of the world for six months out of the year because of its remote location and severe weather. Victor was cut off from commerce, cut off from transportation, cut off from society, and cut off from pursuing his dream for the future. Victor wanted to grow up to be a mathematician, but his teachers didn't have the best resources to teach him; nor could they afford an Internet connection to connect Victor to his dream. Thanks to Vice President Gore's leadership in securing the E-rate, Victor's school is now connected to the Internet and Victor is now connected to learning and connected to his dream. The Whittier Community School is online because of the 90 percent discount they received from the E-rate.

* * *

"The Internet allowed my students to go to a place and learn about something they could never have done before. The Internet erases boundaries of age and class. Everyone can access it in an equal way. In Paradise, this is especially important because of the limitations some of these children face."

-- **Beth Paterson, fourth-grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, California.** Paradise Elementary is a part of the Paradise Unified School District, which serves Paradise and Magalia, an isolated and rural community in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains with a significant low-income population. The E-Rate has allowed Paradise to build \$300,000 of network infrastructure, network computers and install T-1 lines.

Expanding Electronic Government

- ✓ **THEN:** In the early 1990s, the Internet was not widely available, but by the end of the decade millions of Americans were online. In 1992, neither the White House nor any Cabinet agency had a web page, and citizens were unable to access government information online. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that the U.S. government used information technology to bring government closer to the American people.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have used the power of the Internet to make government work better for people. They moved the government online, and in October 1994 they unveiled the first White House Internet page, which provides a road map to the federal government. Today, every Cabinet department has a web site to make information and services available to the American people at the touch of a button. In September 2000, the Clinton Administration launched FirstGov.gov, making all of the government's online resources available and searchable at a single website.

Expanding Access to Technology

- ✓ **Increased Education Technology Funding:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore increased our investment in educational technology by over 3,000 percent -- from \$23 million in FY 1994 to \$769 million in FY 2000.
- ✓ **Training Teachers to Use Technology:** Grants supported by the Department of Education are training over 600,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in their classrooms.
- ✓ **Connecting Schools to the Internet:** The number of public schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999. In addition, 63 percent of all public school classrooms were connected to the Internet in 1999, up from 3 percent in 1994.
- ✓ **Created the E-Rate:** More than 80 percent of America's public schools have benefited from the E-rate, which has helped connect 30 million children and up to 47,000 schools and libraries to the Internet.
- ✓ **Tripled Funding for Community Technology Centers:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore tripled funding for Community Technology Centers to reach at least 120 low-income communities, helping to close the digital divide by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults unable to afford them at home.
- ✓ **Increased Funding for National Institutes of Health:** NIH supports the highest levels of research ever on nearly all types of disease and health conditions, thanks to a funding increase of \$7.3 billion, or 58 percent, since 1993.
- ✓ **Presidential Online Firsts:** On June 30, 2000, President Clinton signed the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act with a "smart card," marking the first electronic bill signing in history. He also moved the tradition of the Saturday Presidential Radio Address online when he held the first Saturday Web Address on June 24, 2000. President Clinton was the first president to participate in an online chat, which was moderated by the Democratic Leadership Council and held November 9, 1999. On February 14, 2000, President Clinton participated in the first online chat with a news organization in history, hosted by CNN.com. President Clinton also became the first president to shop online in December 1999, when he went Christmas shopping from his desk in the Oval Office.

The Clinton Presidency: Expanding Education Opportunity

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have made improving education a cornerstone of their Administration, working to ensure that all Americans have the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in today's global information economy. Through their leadership, the President and Vice President have helped raise expectations for all students, supported states in developing and putting in place rigorous standards and systems of assessment and accountability, and invested in proven strategies to improve the educational performance of all students. President Clinton and Vice President Gore's commitment to invest more in our schools while also demanding more from them more has led to remarkable progress in key areas such as implementing standards and accountability, improving student performance, closing the achievement gap, expanding access to technology, and making higher education more affordable.

Raising Standards and Holding Schools Accountable for Results

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, test scores were falling and only 14 states had standards in core subjects. In 1990, only 38 percent of graduating high schools seniors had taken a core curriculum of four years of English and three years each of Math, Science and Social Studies. Fewer than 80 percent of the nation's highest-poverty schools received Title I funds, which are intended to aid the most disadvantaged schools. And students in disadvantaged schools faced watered-down curricula and low expectations instead of high standards that challenged them to succeed.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore launched an era of education reform based on setting high standards for all schools and students and providing the support to meet them. Higher standards have begun to pay off for America's students. Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools. Math SAT scores are at a 30-year high.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted Goals 2000 which has helped States establish standards of excellence for all children, and implement steps to meet those standards and to raise educational achievement. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, 49 states have implemented standards in core subjects and the proportion of of graduating high schools seniors completing a core curriculum has risen to 55 percent.
 - The President enacted legislation targeting Title I funds to high-poverty schools and requiring States and school districts to turn around low-performing schools. Today, nearly all of the nation's highest-poverty schools receive Title I funds. In 1999, the President enacted a new \$134 million Accountability Fund, which is helping school districts improve low-performing schools by investing in proven reforms.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to expand public school choice and to support the growth of public charter schools. In 1993, there was one charter school in the nation; today, there are more than 2,000.

Clinton-Gore Reforms Are Improving America's Schools

"Over the last eight years, President Clinton has proven a friend to education. Increased funding for critical investments, such as teacher development, greater resources and reduced class sizes, are just several contributions. Because of new investments in teacher quality, the staff at my school received intensive professional development in reading instruction that led to more effective teaching and improved test scores in all subjects. Additionally, our children now have access to the Internet in all of our classrooms, and our class sizes are decreasing from 25 to 18, allowing teachers to spend more time on individualized instruction and encouragement."

-- Ruth Summerlin, Principal, Bascomb Elementary School, Woodstock, Georgia. Beaufort Elementary serves a predominantly low-income population of 573 students in grades Pre-K through 5, and six years ago was classified as one of the worst 200 schools in South Carolina. After implementing a five-year school improvement plan, Beaufort Elementary has now been named a Blue Ribbon School. Test scores for the 1998-99 academic year indicated that their students were above the district and state averages in both reading and math. Beaufort has both after-school and summer school programs for remediation in both reading and math.

Administration's Efforts Produce Dramatic Charter School Expansion

"The charter school movement is one of the Administration's most important legacies. Its support for charter schools as a desirable and effective form of public school choice has helped convince millions of people, from State legislators to civil rights legend Rosa Parks to Arizona's teacher of the year Kuren Butterfield, that the charter movement has great value. . . . The dramatic expansion of charter schools from one State and one school to 36 States and 1,700 schools is a direct result of the Administration's vigorous efforts."

-- Joe Nathan, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Social Change, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Improving the Quality of Education with High Quality Teachers

- ✓ THEN: Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, the federal government cut and continuously underfunded assistance for teacher recruitment and training, setting the stage for anemic investments in this priority for years to come. Large class sizes made it difficult for teachers to maintain order or give students the personal attention they need to ensure they learn the basics. In 1992, fewer than 80 percent of English and Math teachers had a college major or minor in their teaching field, and only 282 teachers were certified as National Board Teachers as recently as 1995.
- ✓ NOW: The Clinton-Gore Administration has made the recruitment, preparation, and training of high-quality teachers a priority, and investments in these programs have increased more than ten-fold since the 1980s. President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and enacted the Class Size Reduction Initiative, which is helping communities hire 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. They created Troops to Teachers in 1994 to help improve public school education by introducing the skills and experience of military service members into high-poverty schools. Thanks in part to the Clinton-Gore Administration's support of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the number of National Board Teachers has climbed to 4,804 in

1999. And in 1999, 86 percent of English teachers and 82 percent of Math teachers had a major or minor in their teaching field.

Clinton-Gore Reforms Are Improving America's Schools

"I have seen many education initiatives come and go over my 20 years of teaching but I have only a strong opinion on one. Anyone who teaches or mentors a child wishes they had more time to impact their life. We however cannot alter the laws of the universe and create more hours in the day. The simple and doable solution for making this extra time is President Clinton's class-size reduction initiative. Because we have more teachers teaching reading we have more time with the students each years. I have taught grades 1-5 but because of President Clinton's vision, I am now a reading initiative teacher. I can now work with staff and students at a variety of ages and ability levels to meet the goals of our reading program. The President's initiative has made it possible to create classrooms of 15 students or less at our school to ensure success for every student. My students will learn better this year because I have more time to spend with them and I will have more time thanks to President Clinton."

-- Robin Davis, Elementary School Teacher. Robin Davis is a reading teacher at Brooke Grove Elementary Olney, Maryland. She was hired with funds from the President's class size reduction initiative.

Expanding Access to Technology in Schools

- ✓ THEN: A decade ago, computers were largely luxuries found only in the most affluent school districts. In 1993, only three percent of classrooms had computers that were connected to the Internet, and in 1994 only 35 percent of public schools had Internet access. Students had little opportunity to learn to use computers and to explore the Internet, and the government had not mobilized its resources to expand the use of technology in our schools.
- ✓ NOW: Understanding the critical importance of incorporating technology into the classroom and ensuring equal opportunity for students to benefit from technology, the Clinton-Gore Administration made increasing access to technology in our schools a top priority. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created the E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. In addition, with the Vice President's leadership the E-rate has secured low-cost connections to the Internet for libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, providing discounts worth over \$2 billion annually. The number of classrooms connected to the Internet increased to 65 percent in 1999, while the number of public schools connected rose to more than 95 percent. President Clinton increased investments in educational technology and training from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY 2000.

Education Technology Connects Students to New Opportunities

Victor Shen, Whittier, Alaska. Victor Shen, a 16-year-old high school junior, is one of more than 30 million American children who are online because of the Clinton-Gore Administration's E-rate. Victor lives in Whittier Alaska, which is isolated from the rest of the world for six months out of the year because of its remote location and severe weather. Victor was cut off from commerce, cut off from transportation, cut off from society, and cut off from pursuing his dream for the future. Victor wanted to grow up to be a mathematician, but his teachers didn't have the best resources to teach him; nor could they afford an Internet connection to connect Victor to his dream. Thanks to Vice President Gore's leadership in securing the E-rate, Victor's school is now connected to the Internet and Victor is connected to learning and connected to his dream.

"The Internet allowed my students to go to a place and learn about something they could never have done before. The Internet erases boundaries of age and class. Everyone can access it in an equal way. In Paradise, this is especially important because of the limitations some of these children face."

