

COPIES FOR: Bruce  
Elena  
Cynthia  
Lynn

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1997

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for writing to express your support for moving people from welfare to work. In recent meetings with concerned business leaders, I have had the unique opportunity to explore ways to encourage the hiring of those newly off the welfare rolls.

As you mentioned, one important incentive is the Work Opportunity Tax Credit that we worked together to enact last year. In addition, my recently released budget contains two new initiatives to help those hardest to employ move from welfare to work.

My Welfare-to-Work Jobs Challenge seeks to assist the States in moving welfare recipients into lasting jobs by the year 2000. It provides three billion in mandatory funding for job placement and job creation, which states and cities can use to provide subsidies and other incentives to private business. Under this program, the Federal Government will also encourage states and cities to use voucher-like arrangements to empower individuals with the tools and choices to assist them in getting and keeping good jobs.

In addition, I have proposed the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit for private businesses, encouraging them to create new job opportunities for long-term welfare recipients. This credit would enable employers to claim a 50 percent credit on the first \$10,000 of annual wages paid to long-term welfare recipients for up to two years. My budget also expands the existing Work Opportunity Tax Credit to include certain food stamp recipients who, under my Administration's new food stamp proposal, would face a more vigorous work requirement in order to continue receiving food stamps.

These incentives are critical to making welfare reform work. I share your desire that the jobs created by any new incentives not displace those held by other low-wage workers and I will work with you to prevent this from occurring. I encourage you to give our new employment incentives careful consideration as we continue to work to achieve our common goals of moving people

The Honorable Bill Archer  
Page Two

from welfare to work and creating additional jobs for all  
Americans.

Please know that I have thoroughly enjoyed our recent  
discussions and look forward to continuing our work together on  
these and other issues of importance to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Archer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honorable Bill Archer  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

PHILIP M. CRANE, ILLINOIS  
BILL THOMAS, CALIFORNIA  
E. CLAY SHAW, JR., FLORIDA  
NANCYL L. JOHNSON, CONNECTICUT  
JIM BURNING, KENTUCKY  
AND MCGHON, NEW YORK  
WALLY MORGAN, CALIFORNIA  
JIM MCCREY, LOUISIANA  
MEL HANCOCK, MISSOURI  
DAVE CAMP, MICHIGAN  
JIM RAMSTAD, MINNESOTA  
DICK ZIMMER, NEW JERSEY  
JIM NUSSLE, IOWA  
SAM JOHNSON, TEXAS  
JENNIFER DUNN, WASHINGTON  
MAC COLLINS, GEORGIA  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
JIMMY KAYES, LOUISIANA  
GREG LAUGHLIN, TEXAS  
PHILIP S. ENGLISH, PENNSYLVANIA  
JOHN ENSIGN, NEVADA  
JON CHRISTENSEN, NEBRASKA

SAM M. GIBBONS, FLORIDA  
CHARLES O. RANGEL, NEW YORK  
PORTNEY PETS STARK, CALIFORNIA  
ANDY JACOBS, JR., INDIANA  
HAROLD E. FORD, TENNESSEE  
ROBERT T. MATOUL, CALIFORNIA  
BARBARA B. RENNELLY, CONNECTICUT  
WILLIAM J. COYNE, PENNSYLVANIA  
SAMUER M. LEVIN, MICHIGAN  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
JIM McDERMOTT, WASHINGTON  
GERALD D. KLECZKA, WISCONSIN  
JOHN LEWIS, GEORGIA  
L.F. PAYNE, VIRGINIA  
RICHARD E. NEAL, MASSACHUSETTE  
MICHAEL R. MCNULTY, NEW YORK

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6348

January 9, 1997

PHILLIP D. MOSLEY, CHIEF OF STAFF

JANICE MAYO, MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I commend you on your efforts in forging a partnership with business leaders to emphasize their role in helping to reform welfare. As we have learned, no one individual can single handedly improve the lives of the poor -- it takes the entire country. Without those who can supply the jobs, we cannot help those who need the jobs. Moving people from welfare to work is the number one priority of the welfare bill, which Congress passed last summer, and we need to get everyone involved.

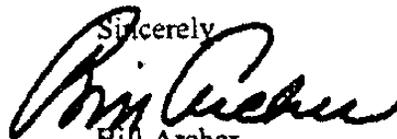
As you speak with our nation's CEOs tomorrow, I am sure you will let them know that in return for the efforts to hire welfare recipients, Congress passed a law last year to provide them with the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. This credit has been designed to help businesses hire former welfare recipients and others in need by providing employers with a tax credit of up to \$2100 for each worker they hire.

Mr. President, involving the private sector in welfare reform is a key to its success. However, we must proceed with caution. Welfare recipients should not be given jobs at the expense of the working poor who may not qualify for a corporate tax credit but who, nonetheless, still need jobs. I am sure you would agree that hard working people who never went on welfare should not be displaced because a business will receive a tax break if it hires a former welfare recipient.

To avoid the problems that may be caused by employers replacing workers for a tax break, you may want to consider the benefits of a broad-based cut in the capital gains tax rate as the fairest way to help create jobs for people on welfare, and all working Americans.

I laud you for your work on this important topic and I look forward to our continued cooperation in implementing the new welfare law.

Sincerely



Bill Archer  
Chairman

**COMMITTEES:**

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
AVIATION  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
HOSPITALS & HEALTH CARE

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES  
CONGRESSIONAL SUNBELT CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL SPACE CAUCUS  
OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

**CORRINE BROWN**  
3D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

March 6, 1997

REPLY TO

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**

1610 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-0123  
FAX (202) 225-2256

**DISTRICT OFFICES:**

314 PALMETTO STREET  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202  
(904) 354-1652  
FAX (904) 354-2721

75 WANNHOE BOULEVARD  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ORLANDO, FL 32804  
(407) 872-0556  
FAX (407) 872-5763

101 SE 2ND PLACE  
SUITE 100  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32601  
(352) 375-6003  
FAX (352) 375-6008

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA  
TOLL-FREE  
(904) 254-0914

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN**  
4-7-97

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for inviting me and the Congressional Women's Caucus to meet you today. It is truly a historic day as we recognize the 20th anniversary of the Caucus.

On this anniversary, I wanted to take this opportunity to bring to your attention some of the recent effects that welfare reform has had on women and children in the state of Florida since the passage of the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act."

With the certification of Florida's "Work and Gain Economic Self-Sufficiency" (WAGES) Program and "The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act" of 1996, women and children will face many hurdles this year and years to come unless corrections are made soon.

As you may know, the WAGES program is being supported by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. However, an estimated 110,000 children will be denied benefits as the program only has a two-year time limit.

Women and children are faced with further burdens as child care assistance is unevenly distributed between rural and urban areas. The combination of costly transportation and time could jeopardize the mother's working arrangements as flexibility may not be available.

Of the one million people who will lose their Food Stamp privileges this year, 98,000 Floridians will lose their benefits. This will cost \$76 per person and result in an \$89 million loss to Florida in federal monies. Nationally, 40% are these recipients are women and two-thirds of the cuts will be borne by families with children.

The changed definition of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will also harm children with physical and mental disabilities. Under the new law, eligibility has been narrowed excluding 100,000 children from these benefits. If these children were adults with the same disabilities, they would qualify for benefits. This provision is unjust. It is estimated that 7,000 children from Florida with disabilities could lose SSI benefits by this August.