– **Beth Paterson, fourth-grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, California.** Paradise Elementary is a part of the Paradise Unified School District, which serves Paradise and Magalia, an isolated and rural community in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains with a significant low-income population. The E-Rate has allowed Paradise to build \$300,000 of network infrastructure, network computers and install T-1 lines.

Keeping Young People on the Path to Success

- ✓ **THEN:** In 1992, achievement for low-income high school students was lower than that of the national norm. Just 62 percent of high school graduates – and only 44 percent of low-income high school graduates – went on to college.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have invested in our young people to keep them in school and on the path to a successful future. President Clinton created GEAR UP, a nationwide college preparation and mentoring initiative, to provide early, sustained intervention and extra financial help to disadvantaged students. To date, GEAR UP has helped 700,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college academically and financially. President Clinton has also increased investments in after school programs, which have provided enriching after school and summer school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities. In addition, the \$15 million Advanced Placement Incentive initiative encourages low-income students to take AP classes and tests by paying test fees and strengthening instruction. The AP Initiative has already helped over 100,000 students. In 1998, the number of high school graduates going on to college had increased to 67 percent; by 1997, the number of low-income high school graduates going to college was up to 51 percent.

GEAR UP Helps Students Aim High

"Now I know what it takes to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. I am more focused than ever and there's no stopping me now!"

-- **Toya Doe, 7th grade GEAR UP student** at Sulzberger Middle School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Through GEAR UP, Toya has focused on her studies, learned more about college, and has been introduced to mentors and role models who can guide her in reaching her goals.

After School Programs Provide Safe Learning Opportunities for Students

"Juvenile crime is down 70 percent in Carbon County, and we can thank the coordinated efforts of everyone. The afterschool program plays a major part in keeping our kids off the streets and out of trouble."

-- **Judge Johansen, Utah.** In Price, Utah, the 21st Century Community Learning Center program is serving 11 sites and benefiting over 1,000 students in the Carbon School District. The program's goal – to improve academic performance through afterschool activities – is being met through a wide range of activities including tutoring, access to computers, extended library hours, parenting skills, nutrition and health programs, and summer and weekend remedial catch-up programs offered in conjunction with recreation programs.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Improve Student Achievement

"I truly believe that these extra curricular activities, made possible through the 21st CCLC grant, result in increased student achievement, greater self-esteem in students, and improved self-discipline. Thank you for making these opportunities possible for our students."

-- **Alyce Wallace, Moulton Elementary Extended Learning Center, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Opening the Doors of Higher Education to All Americans

- ✓ **THEN:** With tuition costs skyrocketing and little help from the government, middle class families were struggling to put their children through college. In 1992, only 43 percent of students benefited from federal student grants and loans, and more than 22 percent of student loan borrowers defaulted within two years of entering repayment. The maximum Pell Grant award was \$2,300, and its value had not kept up with inflation.
- ✓ **NOW:** To open the doors of college to all Americans, the Clinton-Gore Administration enacted the largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created HOPE Scholarships and Lifetime Learning tax credits, which were claimed in 1999 by an estimated 10 million American families struggling to pay for college. Lower student loan interest rates and fees have saved students over \$9 billion; the average \$10,000 loan costs a student \$1,300 less now than it did in 1993. The student loan default rate has fallen for seven straight years and is now a record-low 8.8 percent. President Clinton expanded the Work-Study program and increased the Pell Grant maximum award to \$3,300 – the highest amount ever. In 1999, 59 percent of students benefited from federal student grants and loans.

Hope Scholarship Expands Family College Opportunity

"My son is studying for a master's degree in chemistry, my daughter is a freshman at the University of Virginia, and I hope to return to school to finish my college degree in art history. It's hard to afford that much tuition, but the Hope Scholarship has made a real difference for my family. In combination with Virginia's public colleges and other financial aid, it's really a good picture."

-- **Catheryn Moore, Virginia.** In 1997, Catherine was attending Northern Virginia Community College, her son was a sophomore at the University of Virginia, and her daughter was a sophomore in high school. The Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credit won by President Clinton helped make her continuing education -- as well as the college education of her children -- more affordable for her family.

Direct Student Loans Make College Affordable for Students

"I never regret taking out student loans. I am a teacher. I affect young minds every single day. But the reality is that I still have almost \$40,000 in student loans. As a teacher, I don't make a lot of money. And I also need to help take care of my mother, who has had numerous surgeries and will undergo another this week, and support my brother. I appreciate the help I've gotten meeting my responsibility to repay loans, such as flexible payment plans and the economic hardship forbearance for temporary tough situations in repaying your student loans. President Clinton has also reduced student loan interest rates and made interest payments tax-deductible."

-- **Raquel Talley, 28-year-old substitute teacher in Prince George's County, Maryland** credits student loans with allowing her to earn a college degree and enter a profession she loves. To earn her B.A. and M.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University, she borrowed a total of \$45,000 in direct student loans and still owes about \$38,000. Because she helps support her mother and 30-year-old brother (who has diabetes) on her modest teacher's salary, she has twice enrolled in forbearance and is now enrolled in the extended flexible repayment plan.

"I need to graduate from college to pursue my dream of a career in information technology. That simply wouldn't be possible without student loans."

-- **Heather Ely, Junior at DePaul University.** Heather is majoring in computer information systems and hopes to pursue a career in the field of information technology. Heather is financing her college education largely on her own through both federal and private loans and a part time job at a local restaurant.

Improving Education for All of America's Children

- ✓ **More States Have Set High Standards:** In 1992, only 14 states had standards in core subjects; today, 49 states have them and 48 have assessments to measure student progress.
- ✓ **Reading and Math Scores Have Increased:** Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools.

- ✓ **Federal Funds are Targeted to Areas of Greatest Need:** The percentage of high-poverty schools receiving Title I funds rose from 79 percent in 1994 to 96 percent in 1998.
- ✓ **More Schools are Connected to the Internet:** The percentage of classrooms with Internet access increased from three percent in 1993 to 65 percent in 1999. In addition, 95 percent of schools are connected to the Internet, keeping us on track to reach our goal of connecting every school to the information superhighway.
- ✓ **Math SAT Scores are at a Thirty-Year High:** The average SAT math score has gone from 501 in 1992 to 514 in 2000, and the average verbal score has gone from 500 to 505 while more students from diverse backgrounds are taking the test than ever before.
- ✓ **More High School Graduates Going to College:** More high school graduates than ever are going directly to college. Especially notable are the increases in the college-going rate for low-income high school graduates, from 44 percent in 1992 to 51 percent in 1997, and for African American high school graduates, from 50 percent going directly to college in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1997.
- ✓ **Doubled Student Financial Aid:** Since 1993, student aid has doubled to nearly \$60 billion, and more students are benefiting from federal student grants and loans – 43 percent in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1999. The maximum Pell Grant has increased from \$2,300 in 1992 to \$3,300 in 2000.
- ✓ **Reduced Costs on Student Loans:** Lower student loan interest rates and fees have saved students over \$9 billion; the average \$10,000 loan costs a student \$1,300 less now than it did in 1993. New direct student loans have saved taxpayers over \$4 billion so far by eliminating lender subsidies.

The Clinton Presidency: Lowest Crime Rates in a Generation

More violent crimes were reported in 1992 than ever before, with nearly two million murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults occurring in the United States. Gun crime had skyrocketed to the highest point in 20 years as more than half a million total gun crimes were reported. Parents fought a daily battle to keep their children away from drugs and gangs, as more young people than ever were involved in violent crimes. In 1992 alone, more than 850,000 children were victims of violent crime, and guns killed 5,379 children – an average of nearly fifteen every day. Communities struggled to fight crime, but the federal response remained bogged down in partisan differences.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted policies that provided tougher penalties and enforcement along with smart crime prevention measures, funded more than 100,000 new police officers on America's streets, provided the leadership to pass common sense gun safety legislation including the Brady Bill and assault weapons ban, and implemented a comprehensive anti-drug strategy.

Support for Proven Local Solutions: 100,000 Community Police Officers

- ✓ **THEN:** Between 1989 and 1992, violent crime rates increased by 13 percent. In 1992, there were nearly two million murders, rapes and aggravated assaults reported. Cities including Houston, Boston and New York brought down crime rates with community policing, but most communities - lacked the resources to hire and redeploy enough police officers to fight and prevent crime.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton fought for and signed a plan to help communities across the country move to community policing by funding the hiring and redeployment of 100,000 new police officers over five years. The Administration's COPS initiative, passed as part of the 1994 Crime Bill, has provided more than 11,000 law enforcement agencies funding to hire or redeploy more than 100,000 police officers. The federal government has also made record investments helping local authorities fight crime – increasing funding for state and local law enforcement by more than 300 percent since 1993. Overall crime rates has dropped every year under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the longest continuous drop on record and crime is now at a 26-year low.

Community Policing Initiative is Improving America's Neighborhoods

"By working in the same neighborhoods day-in, day-out, we developed real ties to the community. We took real steps to fix problems in neighborhoods. We formed partnerships. We problem solved. We prevented crime... COPS money makes this possible... Thank you, Mr. President, for making it possible to fulfill my dream. Thank you for making it possible to return our police to their communities. Thank you for being the first president to take the police truly seriously, to listen to us, and to give us the tools we need to keep our people safe."

-- Corporal Irma Rivera, Arlington, Virginia. Corporal Rivera has been with the Arlington County Police Department since April 1992. Due to a COPS grant, she was able to join the Community Based/Problem-Oriented Policing Section, which worked to rid Arlington neighborhoods of gang and drug-related crime.

Common Sense Gun Safety Laws: the Brady Act and the Assault Weapons Ban

- ✓ THEN: Gun violence reached its highest point in 20 years; a record 565,000 Americans were victims of gun crime in 1992. Murders by juveniles increased by 65 percent between 1987 and 1993, reaching the highest level ever in 1993. In 1992, an average of nearly 15 children were killed every day by firearms through violence, accidents or suicides.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton fought the gun lobby and won common sense gun safety laws including the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, overall gun crime has declined 40 percent, and firearms related homicides committed by juveniles have dropped by nearly 50 percent. There were 227,000 fewer gun crimes in 1999 than 1992, and 1,246 fewer children were killed by guns than in 1992.
 - Background checks performed under the Brady Law have prevented more than 611,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers from buying a gun.
 - The Assault Weapons Ban, passed as part of the 1994 Crime Bill, banned the manufacture, sale and importation of 19 of the deadliest assault weapons.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with state and local governments to increase prosecution of gun crime. Since 1992, the number of federal firearms cases has increased 16 percent, and as a result of this Administration's unprecedented partnership with states and localities, overall gun prosecutions - federal, state, and local combined - are up 22 percent. In addition, federal gun offenders are serving sentences that are about two years longer than in 1992 and the number of serious gun offenders sent to federal prison for more than five years is up more than 41 percent.
 - Clinton-Gore Administration U.S. Attorneys in Richmond (Project Exile) and Boston (Operation Ceasefire) were instrumental in innovative efforts to crack down on armed drug traffickers, violent criminals, gang members and violent youth which has helped to reduce crime in these cities. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also implemented a comprehensive crime gun tracing initiative - the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) - in 38 cities to trace crime guns and identify and arrest illegal gun traffickers.
 - Finally, to combat violence in schools, the Clinton-Gore Administration enacted the Gun Free Schools Act, which requires schools to adopt zero-tolerance policies toward guns in schools and expel students bringing firearms to school. Over the 1996-98 school years, nearly 10,000 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Common Sense Gun Safety Laws Are Making America Safer

"President Clinton, you and your administration have helped make this country safer through your support for the Brady law and the 1994 crime bill and your persistence in pursuing common-sense laws and strategies to reduce gun violence."

-- James Brady, February 11, 2000. James S. Brady was shot along with President Reagan and two law enforcement officers in an assassination attempt in 1981. Although seriously wounded by the gunshot wound to the head, Mr. Brady has actively lobbied for stronger gun laws.

"If my son Scott had not been shot by a classmate with a grudge and an assault weapon over ten years ago, I might likely be a grandmom today... With the leadership and perseverance of President Clinton, we won the fight to pass the Assault Weapons Ban, and have taken an important step toward preventing countless other families from suffering the way my family has."

-- Bryl Phillips-Taylor. Bryl Phillips-Taylor lost her son, Scott, the summer before he was scheduled to enroll in college at Virginia Tech in 1989. Scott was killed by a fellow student who held a grudge against him after luring him into the woods and shooting him six times with an AK-47 assault rifle that he had taken from an unlocked gun storage shed. Since then, Bryl has worked tirelessly to promote the passage of common sense gun laws, including the successful passage of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban.

"Five short years ago, Richmond was known nationwide for our high crime and murder rates. Today, we've received national attention not for the problem, but for the solution. We've attacked crime from all fronts, and one of the most successful avenues has been through strong gun enforcement. President Clinton shares my philosophy that America needs to send a strong message to gun criminals that breaking gun laws will not be tolerated. That's why we worked with the Clinton Administration to create the nation's first "Project Exile" program, a partnership at the federal and local levels that has guaranteed that anyone caught with an illegal gun serves five years in federal prison. Project Exile is now being replicated across America by other communities, and gun prosecutions are up. Project Exile's success in getting tough on gun criminals is due in no small measure to our partnership and President Clinton's leadership in the fight to reduce crime and gun violence"

-- Colonel Jerry Oliver, Chief of Police, Richmond, Virginia. Colonel Oliver is nationally recognized for his success in helping to dramatically reduce crime in Richmond through innovative new partnerships and programs, such as "Project Exile." Created through a partnership with the Clinton Administration, U.S. Attorney Helen Fahey, Colonel Oliver and community leaders, "Project Exile" has helped take gun criminals off of the streets of Richmond by ensuring that felons caught illegally carrying firearms serve a minimum five year sentence in federal prison.

Tough and Smart Crime Fighting Policies: The 1994 Crime Bill

- ✓ **THEN:** While crime increased during the 1980s and early 1990s, Washington bickered over false choices between punishment and prevention. This political division blocked passage of a federal crime bill for six years. When President Clinton took office, the violent crime rate had skyrocketed to the highest point in 20 years, juvenile violence reached record levels, and gang and drug violence were epidemic in many communities.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton launched a new approach to crime fighting that emphasized *both* tough anti-crime measures like increased prosecution, more prisons and stiffer penalties, as well as smart prevention measures including expanding community policing, common sense gun safety laws, increased drug treatment, and after-school programs. The 1994 Crime Bill was a historic turning point in federal anti-crime efforts, enacting the COPS program and banning the importation of 19 of the most dangerous assault weapons. The Crime Bill also contained:
 - Stiffer criminal penalties including a federal 'three-strikes-and-you're out' law and expansion of the death penalty for killing a law enforcement officers and incentives for states to adopt truth-in-sentencing for violent offenders.

- Drug courts to provide increased judicial supervision and drug treatment for non-violent offenders and boot camps for first-time young offenders.
- Increased funding for prison construction, and anti-drug and gang programs.
- A new law making it illegal for juveniles to own handguns.
- Registration of sexually violent offenders with state officials upon release from prison.
- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which tripled the number of domestic violence shelters, increased resources to prosecute domestic violence offenders, and established a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline.

Local Partnerships are Reducing Crime in Boston

"The Clinton Administration has been a key partner in all of our efforts, whether it's been through major grants, consistent public support for our collaborative efforts or deploying personnel from federal agencies, such as BATF, DEA, FBI, INS and the US Attorney, to work on task forces with us. We are very grateful for this partnership."

– **Boston Police Commissioner Paul F. Evans**, November 16, 2000. In the early 1990's, Boston faced a surge in homicides, gang-related crime, and youth violence. To address their crime problems, the Boston Police Department forged working relationships with Mayor Thomas Menino; local probation officers, parole officers and prosecutors; local, state and federal agencies; and each of Boston's neighborhoods. As a result, Boston has reached its lowest violent crime rate since 1971, the number of homicides is at its lowest point since 1961 and every year since 1993, the number of juveniles killed by guns has decreased.

Violence Against Women Act Funding Supports Domestic Violence Shelters and Services

"VAWA money that Esperanza has received in the past has assisted our program with victims in the court system. In fact, with VAWA funding, we were able to hire a court advocate who helps women obtain protection orders, helps them with security, and provides translation services. I am proud to say that our court advocate has helped about 1,500 women to date... President Clinton is a very strong advocate who cares and supports women everywhere. He is a person to be there to care when caring makes the difference between despair and hope."

– **Connie R. Trujillo, Santa Fe, New Mexico**. Connie Trujillo is a domestic violence survivor and the Executive Director of Esperanza, Shelter for Battered Families, one of the oldest battered women's shelters in the country. With Violence Against Women Act funding, Esperanza has been able to hire a court-based advocate to assist victims in obtaining orders of protection and in safety planning, and in one year, this advocate has assisted about 1,500 victims in court.

Successful Drug Control Strategy: Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement

- ✓ **THEN:** The nation suffered from an unbalanced and ineffective drug control strategy that left more than a million addicted individuals untreated, and failed to cut the supply of drugs to America's communities. In 1992, there were 1,302 drug-related murders, approximately 555 tons of cocaine flooded the streets, and 62 percent of those who needed drug treatment went untreated.

- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton placed a new emphasis on a balanced anti-drug strategy. He elevated the Drug Czar to a cabinet-level post, replaced political appointees with professionals and appointed four-star General Barry McCaffrey as director of the office – the first person with a drug interdiction background to hold the post. Funding for anti-drug efforts has increased by more than 50 percent – from \$12.2 billion in 1993 to \$18.5 billion in 2000.
 - Prevention funding has increased by one-third, including a successful Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, the largest targeted media effort ever to educate youth about the dangers of drug use.
 - Treatment funding is up 33 percent, and the treatment gap has closed by five percent. To break the cycle of drugs and crime, President Clinton funded Drug Courts to provide treatment for non-violent offenders and helped to expand the number of Drug Courts from a dozen in 1994 to more than 400 in October 1999. The number of federal inmates receiving substance abuse treatment rose from 1,135 in 1992 to 10,816 in 1999, and the Administration has encouraged states to adopt comprehensive drug testing and intervention for prisoners and parolees.
 - President Clinton has also stepped up interdiction and enforcement efforts. The Administration has increased the number of FBI, DEA, and Border Patrol Agents and is working with allies to stop international cultivation and trafficking. Seizures of cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine reached record levels in 1999. Drug-related arrests and convictions also increased, with arrests up 46 percent and federal convictions rising by more than 20 percent.

Drug Courts Are Reducing Crime and Drug Abuse

"President Clinton's historic expansion of drug courts across our nation has played a vital role in our success in reducing crime and drug abuse in our communities. Drug Courts across the United States are resulting in increased sobriety and reduced criminality among drug using offenders. By demanding accountability, but also providing rehabilitative services to this drug using population, Drug Courts are creating safer and healthier communities, while reducing the numbers of offenders in custody and the financial costs to our communities."

-- Judge Jeffrey S. Tauber, President of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and Director of the National Drug Court Institute. Judge Tauber initiated and presided over the design and implementation of the Oakland Drug Court Program, one of the first in the nation, and was also the first chair of the California Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Progress For America's Families and Communities in the Fight Against Crime

- ✓ **Crime Rate Drops Every Year:** The overall crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row – the longest continuous drop on record – and is now at a 26 year low.
- ✓ **Violent Crime Down Every Year:** The violent crime rate is at its lowest level in over two decades and is 30 percent lower than it was in 1992. In 1999, the homicide rate dropped to its lowest point since 1966. The murder rate has dropped more than 38 percent since 1992.
- ✓ **Gun Crime Rate Drops Dramatically:** Since 1993, the gun-related crime rate has declined by more than 40 percent. The number of juvenile gun offenders peaked in 1993, and has dropped 57 percent since then.
- ✓ **School Crime Rate Down:** The school crime rate – the number of thefts or violent crimes committed at schools – has decreased from 155 per 1,000 students in 1993 to 101 per 1,000 students in 1998. That's a drop of nearly 35 percent.

- ✓ **Domestic Violence Declines:** The number of women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declining 21 percent from 1993 to 1998.
- ✓ **Teen Drug Use Drops:** Teen drug use has turned the corner, dropping for the third year in a row. Youth marijuana use has dropped over 25 percent.
- ✓ **Record Levels of Federal Drug Seizures:** Federal drug seizures have increased to record high levels since 1993, including the highest level of federal cocaine seizures ever – a 10 percent increase over 1992 levels. In 1999, federal agents seized more than three times the amount of marijuana than was seized in 1992.
- ✓ **Cocaine Supply Decreases:** Coca leaf eradication in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru increased by more than five times between 1992 and 1998. The amount of cocaine available for consumption in the United States has dropped by more than 30 percent since 1992.
- ✓ **Drug-Related Murders Cut in Half:** The drug related murder rate has been cut almost in half since 1992. Drug related murders are now at their lowest level in over a decade.