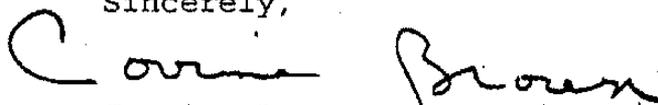
It is my belief that some of these difficulties effecting women and children can be resolved with your \$3.5 billion proposal for a "Welfare-to-Work Job Challenge." These funds could assist women and children get the tools they need: education and training, child care and health coverage.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I would like to work closely on this proposal to see how it could better affect my district's constituents. It is my hope that these funds could target localities where private sector jobs are scarce.

Again, thank you for your invitation to today's White House event honoring the Women's Caucus.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corrine Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

**facsimile**  
TRANSMITTAL

to: Mr. Bruce Reed, Domestic Policy Council  
fax #: 456-7431  
re: Rep. Tony Hall's Letter Concerning the President's FY98 Budget Request  
date: December 18, 1996  
pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

REP. HALL WANTED YOU TO SEE THIS LETTER ASAP.

WITH THANKS, AND BEST REGARDS.



From the desk of...

**Kimberly A. Miller**  
Legislative Assistant  
Office of Congressman Tony Hall (OH-3rd)  
1432 LHOB, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-6465  
Fax: (202) 226-0351

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 1996

President William Jefferson Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

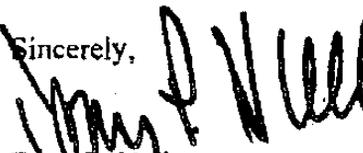
When you signed the welfare bill into law, you stated that some of the provisions "went too far" and expressed your determination to correct those parts of the bill. As you formulate your budget and legislative proposals for FY 1998, I urge you to ensure that one particularly onerous provision is corrected: the severe limitation of food stamp benefits to most childless able-bodied individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 to just three months out of any 36-month period.

This unprecedented loss of food stamp eligibility is certain to increase hunger and even homelessness among some of our nation's most destitute individuals. Many of those who would be affected by the provision have very limited skills and live in areas where there are insufficient jobs available to them. Since most states do not operate food stamp workfare programs, few individuals will be able to work in exchange for their benefits as apparently envisioned by the authors of this provision.

Food stamp recipients should be expected to seek and accept work. When it is not available, they deserve an opportunity to work for their benefits rather than lose the small benefits they currently receive simply because the economy isn't providing sufficient jobs for low skilled unemployed workers. **I recommend that you propose that the provision should be altered to ensure that those unable to find jobs in the private sector are not denied benefits in a workfare-type program.** Only those who refuse to work or participate in a workfare program should lose their benefits. As I said in a letter sent to you by a group of Representatives last February about this issue, "to cut people off [food stamps] without offering them a work slot violates the basic mission that the food stamp program has followed since Richard Nixon made it a national program a quarter of a century ago."

Welfare reform should be designed to move low-income individuals into work and help them become economically self-sufficient. Nonetheless, after just a few months, many low skilled individuals are unable to find jobs despite conscientious efforts. Consistent with our recent pledge at the World Food Summit in Rome to a renewed national commitment to fighting hunger, I urge you to make remedies for this severe problem a high priority in your budget submission and in your efforts to reach a bipartisan balanced budget agreement next year.

Sincerely,



Tony P. Hall  
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

# FAX TRANSMISSION

724 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2043  
FAX: (202) 224-7778

**To:** Bruce Reed, DPC

**Date:** December 17, 1996

**Fax #:** 456-7431

**Pages:** 3, including this cover sheet.

**From:** Senator Kent Conrad

**Subject:** Food Stamps

**COMMENTS:**

KENT CONRAD  
NORTH DAKOTA  
202-224-2043

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION  
AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
BUDGET  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403

December 16, 1996

President William J. Clinton  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to include in your budget for fiscal year 1998, a proposal to revise the food stamp provisions of the new welfare reform law to ensure that no one is denied food benefits without being given the opportunity to work.

During your recent speech to the Democratic Leadership Council you said, "We have a moral obligation ... to make welfare reform work. We have demanded responsibility of welfare recipients; indeed, we have written it into law. And now we must meet our responsibility by providing them the opportunity to work." I completely concur. Yet I am deeply concerned that the welfare reform law will deny food stamps to nearly one million poor individuals without giving them an opportunity to work. These people will lose the access to food that food stamps provide merely because they can't find a job and there is not a workfare program in their area.

As I wrote to you on August 2, 1996, the food stamp provision restricting food stamp benefits to unemployed individuals is one of the single greatest flaws in the bill that Congress passed and you signed into law. I offered amendments in the Agriculture Committee and on the Senate floor to moderate the severe provision in the Senate bill. My amendments effectively increased the four months time limit unemployed adult food stamp recipients were allowed to receive food benefits to six months by allowing these individuals benefits for two additional months while engaged in job search. The amendments also allowed states to grant hardship exemptions to 20 percent of these individuals.

As you know, the conference agreement, which became law, rejected the improvements the Senate made to this provision and placed in the bill an extreme provision which is cruel and unacceptable. As enacted, the law restricts food stamp benefits to unemployed childless and non-disabled adults (ages 18-50) to just three months in a three-year period. The provision provides no workfare or other work slots. Instead, it simply terminates benefits if recipients cannot find a job, even if work or workfare are unavailable. As I mentioned above, CBO estimates that in an average month one million unemployed workers who are willing to work, but cannot find a job or obtain a workfare slot, will lose benefits as a result of this provision.

The unfortunate reality for many of these poor individuals is that there are not enough jobs for them in the private sector, and most states neither operate food stamp workfare programs nor are planning to institute them. This is true in most urban and rural parts of our country.

I believe we should insist that this group of food stamp recipients perform work activities to receive benefits, but we should not arbitrarily cut off their benefits if they cannot find a job and no workfare or other work slot is available. This principle should be the basis for efforts to revise the provision included in the welfare law. To prevent hunger from spreading across our cities and our rural areas, this provision needs to be corrected immediately. Starting in March, one million people a month who are willing, but unable to find a job, will be cut off of food stamps. Bipartisan budget negotiations expected to take place next year to adopt a balanced budget package will provide you with an opportunity to work for this important change.

Historically, the food stamp program has acted as the ultimate safety net for vulnerable people by ensuring that at least they will not starve to death. It is simply wrong to deny food to hungry people who cannot find work. The United States of America, a land with a bountiful food supply, is better than that. I look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD  
United States Senate

KC:wmah

66515

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
FAX COVER SHEET

NOTE: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED FOR THE RECIPIENT ONLY.

DATE: 3.26.96

TO: Cathy for Bruce Reed

FAX #: 65557

FROM: JOCELYN M. JOLLEY  
456-7500 (TEL) 456-6221(FAX)

RE: ~~Susan Brophy wants Bruce to look~~  
~~this draft over before it~~ goes for  
the President's signature. The draft  
come from HHS

PAGE 1 OF \_\_\_

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call (202) 456-7500.

FAX SENT: \_\_\_

DRAFT

Called  
3/29

Dear Jay:

Thank you for your letter in support of federal protection for our nation's most vulnerable children. I greatly appreciate the strong and committed leadership that you have exercised on behalf of these children.

As you know, I share your belief that we must maintain the essential safety net for abused and neglected children as well as those in foster care. I am proud of the new Family Preservation and Family Support programs and strongly supported the bipartisan Senate effort to preserve these and other vital child welfare ~~entitlements~~. In addition, my Administration has registered its firm objection to legislative proposals that jeopardize this critical safety net.