The Clinton Presidency: Strengthening American Families

In 1992, the economy was stagnant. Middle class families were working harder for less money. Unemployment reached 7.5 percent, the highest level in 8 years, with record layoffs doubling or tripling unemployment rates in many communities. Family wages lost ground to inflation between 1988-92, yet the federal government failed to move to create jobs, raise wages, and put America back to work. New jobs were being created at the slowest rate in decades. Because losing a job meant losing the family's health insurance, middle class families could lose their savings, their homes or become trapped in a broken welfare system trying to cover health costs.

Moving Families from Welfare to Work

- ✓ **THEN:** In 1992 a broken welfare system made it virtually impossible to move from welfare back to work, trapping families in a cycle of dependency. There were 13.6 million people on welfare when President Clinton came to office -- 5.5 percent of the population. Just seven percent of those on welfare were working. And the federal government was doing little to encourage parental responsibility. For example, only \$8 billion in child support was collected through federal and state efforts, and teen birth rates were increasing dramatically.
- ✓ **NOW:** The landmark welfare reform signed by President Clinton in 1996 has transformed the welfare system to one that promotes work and responsibility, while protecting children.
 - Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the welfare rolls have been cut in half to the lowest level since 1968, dropping to 6.3 million people or 2.3 percent of the population. Today, most recipients are expected to work, millions of parents have left welfare for jobs, and a record 33 percent of current welfare recipients are now working -- five times as many as in 1992.
 - The President launched The Welfare to Work Partnership to lead the private sector effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. Now over 20,000 businesses strong, the Partnership has helped an estimated 1.1 million welfare recipients move to employment.
 - Under Vice President Gore's leadership, the Administration has also done its fair share, hiring nearly 50,000 welfare recipients since March 1997 and fostering partnerships with community and faith-based organizations that help families move from welfare to work and succeed on the job.
 - The Administration has put in place tough child support enforcement measures to hold absent parents accountable, while helping low income fathers go to work and meet their responsibilities and federal and state child support collections doubled to nearly \$16 billion in 1999.
 - To help families make the transition from welfare to work and support low-income working families, the Clinton-Gore Administration provided nearly 200,000 new housing vouchers, helped families meet their nutritional needs, improved transportation options through grants to communities and made it easier for families to own a reliable car without losing food stamps, and invested in child care.

Welfare to Work is Helping Americans Build Better Lives

"I have made a better life for my girls and myself. Just because a person was on welfare, doesn't mean that they can't get out and work. They just need a chance and because of the President's leadership on this issue, I'm living proof that it can be done."

-- **Rhonda Costa, Salomon Smith Barney.** Rhonda Costa didn't dream much when she was on welfare. She spent her days trying to pay her bills with a \$280 a month welfare check and her nights shielding her two daughters from stray gunfire in a one-bedroom apartment. Rhonda decided to change her life after her oldest daughter told Rhonda to get up and do something with her life. She enrolled with Wildcat Service Corporation, a New York service provider that trains welfare recipients for jobs. After a 16-week training course, Rhonda was hired by Salomon Smith Barney, and through a promotion has been an office manager for two years and has an assistant of her own. Through Salomon Smith Barney's tuition reimbursement program, Rhonda is taking a class at Borough of Manhattan Community College for her business management degree.

The Welfare to Work Partnership is Mobilizing the Private Sector to Provide Job Opportunities for Welfare Recipients

"As one of the founding members of the Welfare to Work Partnership, I knew welfare reform was not going to work unless there were jobs in the private sector open to people leaving welfare. I also knew that United needed to set an example, so we set a goal of hiring 2,000 people from welfare by 2000. Our company has now exceeded that goal, because the President understood how to encourage, cajole, and continually challenge the private sector to step up to the plate and do their part. Through the Welfare to Work Partnership, I believe the President achieved the single most comprehensive mobilization of the private sector in peacetime -- over 20,000 companies have now hired over 1 million people who are leaving welfare and taking the first step toward the American dream."

-- **Gerald Greenwald, Chairman Emeritus, United Airlines and Chairman of the Board, The Welfare to Work Partnership.** United Airlines is one of the five founding companies of the Welfare to Work Partnership. United has implemented a volunteer mentoring program with current United employees that help with workplace questions and offer encouragement. This strategy has contributed to the company's success in hiring welfare to work employees, nearly doubling retention rates, and enhancing morale and creating a better working environment for all United employees.

Promoting Responsible Fatherhood

"With the help of this [fatherhood] program I am proud to say that I am on my way to a rewarding career in electronics technology and computer science, and am again paying my child support regularly. I know that Ricardo is proud of me, and I am glad that I can be a good role model for him... I want to thank the President for supporting fathers and programs for fathers like the one I am involved in."

-- **Carlos Rosas, St. Paul, Minnesota.** Carlos Rosas enrolled in a fathers' employment and training program in October 1996 when he was not earning enough money to keep up with his child support obligation for his son, Ricardo, who is now 14 years old. During his time with the program operated by the Ramsey County Child Support office, Carlos worked hard to upgrade his skills and increase his earning power so he could meet his child support responsibilities, save money to send Ricardo to college, and improve his own future. In May 1999, Carlos graduated from St. Paul Technical College and immediately landed a job as an electronics technician. In July 2000, Carlos was hired by Check Technology Corporation as a Systems Technician.

Helping American Workers with Transportation

"Because of my new, reliable car, I now will be able to get to and maintain a full-time job...I know that this car will be very helpful in reaching my goal of leaving public assistance and supporting my family on my own... I am glad the President understands how important it is for people like me to have reliable transportation as they are working to support their families."

-- **Michael Alexander, of Westfield, New York.** Michael is a 25-year-old single father of two. He lives in an area with very limited public transportation and since he did not own a car, it had been very difficult for him to maintain steady employment. Through the help of a federally-funded, county run program, EARNA CAR, he attended classes about car maintenance, helped repair a donated car, worked out a manageable loan payment with the help of a local bank, and was able to purchase a used vehicle. Since he bought the car, Mr. Alexander has been able to secure full-time employment and moved from welfare to work.

Helping Families Succeed on the Job And At Home

- ✓ THEN: Working families faced special problems in attempting to succeed at home and on the job. The Family and Medical Leave Act had been vetoed twice, denying parents 12 weeks of leave to care for a newborn child or sick family member. Paychecks of working families continued to lose pace to inflation, dropping 4.3 percent in real value. Quality child care for working families was increasingly difficult to find and afford, and federal assistance served a small fraction of those who needed help.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton has kept his promise to make it easier for families that work hard and play by the rules to make ends meet and care for their children.
 - President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993 – the first law he signed as President. Today, more than 20 million Americans have taken unpaid leave to care for a newborn child or sick family member.
 - To help hard-pressed working families, President Clinton passed a \$500 per child tax credit, a \$1 per hour increase in the minimum wage, and provided tax cuts for 15 million working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides the average family receiving the EITC with \$1,000 per year.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has significantly expanded child care opportunities for working families. They have more than doubled funding for federal child care, which now provides assistance to 1.5 million families: The welfare reform law signed by President Clinton provided an additional \$4 billion over six years, more than had ever been spent before, in child care assistance to families moving from welfare to work and other low-income families. The Administration has also provided after-school opportunities to approximately 850,000 children so that more parents know that their children are in safe learning environment during the after-school hours. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have nearly doubled funding for the Head Start program, expanded the program to more than 160,000 additional children, enacted critical quality improvements, and created the Early Start program targeted to development of younger children.
 - The President fought for and signed new legislation giving parents new tools to protect their children from media violence by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips (V-chips) in all new televisions. The President also worked with the entertainment industry to create a new ratings system for television programs and the computer industry to establish ratings for video games.

- The Clinton-Gore Administration also took on the tobacco industry by developing the first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco, and calling on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan.
- President Clinton signed the Foster Care Independence Act. This law is designed to help the 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. It ensures that these young people will get the tools they need to make the most of their lives by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other services.

Targeted Tax Cuts Helping Hard-Pressed Working Families

"With the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit we were able to pay off our debts, so we could afford the mortgage payments to buy a home and we bought a used van that we fixed up. The EITC was worth a mortgage payment for a month. That was a boost that my husband and I really appreciated. It kind of rewarded the hard work he put in, just when we really needed it."

-- **Jessica Cupp of Thurmont, Maryland**, is a married mother of 2-year-old triplet girls. The Cupp triplets were born 26 weeks into Jessica's pregnancy at very low birth weights and with several medical problems. Jessica was forced to give up her work at a childcare center in order to care for her own three children. For 1998 and 1999, the Cupp family applied for and received Earned Income Tax Credit refunds as well as child tax credits that they would not have received had it not been for the 1993 EITC expansion and the new child tax credit. This money has helped the family to pay off debt accrued when the triplets were born, to move into a home more suited for raising 3 children, to trade in their 2-door vehicle for a van, and has allowed Jessica to stay home and care for their three growing daughters.

Providing Opportunities to Foster Care Children

"I have several younger foster siblings still at home... I have lots of hope for their future – and even more now with the passage of this bill. I have no doubt that this action will have a positive effect on the thousands of foster youth who leave care each year – unable to return to their families...I really hope that this bill will make the training and experience that I had, possible for all youth in foster care around the United States...[President Clinton's] work in passing this bill has made these things more possible. You did the right thing!"

-- **Kristi Jo Frazier, Cincinnati, Ohio**. Kristi Jo is a former foster child who is studying education at Cincinnati State and Technical College. She now lives on her own after successfully transitioning from foster care in July 1998 into independent living.

Expanding Access to Quality Health Care

- ✓ **THEN:** Millions of children could not access affordable and meaningful health insurance, people with disabilities who wanted to work could not for fear of losing their health insurance, and young people leaving foster care could not retain the critical health insurance they needed to make a healthy start as adults. Unlike many other American workers, self-employed Americans received absolutely no tax assistance in purchasing health care insurance. Every year, an estimated 25 million Americans had breaks in their health care coverage because they changed jobs, or were self employed, or had preexisting conditions that could lead an insurance company to deny coverage.

- ✓ NOW: More than 2.5 million children have received health insurance as a result of the enactment of the historic Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997 – the largest expansion of health insurance for children since the creation of the Medicaid program. The President has also enacted coverage expansions for millions of people with disabilities who wish to return to work and for the 20,000 foster care children aging out of Medicaid eligibility every year. The President's enactment of the bipartisan Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act gave Americans insurance portability protections when they switch or lose jobs. The President has also enacted legislation that assures that: annual and lifetime coverage limits can be no different for mental health coverage than other benefits; new mothers can stay in the hospital; drive-through mastectomies are eliminated; and genetic discrimination against many Americans purchasing health insurance is prohibited.

**More Children Have Access to Health Care
Thanks to the Children's Health Insurance Program**

"When we found the Healthy Families program, it was like a miracle. Now my kids have a regular doctor who knows our family. I don't have to worry about taking them in for their school physicals or for their vaccinations. They can run around and climb on things and jump off things and the only thing I really need to worry about is if they get their clothes dirty. Because of the Healthy Families program, my husband and I can make sure that our kids grow up healthy." – **Evelyn Alvarado, California.** Before Evelyn's children – Daniel (aged 13), Mary (aged 11), and Samuel (aged 8) – enrolled her children in California's CHIP program (Healthy Families) in June 1999, they were uninsured for eight years and only saw the doctor in the case of emergencies

**Allowing Americans with Disabilities to Return to Work
Without Fear of Losing Insurance Coverage**

"We have been waiting for so long to see this bill signed – to watch as this Administration... opens the door to employment for individuals with disabilities all over America." – **James Sullivan, New Hampshire, December 16, 1999.** James is a C6 quadriplegic (partial use of his arms) who is in his mid thirties. Two days before he turned 18, he broke his back diving into a wave. He is willing to give up his SSDI check if he could go back to work and keep his personal attendant services. If his state takes the Medicaid buy in option, Jeffords-Kennedy will allow him to do just that. He would like to get a job in the telecommunications industry.

Progress for Working Families

- ✓ The EITC now lifts 4.1 million working families out of poverty, which is nearly double the number of people lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993. Among children, the EITC reduced poverty by 17 percent in 1999 – moving 2.3 million children out of poverty.
- ✓ The total tax burden dropped from 24.5 percent in 1992 to 22.8 percent and is now at the lowest rate since 1978. The total Federal tax rate for middle-income families increased under the previous two administrations, rising from 23.7 percent in 1980 to 24.5 percent in 1992.
- ✓ Teen birth rates have dropped to the lowest rate in 60 years. The number of births to teens declined from 60.7 per 1000 in 1992 to 49.6 in 1999 – an 18 percent drop.
- ✓ Welfare rolls have been more than cut in half – from 14.1 million people in 1993 to 6.3 million today – to the lowest level since 1968. The percent of people on welfare in 1999 who were working in 2000 increased to almost 40 percent – nearly double the level in 1992. [NOTE: just got updated numbers; also, needed to make more clear what this figure represents]
- ✓ Child support collections have broken new records, doubling federal and state collections from \$8 billion in 1992 to nearly \$16 billion last year.
- ✓ The child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 16.9 percent, a reduction of 25.6 percent – the biggest six-year drop in nearly 30 years (1964-1970). Child poverty is now at its lowest rate since 1979.
- ✓ Federal investments in child care have doubled and now help parents provide care for 1.5 million children.
- ✓ Head Start will serve approximately 880,000 children this year – up from just over 700,000 in 1992.
- ✓ Adoptions have increased – in 1999 alone, 46,000 foster care children were adopted, an increase of nearly 65 percent since 1996.

The Clinton Presidency: Protecting Our Environment and Public Health

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office committed to demonstrating that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand-in-hand. Over the past eight years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has proven it: we now have the strongest economy and the cleanest environment in a generation. This Administration has invested in a common sense and cost-effective approach of new technologies, tougher enforcement of environmental laws, strengthening public health standards, and protecting our irreplaceable national treasures. President Clinton's environmental strategy has given our nation the cleanest air and water in a generation and the strongest economy in our nation's history – proving that you can both protect the environment and grow the economy.

Producing Cleaner, Healthier Communities

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, America's communities faced serious environmental problems. Lethargic federal clean-up efforts left 88 percent of the worst 1,200 toxic waste sites and their communities polluted after 12 years of federal efforts. Nearly 40,000 urban industrial sites sat abandoned with no federal strategy to redevelop them. Sixty-two million people lived in areas with drinking water below federal standards; nearly 157 million people – 62 percent of the country – breathed air that failed to meet federal standards.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore brought a renewed commitment to protecting and preserving the environment and today, more families live in cleaner, healthier communities.
 - They strengthened the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration adopted the toughest standards ever on soot and smog, which could prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths each year. They have announced significant reductions in tailpipe emissions from cars, light trucks and SUVs as well as reducing the level of sulfur in gasoline by 90 percent. Over the coming decade, these measures will cut smog-causing pollution from new vehicles by 77 to 95 percent, preventing 4,300 premature deaths, 260,000 asthma attacks among children, and 173,000 cases of childhood respiratory illness each year.
 - The Administration also launched a long-term effort to restore pristine skies and unspoiled views at the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Acadia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks and other natural treasures that draw 290 million visitors a year. And they announced a strategy to reduce harmful emissions of smog-causing nitrogen oxides and particulate matter from heavy-duty trucks and diesel fuels by over 90 percent.
 - The Clinton Administration accelerated the cleanup of the nation's worst toxic waste sites, freeing scores of communities from environmental threats and economic blight, completing clean-up of more than three times as many Superfund sites in the past eight years as were cleaned in the past eight. The President also launched initiatives to accelerate the cleanup of brownfields and remove barriers to their redevelopment.

- The Administration also expanded Americans' Right to Know about environmental hazards in their communities by doubling the number of chemicals that companies must report.

Critical Leadership for Clean Air

"Cleaning up big, dirty diesel trucks is critical to meet our nation's air quality goals and to protect the public health... We commend EPA Administrator Browner and President Clinton for proposing this forward-thinking effort."

– **John M. Coruthers, Jr., President, American Lung Association** on the Administration proposal to clean up all heavy-duty trucks and buses and dramatically reduce sulfur in diesel fuel starting in the 2007 model year.

"A lot can be done by nurses like myself to educate children and parents on how to live with asthma. It also takes strong leadership in government to reduce the pollution that has often been linked to asthma. [President Clinton is] a man who has used his high office to make cleaning the air and protecting children's health a priority." – **Gloria Hackman, School Nurse, Maury Elementary School, Alexandria, Virginia**, Ms. Hackman administers the Open Airways For Schools class – a program to teach asthmatic children how to cope with asthma – and spoke at an event with the President to announce the final standards of the Tier II/Low Sulfur Gasoline Rule, which will improve air quality by reducing pollution from vehicles by up to 95 percent by 2009.

Brownfields and Superfund Initiatives Revitalize America's Communities

"This is what urban revitalization is all about. This very site, which used to be the scourge of Fairfield County, is now the region's most exciting new entertainment venue... I'd be genuinely surprised if there's a more dramatic example of success with brownfields reclamation than right here at our ballpark."

– **Mickey Herbert, majority owner, the Bridgeport Bluefish Baseball team, Bridgeport, Connecticut**, on the state of the art Harbor Yard sports complex – a former brownfield.

"This allows us to participate in a program that is national in scope and touches just about every state... There are going to be many, many more fields where kids can play on that wouldn't be there except for EPA working with the United States Soccer Foundation."

– **Herb Giobbi, Executive Director, U.S. Soccer Foundation** on the EPA/USSF partnership to help communities build soccer fields on former Superfund sites.

Clinton-Gore Administration Empowers Communities by Expanding the Right-to-Know

"I have seen firsthand how important it is for communities to know what chemicals are being dumped into the environment. I applaud the Clinton Administration for working to make sure that all communities can know – after all, this affects our health, our children's health and our future."

- Lorraine Ross, Clean Water Community Activist, San Francisco, California. Lorraine Ross, fearing for the health of her family, started a campaign 18 years ago that led to the discovery that toxic chemicals had leaked from underground tanks at a local corporation into a nearby drinking-water well.

"The President has been such an extraordinary leader in fighting for the environment and protecting public health. Before "right to know," people didn't know what chemicals were being released into the environment. Now, times are changing, people and companies are more aware and our communities are better for it."

- Doris McGuigan, Environmental Activist, Baltimore, Maryland.

Preserving America's Treasures for Future Generations

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, many of America's natural treasures were at risk of development. A massive gold mine proposed not far from Yellowstone National Park threatened the world's first national park with toxic runoff and other environmental harm. Many were calling for more oil drilling in sensitive coastal areas and in areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. More than half of the historic wetlands in the continental United States had been lost.
- ✓ NOW: From the Red Rock Canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have preserved millions of acres in national parks, national monuments and wilderness areas. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also launched major reforms to reverse the loss of precious wetlands, setting a goal of a net increase of 100,000 acres of wetlands a year by 2005. The President defended Yellowstone National Park from potential toxic runoff from a proposed gold mine near the Park's boundary, and acquired land near the Park to expand critical habitat for bison. The Administration has also strongly opposed efforts to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the President vetoed legislation that would have opened the Refuge to new exploration. President Clinton worked with Congress to provide dedicated and protected funding for conservation and preservation programs, including his Lands Legacy initiative. The agreement will nearly double our investment in these programs, making it the largest annual investment in protecting our green and open spaces since President Roosevelt set our nation on the path of conservation nearly a century ago. The Administration is now working to provide long-term protection for more than 40 million acres of roadless areas within national forests. In addition, President Clinton and Vice President Gore protected America's oceans and coasts by extending the moratorium on new oil leasing off most of the U.S. coast through 2012, and permanently barred new leasing in national marine sanctuaries. The U.S. was also the first nuclear power to advocate a global ban on ocean dumping of low-level radioactive waste.

Leadership to Preserve National Treasures for Future Generations

"If my grandfather were here today, he would be overjoyed with what the Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the President are about to do. Perhaps the greatest challenge in conservation in our generation is to develop the political will to set aside enough of nature to sustain the diversity of plants and animals we ultimately depend on."

– Peter Pinchot, Conservationist. Peter Pinchot is the grandson of Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service under President Teddy Roosevelt and one of American history's most constructive land conservation leaders.

"To save these last, vast pieces of wild country from haphazard development means that my sons' children will have room as we do, to get lost or find their bearings, to meet in themselves some long forgotten ancestor's resourcefulness and grit, to take heart...Mr. President thank you for protecting this magnificent place for our future generations."

– Ann Walka, Conservationist, Flagstaff, Arizona, on the proclamation of the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument.

Managing and Using the Oceans Wisely

"If we are to protect, manage and use the oceans wisely, we must understand how they work. We are pleased to see that research is an important component of the Administration's agenda and applaud their efforts."