Programs

271,641

~~The National Governors Association (NGA) has made a valuable contribution to our efforts to enact bipartisan welfare reform legislation this year, and I applaud many elements of the recent NGA proposals. However, I too am troubled by the NGA's proposed redesign of the nation's child welfare system, particularly in light of the disturbingly uneven state performance in this area. At a time of major change in other federal programs, it is especially important that we continue to protect the lives and well-being of abused and neglected children.~~

<sup>bipartisan welfare reform</sup>  
I look forward to working with you in the weeks ahead to enact legislation that ~~truly protects~~ the most vulnerable of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

<sup>moves people</sup>  
From welfare to work while protecting

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV  
WEST VIRGINIA

154903

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

February 15, 1996 FEB 26 9:07

Dear Mr. ~~President~~,  
*M. Clinton*

We share a deep mutual interest in protecting children, and it has been exciting to work closely with you on a range of issues for children and families. I am particularly proud of our work in 1993 to establish the Family Preservation and Family Support Programs as part of the historic deficit reduction and economic growth legislation you signed into law on August 10, 1993. As you know, this initiative is a five-year program to be closely evaluated, and an early study shows it is quite promising.

It is disturbing to see that Family Preservation and other fundamental federal efforts for abused and neglected children are jeopardized by some of the pending proposals on welfare reform. While I strongly support genuine welfare reform and have worked hard to promote action on the Daschle bill and the bipartisan Senate bill, I believe that child welfare is a separate and distinct issue. At a point when we are considering time limits for general welfare, it is essential to maintain a strong child welfare system and full entitlement to foster care as a fundamental safety net for extremely vulnerable children.

During previous Senate debates on welfare reform, I worked hard with Senator Chafee and others to protect and maintain current law on child welfare services and foster care. We worked in a bipartisan manner, and secured support from a range of Republicans.

Unfortunately, the House prevailed in conference with its block grant approach for child welfare. Now, the National Governors Association (NGA) has also endorsed block grants for child welfare programs. While the governors did endorse continued federal protections and requirements for states to have 100 percent "maintenance of effort," I see real problems with the NGA optional block grant proposal.

First, I think it would be impossible to administer a program where states could annually flip between a block grant and an entitlement. This could easily encourage states to "game" the system to draw down more federal funding and create confusion in the child welfare system which is already struggling to cope. In addition, I suspect that many of the stronger NGA provisions on protections and maintenance of effort will be whittled away during the legislative process.

11K 10

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
February 15, 1996  
Page 2

You may be assured that I will continue to fight hard in the Senate in a bipartisan fashion to maintain strong federal programs for abused and neglected children. I am fully committed to our Family Preservation initiative, but I know it will be a real battle to prevent block grants of child welfare programs.

Your Administration has been helpful in its strong voice and leadership for the children unlucky enough to be abused, neglected, and in dire need of the help that can only be found through the child welfare system. I write to urge you to maintain a firm stand in opposing the pending proposals for block grants of child welfare programs and foster care. There is no reason to tie welfare reform to the elimination of the safeguards that the child welfare programs provide to children nationwide.

Our Family Preservation initiative deserves a chance to be implemented and studied. It is worthwhile to note that our program includes a demonstration project for 10 states to have greater flexibility between child welfare and foster care programs. This is the right way to explore innovative approaches to enhance state flexibility with careful evaluation to ensure children remain protected.

Mr. President, I will do whatever I can in the Senate to maintain the strongest possible federal commitment to programs for abused and neglected children. Your continued leadership and strong support on this specific issue will be crucial. I know we agree children must be protected, and I believe this means maintaining and strengthening our federal commitment to child welfare and foster care.

I will share these same thoughts with members of your Administration involved in the discussions aimed at reaching consensus on welfare reform, and welcome your direction on child welfare and family preservation.

As always, my warmest regards to you.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

*P.S. this is an area I  
will always fight for.*



ROBERT T. MATSUI  
FIFTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
RANKING DEMOCRAT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

WHIP AT LARGE

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0505

February 29, 1996

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2311 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0505  
(202) 225-7163

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
8058 FEDERAL BUILDING  
650 CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 498-5600

3/4

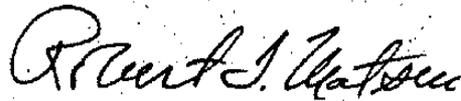
copy to Alexis,  
Rahm, Bruce Reed  
- FYI

Mr. Harold Ickes  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy  
and Political Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Harold:

The enclosed article appeared yesterday in the Sacramento Bee. I recommend it to you as you consider welfare reform.

Sincerely,



ROBERT T. MATSUI  
Member of Congress

RTM/kg

# A race to . . . where?

**T**HE NATION'S governors who, not surprisingly, would like to gain control over welfare, Medicaid and other federal social programs, insist that such a shift would in no way stimulate a race to the bottom.

The states, they say, are just as compassionate and concerned with the welfare of their citizens as the feds. If welfare entitlements are abolished and responsibility for programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, supported by federal block grants, devolves to the states, they argue, the result would be more efficient health and welfare policies that foster work and self-reliance, not a contest of beggar thy neighbor and resurgent social Darwinism.

The results may be a long time coming, but if California is any indication, the prospects are not assuring. To his credit, Gov. Pete Wilson is proposing some thoughtful reforms - particularly a restructuring of the current AFDC system into four separate programs tailored much more closely to the particular situations of the individuals and families within them.

The four are: adults who are ready to work, and who would get temporary aid, as well as help for child care and other work-related expenses; transitional aid for families, particularly those headed by teenagers, where the parent has never worked; a child-only assistance program; and a program for the disabled.

**W**ILSON'S proposals would also eliminate restrictions on welfare for needy two-parent families, and continue support for low-income working families, thereby encouraging parents to remain together and increasing the incentive to leave welfare, even if it's only for a minimum-wage job.

But other factors in the California mix - and particularly Wilson's call for a 15 percent across-the-board tax cut - make the picture a great deal dimmer.

Coming on top of the growing budget squeeze on county health services, the rapidly increasing percentage of Californians who have no medical in-

## COMMENTARY

Peter Schrag  
Associate Editor

urance and California's huge backlog of underfunded needs in education and transportation, the tax cut proposal overwhelms even the most encouraging welfare-reform plans.

Wilson asserts that the tax cut is necessary to restore (or maintain) California's competitiveness against other states. California, the administration says, is a high tax state that will lose jobs to its neighbors - or to Texas or Florida - if it fails to act.

What the tax proposal certainly does demonstrate is that the competition among states and regions is all too real.

The claim is open to question: As a percentage of California's personal income, the state's total tax burden is just about average and, by most calculations, lower than it was in the mid-1970s. In his State of the State address two months ago, Wilson himself proclaimed the state's success in restoring the jobs lost through defense cutbacks in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Nor, as a number of analyses have pointed, is there any certainty that the tax cuts, combined with the reduced services in education and transportation that those cuts will almost automatically produce, would stimulate any significant growth in California jobs.

What the tax proposal certainly does demonstrate, however, is that the competition among states and regions - competition not only in offering enticing overall tax rates, but in giving large individual tax breaks to businesses with the

muscle and mobility to demand them - is all too real.