– Robert B. Gagosian, Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Protecting the Environment and Growing the Economy

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, special interests and polluters defeated progress by saying that America could not protect the environment and grow the economy. As a result, America did neither. The false choice between the economy and the environment resulted in weak standards and lax enforcement that failed to hold polluters responsible. Meanwhile, the country had just begun to take steps to reward conservation and tap the economic potential of environmental technology and business.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore were determined to prove that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand-in-hand. They worked to grow green businesses by encouraging and rewarding new environmental technologies and significantly increased efforts to hold polluters accountable.
 - The Administration launched initiatives such as the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV) – an innovative research partnership with the Big Three automakers to develop cars with up to triple the fuel efficiency of today's models. The Clinton Administration also launched the Climate Change Technology Initiative to spur the development of clean energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global warming while saving money and creating jobs. The Administration also launched the National Environmental Technology Strategy to strengthen partnerships with the environmental business community and expand the federal government's role in

spurring innovation and growth in the industry. The Administration has also worked to promote the export of U.S. technology and expertise overseas. Since 1993, exports based on environmental technology and industry have more than doubled.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have significantly increased enforcement of environmental laws. Last year, EPA assessed a total of \$228.3 million in civil and criminal penalties, the most ever assessed and \$87 million more than in 1992. In addition, the EPA referred 241 criminal cases to the Justice Department, 322 defendants were charged and 2,500 total months of sentences were handed down, more than doubling enforcement activity in each category over 1992 levels.

Climate Change Technology Task Force is Moving America Toward Reducing Green House Gases While Growing the Economy

"The Clinton Administration deserves credit for seeing energy efficiency for what it is - an energy source that is essential for the economic health of our nation. The Climate Change Technology Initiative in particular is spurring new clean energy technologies that are paying off like a gusher for the American people. The important choices on energy and climate must be made with a clear eye on the contribution to the environment, the economy, national security, and international competitiveness delivered in the past and promised for the future by energy efficiency."

- David M. Nemtzow, President, Alliance to Save Energy

Protecting the Environment and Improving Public Health

- ✓ **More Americans Have Safe Drinking Water:** The number of Americans with safe drinking water has increased by 23.2 million since 1993. In 1993, 79 percent of Americans lived in areas with tap water that meets all federal standards. Today, more than 90 percent live in areas served by systems that meet all federal standards.
- ✓ **More Americans Breathe Clean Air:** The number of Americans living in communities meeting clean air standards has increased by 44 million since 1992. New strong standards on smog and soot could prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year, and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses
- ✓ **More Than Three Times as Many Toxic Waste Sites Cleaned:** Since 1993, the Administration has completed more than 620 cleanups of Superfund sites - more than three times as many as were completed in the previous 12 years. Cleanup is completed or underway at 92 percent of all Superfund sites.
- ✓ **Redeveloping Brownfields Sites:** The Clinton-Gore Administration has leveraged more than \$2.3 billion in private sector investment, and generated 6,400 jobs through the brownfields redevelopment initiative.
- ✓ **Protected More Land than Any Administration in History:** The Clinton-Gore Administration has protected more land as national monuments in the lower 48 states - more than 4.6 million acres - than any Administration. President Clinton has created 11 national monuments - including Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah; Grand Canyon-Parashant in Arizona; Agua Fria in Arizona; Giant Sequoia in California; and the California Coastal monument - and has expanded two others.

- ✓ **Doubled the Number of Chemicals Reported:** President Clinton has doubled the number of chemicals subject to reporting in the nation's Toxic Release Inventory. The number of facilities subject to reporting has increased by 10 percent. Since 1992, emissions of the toxic chemicals from manufacturers have decreased by more than 20 percent.
- ✓ **New Jobs in the Environmental Industry:** Since 1993, 130,000 new jobs have been created in environmental industries such as recycling, renewable energy, waste management and environmental clean-ups.
- ✓ **More Than Doubled Exports Based on Environmental Technology:** Since 1993, exports based on environmental technology and industry have more than doubled, increasing from \$9.4 million in 1993 to \$20 million in 1999.
- ✓ **Record Penalties for Polluters:** Record civil and criminal penalties were assessed against polluters by the EPA last year. In FY 1992, the EPA referred 107 criminal cases to the Department of Justice, 150 defendants were charged and a total of 1,135 months of criminal sentences were handed down. In FY 1999, the EPA referred 241 criminal cases to the Justice Department, 322 defendants were charged and 2,500 total months of sentences were handed down. In addition, \$228.3 million worth of civil penalties were assessed in FY 1999, the highest amount ever. In FY 1992, combined civil and criminal penalties totaled just \$141.4 million.

The Clinton Presidency: Improving the Nation's Health Care

From the first days of his Administration, President Clinton has worked to expand access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. The President has strengthened the Medicare program, increased access and improved the quality of our nation's health care system. President Clinton's balanced approach to increasing access to quality health care has paid off for America, with the number of uninsured Americans declining for the first time in 12 years in 1999.

Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare

- ✓ THEN: Eight years ago, the Medicare Trust Fund was expected to run out of money in 1999. Health care fraud was contributing to rising costs and a shaky financial future for the Medicare program. The President and Vice President succeeded in passing measures to strengthen and modernize Medicare, crack down on fraud, and protect the benefits of today's beneficiaries.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the most comprehensive Medicare reforms in history. They insisted on provisions in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to protect, modernize and extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund, while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care. The Balanced Budget Act also provided an array of new weapons in our fight to keep scam artists and fly-by-night health care out of Medicare and Medicaid. President Clinton has assigned more federal prosecutors and FBI agents to fight health care fraud than ever before. The Clinton-Gore Administration's work has extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund until 2025.

Reforming the Insurance Market

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, there were no Federal protections to ensure the portability of health benefits for workers in between jobs or to prevent discrimination based on health status. Every year, an estimated 25 million Americans had breaks in their health care coverage because they changed jobs, or were self employed, or had preexisting conditions that could lead an insurance company to deny coverage. A technological revolution presented new challenges in safeguarding the privacy of Americans' medical records.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore took on these new challenges and enacted critical reforms to the insurance market that have helped millions of Americans keep their health insurance.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which helps people keep health insurance when they change jobs, guarantees renewability of coverage, and ensures access to health insurance for small businesses.
 - The President enacted mental health parity provisions to help eliminate discrimination against Americans with mental illnesses, and instituted new protections for mothers and their newborns and women recovering from mastectomies.
 - President Clinton also issued landmark Federal regulations protecting the privacy of electronic medical records and issued an executive memorandum preventing genetic discrimination in Federal hiring and promotion actions.

- Because Congress failed to pass a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights, President Clinton directed the federal government to ensure that the important new benefits and rights that health care consumers receive under the Administration's proposed Patients Bill of Rights are guaranteed to federal employees, veterans, Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and individuals covered by the Indian Health Service and the Military Health System, including choice of providers and plans, access to emergency services, participation in treatment decisions, confidentiality of health information and a fair complaint and appeals process.

Executive Action Guarantees Medical Privacy

"The Administration has made significant headway where Congress could not [on medical privacy] to restore public trust and confidence in our nation's health care system."

-- **Janlori Goldman**, October 29, 1999. Janlori Goldman, considered to be one of the leading medical privacy experts nationwide, directs the Health Privacy Project at Georgetown University's Institute for Health Care Research and Policy. The Project is dedicated to ensuring that people's privacy is safeguarded in the health care environment.

Improving and Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

- ✓ THEN: The number of uninsured – especially uninsured children – was growing. People with disabilities who wanted to work could not for fear of losing their health insurance, and young people leaving foster care could not retain the critical health insurance they needed to make a healthy start as adults. Unlike many other American workers, self-employed Americans received absolutely no tax assistance in purchasing health care insurance.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton came into office determined to expand access to health care for all Americans. His work has led to the first decrease in the number of uninsured Americans in twelve years.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted the largest investment in health care for children since 1965, providing health care for up to five million children with the State Children's Health Insurance Program. They also led aggressive outreach efforts to enroll eligible children.
 - President Clinton enacted landmark legislation providing new health insurance opportunities for working people with disabilities and enacted new legislation to help young people leaving foster care keep their health insurance, as well as legislation to assure that self-employed Americans receive the same tax benefits as workers who have job-based health coverage.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has improved quality and access of long term care. The Clinton Administration has made ensuring the health and safety of nursing home residents a top priority and has issued the toughest nursing home regulations in the history of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, requiring states to crack down on nursing homes that repeatedly violate health and safety requirements and changing the inspection process to increase the focus on preventing bedsores, malnutrition and resident abuse. They also enacted legislation simplifying state options to expand eligibility and design community based long term care programs, allowing seniors and people with disabilities to receive care in their homes rather than in institutional settings. And the Administration enacted legislation allowing the Federal government to serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees.

- In October 2000, President Clinton enacted the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, which provides new treatment options to low-income, uninsured women with breast cancer who are diagnosed through federally sponsored screening programs.

Children's Health Insurance Program Provides Security for Families

"When we found the Healthy Families program, it was like a miracle. Now my kids have a regular doctor who knows our family. I don't have to worry about taking them in for their school physicals or for their vaccinations. They can run around and climb on things and jump off things and the only thing I really need to worry about is if they get their clothes dirty. Because of the Healthy Families program, my husband and I can make sure that our kids grow up healthy."

-- **Evelyn Alvarado, California.** Evelyn Alvarado, enrolled her children in California's CHIP program (Healthy Families) in June 1999. Before they enrolled in Healthy Families, Evelyn's children – Daniel (aged 13), Mary (aged 11), and Samuel (aged 8) – were uninsured for eight years and only saw the doctor in the case of emergencies.

Ensuring that All Americans Have Access to Cancer Prevention and Treatment

The National Breast Cancer Coalition applauds this Administration for its dedication and commitment to furthering substantive breast cancer policies that move us closer to eradicating this disease. From enhancing access to quality clinical trials, to enacting an optional Medicaid bill that would ensure treatment for low-income women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer through federal programs – the Clinton Administration leaves a legacy of unprecedented progress for women with breast cancer, their families and friends.

-- **Fran Visco, President, National Breast Cancer Coalition**

Improving Public Health

- ✓ **THEN:** In 1992, America's public health delivery system was badly in need of repair: half of two year olds did not receive their immunizations, infant mortality rates were too high, and funding for biomedical research was inadequate.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have improved our public health system and made investments that have given us a healthier America. They have increased child immunizations, implemented new food safety protections, increased research funding and became the first Administration to take on the tobacco industry to reduce teen smoking.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore raised childhood immunization rates to record levels by investing in the Childhood Immunization Initiative in 1993. More than 90 percent of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and again in 1998. The infant mortality is at an all-time low, and has declined by 15.2 percent since 1992.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration improved the safety of food for all Americans by seeking substantial funding for such initiatives as a nationwide early-warning system for foodborne illness, increased inspections, and the expansion of food-safety research, risk assessment and education. The Administration has also put into place improved science-based standards for meat, poultry, and

seafood products and enacted strict new standards for pesticide residues in food, including the first pesticide standards aimed specifically at protecting children.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have increased funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$7.3 billion (58 percent), and they have strongly supported the efforts of the National Human Genome Research Institute to map the entire human genome, which will revolutionize health care in the future.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration took on the tobacco industry by developing the first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco, and calling on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also made our nation's health a priority by establishing smoke-free federal workplaces, raising the federal tobacco tax, and by giving the American people their day in court against the tobacco manufacturers who engaged in decades of deception about the dangers of tobacco.

Raising Immunization Rates To an All Time High Ensures A Healthy Future for All Children

"President Clinton and those in his administration have made immunizations a priority since day one. ... By launching the Children's Vaccine Initiative seven years ago, the Clinton Administration has increased vaccination rates to an all-time high. As a result, many infants and children will not suffer from such preventable diseases as polio and measles."

— Joe M. Sanders, Jr., M.D., Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics.

Improving the Nation's Health Care

- ✓ **Strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund:** Medicare is in the soundest shape since 1975, with the life of the Trust Fund extended until 2025. In 1992, Medicare was expected to run out of money in 1999.
- ✓ **Number of Uninsured Declines:** From 1998 to 1999, the number of Americans with health insurance rose by 1.7 million -- two-thirds of them children. This is the first decline in the number of uninsured in 12 years.
- ✓ **More Children Have Health Insurance:** 2.5 million additional children have access to health care because they have enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- ✓ **Immunizations at All-Time High:** Childhood immunization rates are at an all-time high with more than 90 percent of America's toddlers receiving the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and 1998.
- ✓ **Infant Mortality at All-Time Low:** Infant mortality has declined by 15.2 percent since 1992.
- ✓ **Cancer Deaths Have Stopped Rising:** For the first time, cancer death rates have stopped rising, despite a growing and aging population.
- ✓ **New AIDS Infections Declined:** For the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, new AIDS infections declined, and the latest data available indicates a decrease in HIV/AIDS mortality of 42 percent.
- ✓ **Improved Food Safety:** From 1997 to 1999, illness from the most common foodborne pathogens declined by 20 percent -- which means nearly a million fewer Americans are suffering from foodborne illnesses each year. In addition, infections from *E. coli* O157:H7 are down 22 percent due to improved sanitation in slaughter and processing plants; and infections from *Salmonella enteritidis* are down 50 percent due, in part, to Administration efforts to decrease contamination in eggs.

- ✓ **Lowest Teen Birth Rate on Record:** The teen birth rate is the lowest ever recorded, falling in each year of the Clinton-Gore Administration, for an overall decline of 18 percent from 1992 to 1999. The teen pregnancy rate is also at a record low.
- ✓ **Extended Protections to People in HMOs:** Protections included in the Patients' Bill of Rights have been extended to 85 million people covered by Federal health plans, and Medicare and Medicaid.
- ✓ **Extended Insurance Coverage of Contraceptives:** Insurance coverage of contraceptives has been extended to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age covered by federal health plans.
- ✓ **Record High Levels of Biomedical Research:** NIH supports the highest levels of research ever on nearly all types of disease and health conditions, making new breakthroughs possible in vaccine development and use, the treatment of chronic disease, and prevention and treatment of diseases such as diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, cancer, and neurological diseases like Alzheimers and Parkinsons.

The Clinton Presidency: A Foreign Policy for the Global Age

President Clinton understood from the beginning of his presidency that the most pervasive force in our world is globalization. He also understood that while globalization is inexorable, its benefits are not – although it does have qualities we can harness to advance our objectives of democracy, shared prosperity and peace. The way for America to exercise its influence today is to build with our democratic partners an international system of strong alliances and institutions attuned to the challenges of a globalized world, to ensure this system is genuinely open to all who adhere to clearly defined standards, and to be ready to stand up for those standards when they are threatened. The broad outlines of a foreign policy for the global age can't be summed up on a bumper sticker, but they are reflected in the principles that have guided the Clinton foreign policy over the past eight years.

Our Alliances with Europe and Asia are the Cornerstone of Our National Security, but They Must be Constantly Adapted to Meet Emerging Challenges.

These core alliances are today stronger and arguably more durable because they are organized to advance an enduring set of shared interests, rather than to defeat a single threat. President Clinton broke new ground in 1993 by welcoming our European and Asian allies' desire to play a more responsible role while maintaining our troops and adapting our alliances in both regions.

Working for a Peaceful, Democratic, Undivided Europe

- **Revitalized, adapted and expanded NATO** from a static Cold War alliance to a magnet for new democracies, with new partners, members and missions; adapted its command structure; admitted Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic; created Partnership for Peace.
- **Led NATO in its first military engagement** and stopped the killing in Bosnia. The peace we brokered in Dayton has been sustained, a civil society complete with active opposition parties and non-governmental organizations is taking root, and national and local elections have taken place throughout the country.
- **Took military action in Kosovo to stop ethnic cleansing and regional instability.** Forced withdrawal of Serb forces and deployed an international presence in Kosovo – with a 47,000 strong NATO-led force providing security for the province. Achieved the safe and unconditional return of over 900,000 refugees, disbanded the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Adapting and Upholding our Alliance with Asia

- **Updated our strategic alliance with Japan** through adoption of the Defense Guidelines and Joint Security Declaration to define how to respond together to post-Cold War threats.
- **Reduced the North Korean threat** through deterrence, diplomacy. Negotiated the October 1994 Framework Agreement to freeze and dismantle North Korea's dangerous nuclear weapons fuel production and a moratorium on long-range missile testing in 1999.
- **Strengthened cooperation with South Korea** to move forward to engage North Korea. Jointly engaged in Four Party Talks and established Trilateral Group (the United States, Japan and South Korea) to coordinate North Korea policy which helped create the conditions for an eventual North-South dialogue.

Peace and Security for the United States Depends on Building Principled, Constructive, Clear-Eyed Relations with Our Former Adversaries.

We must continue to be mindful of threats to the peace – whether it is a Russian move against Georgia or a Chinese move against Taiwan – while maximizing the chances that both nations evolve internally toward greater democracy, stability and prosperity. To achieve both goals, we must continue to seize on the desire of both Russia and China to participate in the global economy and global institutions, insisting they accept the obligations as well as the benefits of integration.

Building on Our Relationship with Russia

- **Negotiated the exit of Russian troops** from the Baltics, brought Russian troops into NATO missions in the Balkans and won Russia's active support for a just end to the Kosovo war.
- **Brought Russia into the G-8, APEC**, and into relationships with NATO and international financial institutions.
- **Reduced the nuclear danger.** Deactivated/dismantled over 1,700 nuclear warheads, 300 missile launchers, 425 ICBM and SLBMs; strengthened security and accounting of nuclear materials; purchased 500 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium; reached agreement for the safe, transparent and irreversible destruction of 68 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium.
- **Supported economic reform and the creation of a market economy.** More than 250,000 Russian entrepreneurs have received U.S. training, consulting services or loans. Today 70 percent of the Russian economy is in private hands.

Building on Our Relationship with China

- **Helped maintain peace in the Taiwan Straits** and worked with China to maintain stability on Korean Peninsula.
- **Brought China into global non-proliferation regimes** – Chemical Weapons Convention, CTBT and Biological Weapons Convention.
- **Negotiated terms for China's entry into the World Trade Organization, with Permanent Normal Trade Relations.** Most constructive breakthrough in U.S.-China relations since normalization in 1979 – will entangle China more deeply in a rules-based international system and change China internally.

Local Conflicts can have Global Consequences. The Purpose of Peacemaking, Whether by Diplomacy or Force, Must be to Resolve Conflicts Before They Escalate and Harm Our Vital Interests.

In a global age, arguments for peacemaking are even stronger: to defuse conflicts before they escalate and harm our interests. America's dominant power is more likely to be accepted if it is harnessed to the cause of peace.

- **Middle East:** Brought parties together at Camp David for first high level discussions of all permanent status issues. Helped forge agreements that led to the Declaration of Principles in September 1993 and the Interim Agreement on Palestinian self-rule in September 1995. Brokered the Wye agreement in October 1998, revitalizing the peace process after years of stagnation. Helped broker the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum against terrorism in September 1999, and the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel in October 1994.
- **Balkans:** Stabilizing Southeast Europe by ending a decade of repression and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Led NATO alliance to victory in air campaign and ushering in international

peacekeepers. Launched the Stability Pact to strengthen democracy, economic development and security throughout the region, and accelerating its integration with the rest of Europe and freeing Europe from a permanent refugee crisis and source of conflict.

- **Greece and Turkey:** Encouraged Greek-Turkish *rapprochement*. Strongly supported Turkey's European Union candidacy. Restarted talks toward a comprehensive settlement on Cyprus.
- **India and Pakistan:** Helped them move from the brink of what might have been a catastrophic war in July 1999.
- **Northern Ireland:** Helped broker the Good Friday Peace Accord, ending decades of bloodshed and empowering the people of Northern Ireland to determine their future.
- **Peru and Ecuador:** Worked with other regional governments to halt the 1995 border war between Peru and Ecuador.
- **Eritrea and Ethiopia:** Worked with Organization of African Unity to broker a cease fire and continue working for a comprehensive peace agreement.

Not All Old Threats have Disappeared, but New Dangers, Accentuated by Technological Advances and the Permeability of Borders, Require New National Security Priorities.

One of the biggest changes we have brought about in the way America relates to the world has been the change in what we consider important. The Clinton Administration has defined a new security agenda that addresses contemporary threats – nonproliferation, terrorism, international crime, infectious disease, environmental damage.

- **Nonproliferation:** Permanently eliminated nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles from Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and achieved the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Terrorism:** Developed a national counter-terrorism strategy, led by a national coordinator. Brought perpetrators of World Trade Center bombing and CIA killings to justice. Prevented planned attacks against Millennium celebrations.
- **Cyber Security:** Developed first national strategy to protect critical infrastructure, bringing together private sector and government. Increased funding on critical infrastructure protection by over 40 percent since 1998.
- **Chemical and Biological Weapons:** Strengthened international support for and adherence to CWC/BWC. Equipped and trained first responders in 120 largest metro areas.
- **Environment:** Brought climate change issues into the mainstream of our foreign policy. Negotiated Kyoto protocol in 1997 to establish a strong, realistic framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in environmentally strong and economically sound way.
- **Infectious Disease:** Made the international fight against deadly infectious diseases a national security priority. Introduced the issue to the U.S.-EU Summit, the United Nations Millennium Assembly, and the G-8 Summit in Okinawa and mobilized billions from our international partners. More than doubled foreign assistance for HIV/AIDS. Working to accelerate the development of vaccines for AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other major disease threats through the President's Millennium Vaccine Initiative.
- **International Crime:** Intensified interdiction efforts, cracking down on drug lords and providing \$1.6 billion in assistance for Colombia. Combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with an integrated strategy that focuses on prevention, prosecution of traffickers and protection of and assistance to victims.