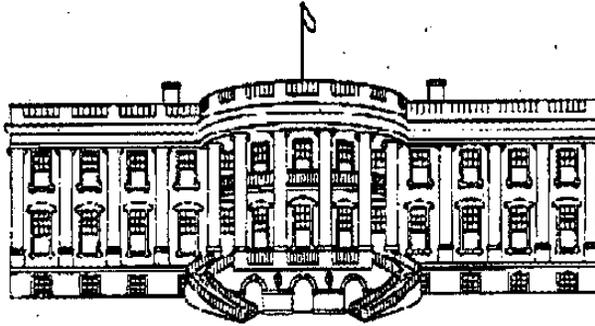
At a time when Wilson and many other California politicians are, in the name of the business climate, trying to weaken the state's wages and hours protections, and when they are unwilling to propose even temporary tax increases for the most urgent common purposes - retrofitting quake-vulnerable bridges and freeway overpasses, for example, or catching up on a generation of neglect and deterioration of the state's highway system - it's hard to imagine that the state's most politically underrepresented groups will long be able to protect their interests in the budget.

**T**HE SURPRISE is that they have been able to do as well as long as they have in California. In the 15 years following the passage of Proposition 13, school spending in California declined more rapidly, relative to other states, than welfare. But the main reason for that, other than the power, now fading, of urban Democrats in the Legislature, is that welfare was a federally protected entitlement.

The elimination of that entitlement can now only leave welfare and health care for the poor more vulnerable, especially against school spending, which is partially protected by Proposition 98. That would be even more true if state taxes are cut further and if Congress proceeds, as seems likely, to eliminate all but emergency Medicaid coverage for legal aliens. More than half the Californians who live in places such as San Diego, Los Angeles and Fresno and Kern counties have no private medical insurance, and their numbers are growing.

If California politicians are not willing to fund schools better than they have, it's hard to imagine that they will do a great deal to fund services for the poor and the sick, even those who work two jobs to make ends meet. Three decades ago, California was among the nation's leaders in the race to be best. There is no such leader anymore.

# The White House Office of Presidential Letters and Messages



Facsimile from Diane Ikemiyashiro  
Voice: (202) 456-5519; FAX: (202) 456-2806

No. of Pages (including cover): 3 Date: 2-23-96

To: Gene Beck

Voice: 6-6515 Fax: 6-5557

Comments: Jim Bergman's incoming.

- Diane

FROM: SENATOR BERRYMAN

TO:

2024566220

NOV 15, 1995

1:05PM P.02

THE SENATE



*Don't answer*

STATE OF MICHIGAN

P.O. BOX 30004  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48809-7630  
1571 273-3613  
FAX: (517) 878-9977  
TDD: (517) 273-8643

COMMITTEES ON:  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY - VICE CHAIR  
FINANCIAL SERVICES - VICE CHAIR

SENATOR JIM BERRYMAN  
17TH DISTRICT  
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER

November 15, 1995

President William Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Sent by Fax

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to draw your attention to what is rapidly progressing in Michigan regarding welfare reform.

Just two weeks ago Michigan's Governor John Engler, proposed welfare reforms which are the first and most severe in the Nation. What is hidden within the reforms is the virtual elimination of the legislature in the process. Rather, the Governor has vested the future of welfare in this state in the appointed Director of the Department of Social Services.

Michigan House Bills 5353 and 5354 contain language which would allow the state Department of Social Services Director to have complete discretion over who qualifies and who is denied assistance in Michigan. At the end of the first 12 months of the new program, the legislature is allowed to approve or disapprove proposed rules, policies, standards or procedures. Whether the legislature approves them or not the Department Director may implement another 12 months of emergency rules. In essence, the Director of the Department of Social Services can implement the new broad-based welfare reforms without legislative input for up to two years.

While waiting for the new block grants to permit states more control over the way money is allocated, Michigan is shifting that power to one person, an appointed bureaucrat. In essence we are defeating the purpose of the block grants by giving less control to the locals and more to state bureaucracy.

I believe that any and all mandates from the Federal Government on the future of welfare reform must contain language which requires approval from the state legislatures. Legislators represent

FROM: SENATOR BERRYMAN

TO:

2024566220

NOV 15, 1995

1:06PM P.03

Page 2

November 15, 1995

the people who will be affected by these drastic changes. It is an insult to the Democratic process to have those decisions usurped by an appointed official.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. You may contact my office at any time by calling 517-373-3543.

Sincerely,



Jim Berryman  
State Senator  
17th District

kab

cc: Michigan Congressional Delegation

# DRAFT

Dear 1-:

Thank you for your recent letter on Welfare Reform. I have forwarded your legislation to my Domestic Policy Council for review.

I share your concern that in reforming welfare to promote work and responsibility, we give the states not only more flexibility, but also the ~~reasons~~ and incentives to succeed.

*resources*

In the coming weeks, as the Administration and Congress work to find common ground on balancing the budget, reforming welfare, and other vital priorities, I will be fighting to make sure that we protect and promote the values of the American people.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable 2-  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403

November 15, 1995

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Welfare reform is among the most significant issues confronted by Congress this year. Unfortunately, politics seems to be winning out. Members of the conference committee are piecing together a product they know is unacceptable and leaves only unsatisfactory choices. The time has come for Congress and the Administration to put politics aside, re-assess our positions and work together to ensure the enactment of significant welfare reform this year.

We are writing to suggest such a compromise. Our proposal will fundamentally alter our nations' welfare system to promote work and personal responsibility, protect states and children, and provide maximum flexibility to states.

We are disturbed by the Administration's new analysis indicating 1.2 million children will be impoverished due to the Senate-passed welfare reform bill. Given that the conference committee has already moved significantly toward the House position, we are concerned that the conference version may push even more children into poverty. Consequently, Congress and the Administration must seek new options to achieve significant reform while protecting the most vulnerable in society.

The American people want a welfare system that provides temporary assistance to those who have fallen on hard times. In return, those who receive assistance must take responsibility for their lives and their children. They must find work or prepare themselves for work. However, while welfare reform must emphasize work and personal responsibility, it must also protect the most vulnerable children in society from malnutrition, under-education and poverty.

The new analysis of the Senate welfare reform legislation demonstrates that both the Senate and House versions are flawed, because states will not be able to protect children from poverty and meet changing needs. Therefore, we propose a new approach to welfare reform that will both increase the flexibility of states to design and administer their welfare programs and fundamentally change welfare.

We propose that states be allowed to choose between two options, both of which completely transform the welfare system. States may choose the block grant approach passed by the Senate or a temporary, work-oriented program that completely overhauls welfare while providing a stable funding stream that changes with state need. Our proposal not only allows

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

November 15, 1995

Page Two

Republican governors to test their theory that block grants will work, but gives those who are wary of block grants another option that provides a safety net for children and automatically stabilizes state economies during economic emergencies and downturns.

Throughout the welfare debate, we have maintained that the welfare system should be a partnership between states and the Federal government. It should not separate the responsibility for raising money from spending money. And it must recognize the need for our national community to assist states or regions that experience localized hardships.

None of us can predict the future. The new findings about the impact of the current welfare reform proposal demonstrates the enormous risk created by an exclusive block grant approach. In addition, a block grant does not account for emergencies if there is a flood in Mississippi, earthquake in California, drought in North Dakota or economic calamity in New Jersey.

The fact that the governors, themselves, have been divided about the best approach is also cause for concern. A significant number of states have expressed serious concerns that a block grant will hinder their flexibility to run innovative welfare programs. Therefore, we believe states should have the option to either use block grants or receive a flexible funding stream that automatically adjusts for state need.