Economic Integration Advances Both Our Interests and Our Values, but Also Accentuates the Need to Alleviate Economic Disparity.

As the first president who has understood the connections of the global economy and its connection to our prosperity, President Clinton has led the United States toward its greatest expansion in world trade in history – from \$4 to \$6.6 trillion a year. President Clinton has opened markets for U.S. exports abroad and created American jobs through nearly 300 other free and fair trade agreements, contributing to the longest economic expansion in our history.

- **Completed the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations** and created the WTO to reduce tariffs, settle trade disputes and enforce rules.
- **Ratified the North America Free Trade Association**, cementing strategic trade relationships with our immediate neighbors. U.S. exports to Mexico grew 109 percent from 1993 to 1999, compared with growth to the rest of the world of 49 percent.
- **Strong U.S. growth and maintenance of open markets** was in no small measure responsible for the recovery of the Asian economy which again is fueling global growth.
- **Helped rescue Mexico's economy** with \$20 billion in emergency support loans that were repaid in full with interest.
- **Supported the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative** at the G-7 Summit in Cologne in June 1999, to provide deeper multilateral debt reduction for poor countries with unsustainable debt burdens.
- **Won approval of Permanent Normal Trade Relations** with China that will integrate it into the world economy through entry into the WTO, open Chinese market to U.S. exports, slash Chinese tariffs and protect American workers and companies against dumping.
- **Won approval of the Caribbean Basin Initiative** enhancement legislation to promote economic prosperity in Central America and the Caribbean.
- **Launched and won approval for African Growth and Opportunity Act** to support increased trade and investment between the United States and Africa, strengthen African economies and democratic governments, increase partnerships to counter terrorism, crime, environmental degradation and disease.

The Clinton Presidency Building One America

In 1992, Americans were struggling to maintain the sense of community and respect for diversity that makes our nation strong. The economic gap between haves and have-nots was increasing. Between 1980 through 1992, the bottom 60 percent of Americans saw little if any increase in income, unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics reached record highs, and the poverty rate for African Americans remained at or above 30 percent. Over the last eight years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to bridge the divisions and ease the tensions. They have appointed the most diverse and inclusive administration in history, launched initiatives to close economic and social gaps, and established the One America office in the White House to build a strategy of closing opportunity gaps and to promote understanding and reconciliation.

Appointed the Most Diverse Administration in History

- ✓ **THEN:** The impressive strides made by women and minorities had not been fully reflected in the top levels of government. When President Clinton came to office, there were just two women and two minorities in the cabinet. Between 1976 and 1992, there were just 57 African Americans appointed to federal judgeships, and in 1992, just 10 percent of the federal bench were minorities and only 11 percent were women. Comparatively, in 1990, women made up 51.3 percent of the population while minorities made up 25.1 percent of the U.S. population.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton appointed the most diverse Cabinet in history. Over the past eight years, he has appointed seven African American Cabinet Secretaries, and women make up 44 percent of Clinton Administration appointees, including the first woman to serve as Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, and the first to serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno. The President also appointed the first Asian American to serve in a Cabinet, Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta. The President has appointed more African Americans to federal judgeships than were appointed during the last sixteen years combined and 14 percent of all Clinton Administration appointees are African American, twice as many as in any previous Administration. President Clinton appointed three times as many female judges as the two previous administrations and the most Hispanic judicial nominees of any President. Record numbers of people with disabilities are also serving in the White House and throughout the Clinton Administration.

Closing Economic and Social Gaps

- ✓ **THEN:** The economic gap between haves and have-nots was increasing. Between 1980 through 1992, the bottom 60 percent of Americans saw little if any increase in income, unemployment for African Americans and Hispanics reached record highs, and the poverty rate for African Americans remained at or above 30 percent.
- ✓ **NOW:** Under President Clinton, unemployment and poverty rates have declined for all groups, while family incomes have increased. The Clinton Administration has worked to increase opportunity by expanding access to higher education and job training, expanding loans to minority small businesses, and launching efforts to close the digital divide and expand new markets in underserved communities. Examples of progress under the Clinton-Gore Administration include:

- Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, the unemployment rate for African Americans fell from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 7.3 percent today and the African-American poverty rate has dropped from 33.1 percent to 26.1 percent in 1998 – the lowest level recorded, and the largest five-year drop in African-American poverty since 1967-1972. At the same time, the typical African-American household's income is up \$3,317.
- Unemployment for Hispanics fell from 11.8 percent in October of 1992 to 5.0 percent today. The Hispanic poverty rate has dropped from 29.6 percent to 25.6 percent -- the lowest since 1979. And over the past three years, the income of the typical Hispanic household has risen \$3,880 or 15.9 percent – the largest three-year increase in Hispanic income on record.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration launched an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities, setting a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration has fought hate crimes and racial profiling by fighting for the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which increased penalties for hate crimes as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. As a result of Presidential leadership, the number of law enforcement agencies across the country reporting hate crimes to the Justice Department has risen from 2,771 in 1991 to 12,122 in 1999 – giving authorities a more accurate picture of the problem. President Clinton is also working to end racial profiling, by directing Cabinet agencies to collect data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of individuals subject to certain stops by federal law enforcement to help determine where and when racial profiling occurs.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration has fought to protect the rights of all Americans, increasing funding for civil rights enforcement from \$47.6 million in 1992 to \$82.2 million in 2000. The President also ordered a comprehensive review of federal affirmative action programs, which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. And President Clinton focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, creating the National Church Arson Task Force in 1995 to investigate these crimes, prosecute those responsible, and speed the rebuilding process.
- President Clinton has taken action to ensure fairness and equal participation in our society for legal immigrants. In 1997 and 1998 the President succeeded in restoring disability, health and nutritional benefits for certain legal immigrants. The Administration's English as a Second Language/Civics Education Initiative provides limited English speaking adults with instruction in both English literacy and critical life skills necessary for effective citizenship and civic participation and the Administration has significantly reduced the backlog of citizenship applications.
- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have improved relations between the federal government and Native American tribes. In July 1999, the President visited the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to encourage investment in Indian Country, making him the first sitting President to visit a reservation since Franklin D. Roosevelt. The President also issued executive orders promoting tribal sovereignty, protecting sacred Indian sites, improving the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students and supporting the nation's tribal colleges.
- The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to ensure equal pay for women and close the wage gap. They addressed the wage gap by winning \$20 million in his FY2001 budget initiative for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide grants to post-secondary institutions and partner organizations to promote the full participation of women in science and technology fields. The Equal Opportunity Employment Commission initiated an Equal

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Pay Task Force to provide assistance to field enforcement staff in their development of cases involving equal pay and employment discrimination in compensation.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to assure equality of opportunity and full participation by persons with disabilities. The Clinton-Gore Administration has vigorously defended the Americans with Disabilities Act, worked with states to implement the *Olmstead* decision to prohibit unjustified isolation of institutionalized persons with disabilities, and fought for accessibility in public transportation, housing, and technology. As part of the Administration's work to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities, the President created the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities and signed the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

Addressing the Wage Gap by Supporting Enforcement

"I am grateful that the EEOC is there to assist people like me who have gone through so much in the workplace. It is never easy to confront difficult or painful situations, but I hope that I can serve as an example to women across the country who work hard to build their professional career but still do not receive salaries equal to their male counterparts. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership on this issue."

-- **Karen Simmons-Beathea, of Washington, DC, May 11, 2000.** Karen Simmons-Beathea was hired as the first Executive Director of Baltimore Cable Access Corporation in 1993. Though she was continually promised salary increases, she was kept at her starting salary throughout her three years of employment at BCAC. In 1996, Ms. Simmons-Beathea presented the board of directors with a study, which she alleged demonstrated that she was significantly underpaid compared to male executive directors in other markets, which operate community-based cable television. A month after this presentation, the company terminated her and replaced her with a less qualified male at a salary higher than what she had been receiving. Ms. Simmons-Beathea filed a complaint with the EEOC, was assigned an EEOC attorney, and settled her case this year.

Launched the One America Initiative

- ✓ THEN: America was struggling to maintain the sense of community that makes our nation strong. Even though the country was becoming more diverse, serious economic and social gaps were prevalent, particularly among minority groups. And too often political rhetoric expanded these divisions rather than working to close them. Despite these problems, there was no coordinated strategy to promote reconciliation and address the economic and social divide in this country.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton launched the One America initiative, and created a new office in the White House to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country. As part of these efforts, President Clinton challenged corporate America and the legal and faith communities to action. The President's call to action resulted in separate commitments from the legal, corporate, and religious communities to increase diversity, close the opportunity gap, and promote racial reconciliation.

Increased Opportunity for All Americans

- ✓ Lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record, with the unemployment rate for African Americans falling from 14.2 percent in 1992 to 7.3 percent today. Unemployment for Hispanics has fallen from 11.8 percent in October of 1992 to 5.0 percent today.
- ✓ All groups of Americans, from richest to poorest, have seen their incomes rise for three years in a row. The average income for the lowest 20 percent increased by 5.4 percent compared to an increase of 3.9 percent for the highest 20 percent.
- ✓ Median household income increased for African Americans by almost 15 percent between 1993 and 1999. The median household income for Hispanics is \$30,735, the highest ever recorded, while the median household income for Asian Americans is higher than the national average.
- ✓ Poverty rates are at record lows, with the African American poverty rate down to the lowest level on record, the Hispanic American poverty rate down to the lowest level since 1979, and the Asian American poverty rate as low as it's ever been. Poverty among African American children has also dropped to the lowest level on record.
- ✓ Highest homeownership rate on record, reaching 67.2 percent in the second quarter of 2000 – the highest ever recorded. Minority homeownership rates were also the highest ever recorded.
- ✓ Filed more cases to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration.
- ✓ Higher education achievement, with reading and math scores of 9-year-olds in the highest-poverty schools rising by nearly one grade level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress between 1992 and 1996.
- ✓ Highest number of African American high school graduates enrolling in college ever, increasing from 48 percent in 1992 to 59 percent in 1997. Over the last 10 years, SAT test scores for college-bound African American students have increased by a total of 13 points.