States that elect the state flexibility option will have complete flexibility to design work and job training programs, determine eligibility criteria, work requirements, sanctions and other requirements, without abandoning the principle of joint federal-state responsibility. The states may set time limits of any duration, but cannot unfairly penalize those who play by the rules.

Our approach builds on the concept of state flexibility that so many have sought as a part of welfare reform. It maximizes the use of states as laboratories to develop effective, state-based welfare reform strategies. It sharply reduces federal oversight and provides states with virtually complete control over the design and implementation of welfare programs. But it acknowledges the Federal role in ensuring that fundamental welfare reform actually occurs in the states.

The pure block grant approach inevitably results in difficult fights over allocation formulas and additional contingency funds. Such debates are the inevitable result of taking a program that was based on need and basing it on arbitrary criteria. Our approach avoids these unnecessary zero sum struggles. It allows states to choose between the block grant and a funding mechanism that automatically adjusts for state need and effort.

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

November 15, 1995

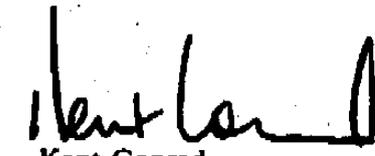
Page Three

Our approach requires work and personal responsibility, protects children, maximizes state flexibility, and promotes family. It retains a responsible role for the Federal government while discarding the micromanagement of the past. Although states will have the flexibility to design their own welfare programs, they will do so without the risk that a natural disaster or economic collapse will render them impotent to protect children and families.

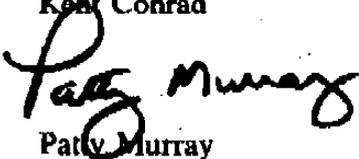
According to the Congressional Budget Office, our approach also results in significant savings. If our amendment had been included in the bill that passed the Senate, that bill would have saved approximately \$58 billion over seven years.

Congress and the Administration have a historic opportunity to reform our nation's welfare system this year. By combining our approach with the block grant approach passed by the Senate, we believe the welfare system can be fundamentally changed this year without thrusting 1.2 million children into poverty. We urge you to examine our plan as you determine how to proceed in negotiations on welfare reform.

Sincerely,



Kent Conrad



Patty Murray



Bill Bradley



Byron Dorgan

## **THE WORK AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT OPTION FOR WELFARE REFORM**

The Work and Gainful Employment option (WAGE) gives States unprecedented flexibility to design and administer work programs to move individuals off welfare. The legislation is based on four principles: work, protecting children, state flexibility, and family. The WAGE option totally reforms our welfare system while protecting the children of America against an abdication of federal responsibility. The purpose of WAGE is to transform welfare into an employment-based transition program while retaining a safety net for children and an automatic economic stabilizer for states.

### **WORK AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT BLOCK GRANT (WAGE)**

- The WAGE block grant will give States the flexibility to provide job placement and supportive services to move individuals into jobs as quickly as possible.
- The WAGE block grant consolidates funding from JOBS, Emergency Assistance, AFDC Child Care, Transitional Child Care, and the administrative costs of AFDC.
- WAGE services would be available for all persons qualifying for the Transitional Aid Program, and, at state option, non-custodial parents.

#### **State Flexibility**

- ▶ States have complete flexibility to design employment programs, such as microenterprises, employment opportunity centers, work supplementation, temporary subsidized jobs, placement companies, etc.
- ▶ States provide monetary incentives to case managers for successful job placements and retention, as well as to out-source job services and use performance-based contracting.
- ▶ States determine eligibility criteria and participant requirements for the specific programs created under WAGE.
- ▶ States option to require non-custodial parents with child support arrears to participate in WAGE.
- ▶ States may establish time limits of any duration for WAGE participants. However, a State may not terminate participants from WAGE and the Transitional Aid Program if the participant has complied with the requirements set forth in the WAGE plan.
- ▶ States may establish participation rates at any level above the required WAGE rates and may establish specific rates for targeted groups, such as two-parent families, non-custodial parents, mothers with children of a certain age, etc.

## State Requirements

- ▶ Administer a WAGE program that promotes moving parents into private sector employment.
- ▶ Develop a WAGE employability and personal responsibility plan with the recipient that indicates the requirements necessary to move off of welfare.
- ▶ Ensure that child care is available for WAGE participants.

## Funding

- ▶ The WAGE block grant is a 5 year capped entitlement to states based on historical funding for Emergency Assistance, AFDC Child Care, Transitional Child Care, and the administrative costs of AFDC (at 1995 spending levels or the average of 1993, 1994, and 1995). The WAGE block grant includes additional funding each year to put people to work and to ensure that child care is available. The WAGE block grant grows 3% per year.
- ▶ States receive incentive payments for moving individuals off welfare and into employment as well as for improvements in the number of individuals combining work and welfare.

## Participation Rates

- ▶ Participation in the WAGE program is phased in, reaching 55% in FY 2000.
- ▶ States focus specifically on getting people into work or work preparation activities for a minimum of 20 hours per week (more at state option). Half of the participation rate must be met by individuals who are working. After two years individuals must be working in order to meet state participation rate requirements.

## TRANSITIONAL AID PROGRAM

A new work-related program, the Transitional Aid Program, maintains a basic safety net for America's children and provide an automatic economic stabilizer for states. States have significant flexibility to determine eligibility criteria, earned income disregards, resource and asset limits, time limits, and sanctions. Compared to the current AFDC program, which has 45 State plan elements, the Transitional Aid Program reduces the State plan to 14 elements, allowing states wide latitude to design a program that meets their specific needs.

- All recipients are required to sign a "Parental Responsibility Agreement" as a condition for receiving benefits, specifying that assistance is not a right, but a transitional privilege available to those attempting to regain or achieve self-sufficiency.

## **State Flexibility**

- States have full authority to determine:
  - ▶ Treatment of earned and unearned income
  - ▶ Resource limits
  - ▶ Forms of support - benefits, wage subsidies to employers, wages to individuals in subsidized employment, etc.
  - ▶ Sanctions for individuals who fail to comply with State requirements
  - ▶ Payment or denial of benefits to children born to individuals receiving assistance
  - ▶ Time frames for achieving self-sufficiency
  - ▶ Extent to which child support is disregarded when determining eligibility and benefits

## **Eligibility**

- A family must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the Transitional Aid Program:
  - ▶ Have a needy child, as defined by the State
  - ▶ Comply with the WAGE employability plan (if required to participate)
  - ▶ Cooperate and comply with paternity and child support measures

## **State Plan Requirements**

States have substantial flexibility in the design of their Transitional Aid Program with only the following minimal federal requirements:

- Serve all families with needy children uniformly, as defined by the State
- Operate a WAGE program
- Operate a Child Support Enforcement program in accordance with Title IV-D
- Maintain categorical Medicaid eligibility for the Transitional Assistance Program and provide transitional Medicaid for at least one year (longer at State option) for participants leaving the Transitional Aid Program.
- Maintain assistance in some form to needy children in families in which the parent is complying fully with all WAGE and other requirements

## **Funding**

- Current law match rates for benefit levels are retained.

DRAFT

The Honorable Bob Graham  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0903

Dear Senator Graham:

This is in response to your letter regarding Cuban and Haitian entrant eligibility for Federal assistance. I appreciate hearing your concerns.

We have worked hard to address Florida's concerns with respect to illegal migration and the impact of legal immigration on the State. We took major steps towards normalizing migration from Cuba to the United States when we concluded the Cuban Migration Agreements in September 1994 and May 1995.

I oppose restrictions on the eligibility of Cuban and Haitian entrants for Federal assistance, and in the budget I recently submitted to Congress, I propose to maintain their eligibility for these programs.

Please be assured that my Administration will continue to work to ensure that costs associated with this migration do not fall unfairly on Florida and its local governments.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Contact Person: ACF:Lenny Glickman:260-7016:1/30/96

*Send back to HHS for Spalaki's signature  
(Leg appears -- took too long for HHS action)*



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20201

MAR 5 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

Enclosed is a draft response to Senator Bob Graham who expressed concern about Cuban and Haitian entrant eligibility for Federal assistance under welfare reform.

In keeping with the Administration's support for the Senator's position, the letter expresses its support for maintaining this eligibility. The letter also cites the Administration's efforts to normalize migration from Cuba.

*Claudia Cooley*  
Claudia Cooley  
Executive Secretary  
to the Department

Enclosure

B GRAHAM  
FLORIDA

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0903

December 22, 1995

The Honorable Bill Clinton  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20500,

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud your efforts to change welfare as we know it and to institute a new system which focuses on work and individual responsibility and breaks the current dependency cycle for so many Americans.

On December 21, 1995, the House of Representatives passed the welfare reform conference report. Following House action, the Senate turned to consideration of the measure.

I would like to bring to your attention an extremely significant policy and financial issue imbedded in the pending conference report which could have a dramatic impact on the state of Florida.

I am referring to the provisions in the legislation which effectively repeal the protections enacted in 1980 which permit certain Cubans and Haitians to receive assistance on the same basis as refugees.

For decades the state of Florida has been the principal point of entry for both legal and illegal Cuban and Haitian arrivals. You will recall that during your presidency the alarming exodus of rafters from Cuba precipitated a September 9, 1994 joint communique between the United States and Cuba that committed our country to a minimum annual migration level of at least 20,000 Cubans.

With respect to Haitian entrants, for over a decade, the United States has admitted countless thousands of rafters and other individuals. Recent indications of instability in Haiti portend further groups of Haitians seeking refuge in America.

Since 1980, the United States has permitted Cuban and Haitians to receive federal assistance on the same basis as refugees.

Mr. President, every single version of welfare reform legislation

98 JUN 2 P 1 : 51

# SPECIAL

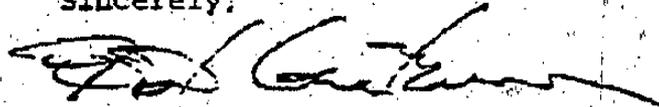
that I have seen up to this point fails to maintain this federal commitment, thereby shifting the cost for these Cuban and Haitian arrivals to the taxpayers of Florida. Although I have not seen a final version of the conference report, there is every indication that it does not contain a provision to maintain Cuban-Haitian eligibility. That is intolerable and unacceptable.

I bring this matter to your attention because of the immense future implications such a statutory change would have. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to make this issue one of your top priorities in the days ahead as welfare reform legislation is negotiated.

I am enclosing with this letter a legislative amendment which would remedy this problem, as well as a copy of the Department of Justice's position paper on the Cuban-Haitian entrant issue.

Mr. President, thank you for giving this urgent matter your careful attention.

Sincerely,



United States Senator

BG/jms

**SPECIAL**

**CONGRESSMAN**

# **SANDER LEVIN**

**12th DISTRICT  
MICHIGAN**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 6, 1996**

**CONTACT: Bob Crane  
202/225-4961**

Congressman Sander Levin (D-Michigan) issued the following statement after the release of the National Governor's Association's proposal on welfare reform:

The NGA proposal on the vital issue of welfare reform, as well as other important issues such as food stamps, child protection, and Supplemental Security Income for children, warrants careful and prompt consideration by the Congress. In some areas, their work is an improvement over the bill vetoed by the President while in other important areas, it is not.

Hopefully, the Congress will review this proposal in a bipartisan spirit, which was true of the Governors' deliberations, but until now has been sorely lacking in the approach taken by the Republican Congress.

SANDER M. LEVIN  
7TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN  
  
COMMITTEE:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
OVERSIGHT



WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2230 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-4811  
  
DISTRICT OFFICE  
SUITE 100  
1201 E. WALKER ROAD  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48310  
313-769-4444

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 1, 1996

Hon. E. Clay Shaw, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As we have discussed, while we had different views on the Conference Report on welfare reform and the President's veto of it, we share the belief that welfare reform remains a critical outstanding challenge.

Therefore, I wanted to try to clear the air on the portion of your response to President Clinton's weekly radio address on January 13, 1996 when you stated that "... almost twice as many drug addicts who put themselves on welfare ... will now continue to receive checks" (as a result of the President's veto). I do not believe that this statement is correct. The denial of Supplemental Security Income benefits by reason of disability to drug addicts and alcoholics was pulled from the Conference Report and included in H.R. 2684, which passed in the House, 411-4 on December 5, 1995. This provision was not included in the bill the President vetoed as you indicated in the Republican's response to the President's radio address.

It also should be noted that the President proposed to deny SSI eligibility if drug addiction or alcoholism is the basis for the disability determination and many Democrats support this proposal. I believe our agreement on this issue has been clear.

As we discussed, I have been and remain ready to work on a bipartisan welfare reform bill. I believe that this is the way real reform will occur, as is urgently needed.

Sincerely,

Sandy Levin

CC: The Honorable Jerry Klepner, Assistant Secretary for  
Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403

November 15, 1995

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Welfare reform is among the most significant issues confronted by Congress this year. Unfortunately, politics seems to be winning out. Members of the conference committee are piecing together a product they know is unacceptable and leaves only unsatisfactory choices. The time has come for Congress and the Administration to put politics aside, re-assess our positions and work together to ensure the enactment of significant welfare reform this year.

We are writing to suggest such a compromise. Our proposal will fundamentally alter our nation's welfare system to promote work and personal responsibility, protect states and children, and provide maximum flexibility to states.

We are disturbed by the Administration's new analysis indicating 1.2 million children will be impoverished due to the Senate-passed welfare reform bill. Given that the conference committee has already moved significantly toward the House position, we are concerned that the conference version may push even more children into poverty. Consequently, Congress and the Administration must seek new options to achieve significant reform while protecting the most vulnerable in society.

The American people want a welfare system that provides temporary assistance to those who have fallen on hard times. In return, those who receive assistance must take responsibility for their lives and their children. They must find work or prepare themselves for work. However, while welfare reform must emphasize work and personal responsibility, it must also protect the most vulnerable children in society from malnutrition, under-education and poverty.

The new analysis of the Senate welfare reform legislation demonstrates that both the Senate and House versions are flawed, because states will not be able to protect children from poverty and meet changing needs. Therefore, we propose a new approach to welfare reform that will both increase the flexibility of states to design and administer their welfare programs and fundamentally change welfare.

We propose that states be allowed to choose between two options, both of which completely transform the welfare system. States may choose the block grant approach passed by the Senate or a temporary, work-oriented program that completely overhauls welfare while providing a stable funding stream that changes with state need. Our proposal not only allows

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

November 15, 1995

Page Two

Republican governors to test their theory that block grants will work, but gives those who are wary of block grants another option that provides a safety net for children and automatically stabilizes state economies during economic emergencies and downturns.

Throughout the welfare debate, we have maintained that the welfare system should be a partnership between states and the Federal government. It should not separate the responsibility for raising money from spending money. And it must recognize the need for our national community to assist states or regions that experience localized hardships.

None of us can predict the future. The new findings about the impact of the current welfare reform proposal demonstrates the enormous risk created by an exclusive block grant approach. In addition, a block grant does not account for emergencies if there is a flood in Mississippi, earthquake in California, drought in North Dakota or economic calamity in New Jersey.

The fact that the governors, themselves, have been divided about the best approach is also cause for concern. A significant number of states have expressed serious concerns that a block grant will hinder their flexibility to run innovative welfare programs. Therefore, we believe states should have the option to either use block grants or receive a flexible funding stream that automatically adjusts for state need.

States that elect the state flexibility option will have complete flexibility to design work and job training programs, determine eligibility criteria, work requirements, sanctions and other requirements, without abandoning the principle of joint federal-state responsibility. The states may set time limits of any duration, but cannot unfairly penalize those who play by the rules.

Our approach builds on the concept of state flexibility that so many have sought as a part of welfare reform. It maximizes the use of states as laboratories to develop effective, state-based welfare reform strategies. It sharply reduces federal oversight and provides states with virtually complete control over the design and implementation of welfare programs. But it acknowledges the Federal role in ensuring that fundamental welfare reform actually occurs in the states.

The pure block grant approach inevitably results in difficult fights over allocation formulas and additional contingency funds. Such debates are the inevitable result of taking a program that was based on need and basing it on arbitrary criteria. Our approach avoids these unnecessary zero sum struggles. It allows states to choose between the block grant and a funding mechanism that automatically adjusts for state need and effort.

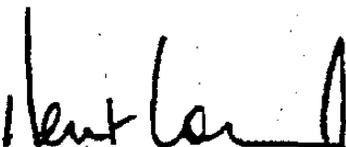
The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
November 15, 1995  
Page Three

Our approach requires work and personal responsibility, protects children, maximizes state flexibility, and promotes family. It retains a responsible role for the Federal government while discarding the micromanagement of the past. Although states will have the flexibility to design their own welfare programs, they will do so without the risk that a natural disaster or economic collapse will render them impotent to protect children and families.

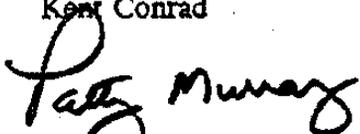
According to the Congressional Budget Office, our approach also results in significant savings. If our amendment had been included in the bill that passed the Senate, that bill would have saved approximately \$58 billion over seven years.

Congress and the Administration have a historic opportunity to reform our nation's welfare system this year. By combining our approach with the block grant approach passed by the Senate, we believe the welfare system can be fundamentally changed this year without thrusting 1.2 million children into poverty. We urge you to examine our plan as you determine how to proceed in negotiations on welfare reform.

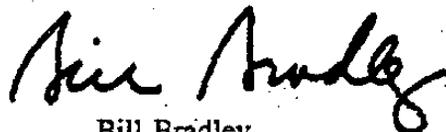
Sincerely,



Kent Conrad



Patty Murray



Bill Bradley



Byron Dorgan



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 1996

Hon. E. Clay Shaw, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As we have discussed, while we have different views on the Conference Report on welfare reform and the President's veto of it, we share the belief that welfare reform remains a critical outstanding challenge for the 104th Congress.

Therefore, I wanted to try to clear the air on the portion of your response to President Clinton's weekly radio address on January 13, 1996 when you stated that "... almost twice as many drug addicts who put themselves on welfare ... will now continue to receive checks" (as a result of the President's veto). I do not believe that this statement is accurate. The denial of Supplemental Security Income benefits by reason of disability to drug addicts and alcoholics (Sec. 601 of the House bill, Secs. 201 and 205 of the Senate amendment) were pulled from the Conference Report and included in H.R. 2684, the "Senior Citizens Right to Choice Act of 1995," which passed in the House, 411-4 on December 5, 1995. This provision was not included in the bill the President vetoed as you indicated in the Republican's response to the President's radio address.

As we discussed, I have been and remain ready to attempt to work on a bipartisan welfare reform bill. I believe that this is the way essential real reform will occur, as is urgently needed.

Sincerely,

Sandy Levin

RECYCLED PAPER

\*\* TOTAL PAGE: 02 \*\*

Sent  
1/11

SEND TO  
Rich/HMS  
FOR  
DRAFT  
REPLY

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

DATE: 1-2-96

TO: Pat Guttin  
Brock Reed  
Rehm Emanuel  
FROM: Staff Secretary  
Ken Apfel

Can you all determine  
what, if anything, we want  
to do about this.

I assume we'll need  
some kind of reply.

WHL

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0903

December 22, 1995

The Honorable Bill Clinton  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20500,

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud your efforts to change welfare as we know it and to institute a new system which focuses on work and individual responsibility and breaks the current dependency cycle for so many Americans.

On December 21, 1995, the House of Representatives passed the welfare reform conference report. Following House action, the Senate turned to consideration of the measure.

I would like to bring to your attention an extremely significant policy and financial issue imbedded in the pending conference report which could have a dramatic impact on the state of Florida.

I am referring to the provisions in the legislation which effectively repeal the protections enacted in 1980 which permit certain Cubans and Haitians to receive assistance on the same basis as refugees.

For decades the state of Florida has been the principal point of entry for both legal and illegal Cuban and Haitian arrivals. You will recall that during your presidency the alarming exodus of rafters from Cuba precipitated a September 9, 1994 joint communique between the United States and Cuba that committed our country to a minimum annual migration level of at least 20,000 Cubans.

With respect to Haitian entrants, for over a decade, the United States has admitted countless thousands of rafters and other individuals. Recent indications of instability in Haiti portend further groups of Haitians seeking refuge in America.

Since 1980, the United States has permitted Cuban and Haitians to receive federal assistance on the same basis as refugees.

Mr. President, every single version of welfare reform legislation

96 JAN 2 P 1 : 51

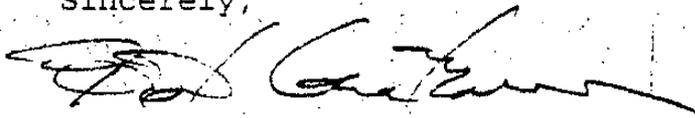
that I have seen up to this point fails to maintain this federal commitment, thereby shifting the cost for these Cuban and Haitian arrivals to the taxpayers of Florida. Although I have not seen a final version of the conference report, there is every indication that it does not contain a provision to maintain Cuban-Haitian eligibility. That is intolerable and unacceptable.

I bring this matter to your attention because of the immense future implications such a statutory change would have. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to make this issue one of your top priorities in the days ahead as welfare reform legislation is negotiated.

I am enclosing with this letter a legislative amendment which would remedy this problem, as well as a copy of the Department of Justice's position paper on the Cuban-Haitian entrant issue.

Mr. President, thank you for giving this urgent matter your careful attention.

Sincerely,



United States Senator

BG/jms



December 6, 1995

**TO :** Honorable Bob Graham  
Attention: Jere Skipper

**FROM :** Larry M. Eig  
American Law Division  
and  
Joyce C. Vialet  
Education and Public Welfare Division

**SUBJECT :** Treatment of Cuban/Haitian Entrants under  
Welfare/Reconciliation Alien Eligibility Restrictions

This memorandum follows up our previous discussions of proposals to restrict public benefits for aliens, and possible amendments to those proposals to insure parallel treatment of Cuban/Haitian entrants and refugees. As discussed, the alienage restrictions in leading welfare and reconciliation legislation would treat Cuban/Haitian entrants, as defined in title V (the "Fascell-Stone amendment") of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-422), less favorably than aliens who enter as refugees for purposes of qualifying for Federal public benefits. The primary purpose of the Fascell-Stone amendment was to assure equality of treatment.

Under the vetoed budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 2491, even those aliens defined as qualified aliens in the bill (e.g., permanent residents, refugees, asylees, and long-term parolees) would generally be (1) barred from SSI and food stamps, (2) subject to a State option to deny assistance under major Federal block grants, and (3) for aliens arriving after enactment, denied most assistance for 5 years. Nevertheless, aliens arriving as refugees are excepted from the first two of these requirements for 5 years, and excepted outright from the third (even though aliens arriving as refugees may adjust to permanent resident status after a year). There is no comparable exception for Cuban/Haitian entrants who are qualified aliens. Any conference committee report of H.R. 4, the major welfare bill, will likely contain alienage restrictions similar to those in H.R. 2491, plus additional restrictions on State benefits.

The Fascell-Stone amendment was adopted primarily because of concern about the fiscal impact on Florida of large numbers of aliens arriving outside of normal immigration channels. It remains in effect today. The Fascell-Stone amendment requires that certain Cubans and Haitians who are in the United

States other than as permanent residents be treated as refugees for purposes of assistance under title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA), as amended by the Refugee Act of 1980.<sup>1</sup> The President also was granted discretionary authority to allow these Cuban/Haitian entrants to obtain other Federal assistance on the same basis as refugees. To date, there has been no need to exercise this authority because Cuban/Haitian entrants have qualified for assistance in their own right as parolees or, after adjustment to permanent resident status, as immigrants.

To maintain equal access of refugees and Cuban/Haitian entrants to public assistance may require at least two amendments to the proposed alienage restrictions in the reconciliation/welfare bills. First, the apparently preemptive language of the proposed 5-year ban on assistance for new arrivals in the budget reconciliation/welfare bills (i.e., "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, ...") may be read as a basis for denying future Cuban/Haitian entrants participation under means-tested refugee assistance programs in title IV of the INA. Among these programs are temporary refugee cash assistance (RCA) and refugee medical assistance (RMA). To assure that Cuban/Haitian entrants would continue to participate under these programs, the 5-year ban on new arrivals in the reconciliation/welfare bills could be amended to include means-tested refugee assistance programs under title IV of the INA to the list of excepted programs. Alternatively, a new, separate provision could be added to the reconciliation/welfare bills to preserve current eligibility standards for refugee assistance programs.

A second amendment to the proposed alienage restrictions in the reconciliation/welfare bills could address Federal benefits more broadly. This amendment could expressly include Cuban/Haitians entrants in the definition of **qualified aliens**. This amendment further could add Cuban/Haitian entrants to the lists of aliens who are excepted from the various alienage restrictions in the budget reconciliation/welfare bills and do so in a way that would assure that Cuban/Haitian entrants, like refugees, are to remain excepted for 5 years despite any subsequent adjustment to permanent resident status. The following is one possible formulation of the excepted class: "aliens who qualify as Cuban/Haitian entrants, as defined in section 501(e)(2) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, for 5 years after such qualification, unless a final order of exclusion or deportation has been entered against them."

The prospective fiscal impact of permitting Cuban/Haitian entrants (like aliens entering as refugees) to receive Federal assistance during their first 5 years here is unknown. A large portion of the minimum 20,000 per year

---

<sup>1</sup>Under Fascoil-Stone, aliens in any of the following 3 groups qualify as Cuban-Haitian entrants, so long as no final deportation or exclusion order has been issued against them: (1) aliens granted parole under the Attorney General's parole authority who have not acquired any other immigration status, (2) aliens in exclusion or deportation proceedings, and (3) aliens with pending asylum applications. Most, but not all, Haitians and Cubans who would qualify for entrant status under the third category also would qualify under the first category. Under the budget reconciliation/welfare bills, only aliens who become Cuban-Haitian entrants as parolees would be qualified aliens for purposes of the alienage restrictions in those bills.

## CRS-3

migration level called for under our 1994 migration agreement with Cuba is likely to arrive as parolees, who, in turn, qualify as Cuban/Haitian entrants. However, the process of selecting parolees to meet minimum Cuban migration requirements is structured in part to favor Cubans who are least likely to require public support, at least in the short run. Also, even though reported usage rates of SSI among Cuban noncitizens is high, these rates may be overstated because they may not take into account the subsequent naturalization of some recipients. Furthermore, permitting Cuban/Haitian entrants to receive benefits for 5 years upon their arrival (like refugees may) would not appear to significantly affect projected savings from proposed restrictions on long-term noncitizens already here.

One potential funding issue concerns not so much the cost of allowing Cuban/Haitian entrants to receive benefits as it does which program will be bearing the cost. If the reconciliation/welfare bills were to allow Cuban/Haitian entrants to continue to receive refugee assistance but not allow them to receive other benefits on their arrival, the entire refugee resettlement program could face substantial new burdens. This is so because refugee assistance in part is designed to cover certain support costs that cannot be met through other means-tested programs. To the degree that Cuban/Haitian entrants will be denied access to these other programs first time under the budget reconciliation/welfare bills, they will have to turn instead to refugee assistance for support.

We hope you find this memorandum to be useful. Do not hesitate to contact us further on this or any other subject.

## CUBAN AND HAITIAN ENTRANT ELIGIBILITY UNDER WELFARE REFORM

**Issue:** Under the Congressional welfare reform proposal Cuban and Haitian entrants lose their eligibility for means-tested public benefits.

**Background:** Under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, and in response to the migration crisis known as the Mariel boatlift, the President was directed to exercise authorities with respect to Cuban/Haitian entrants which are identical to those pertaining to benefits and assistance to refugees who are admitted pursuant to section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (ANEW).

The welfare reform legislation establishes that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, with the exception of refugees admitted under section 207 of the ANEW, asylees, and a limited number of other aliens, a qualified alien (e.g. one admitted for permanent residence) who enters the United States after enactment of the bill is not eligible for any Federal means-tested public benefit during the alien's first 5 years in the United States. Thus, entrants would lose their eligibility.

**Discussion:** In response to the 1993-94 Cuban and Haitian migration crises which were similar to Mariel, the United States and Cuba agreed to establish safe, orderly and legal migration processes for Cubans attempting to resettle in the United States.

Under the terms of this agreement, Cuba agreed to take measures against anyone seeking illegally to flee to the United States. The United States agreed legally to admit 20,000 Cuban nationals a year.

Cuban and Haitian entrants, like refugees, do not necessarily have close family ties. Like refugees, they often lack English language and transferable employment skills. Access to benefits and the Federally funded domestic refugee resettlement program is critical to their ability to achieve early economic self-sufficiency.

Cuban and Haitian access to Federal means tested benefits would lessen the impact on State and local communities across the nation; especially in South Florida where over two-thirds of the migrants resettle.

The elimination of these public benefits might even result in our inability to fulfill our migration commitment as the private sector which assists in the resettlement process may reconsider its partnership with the Federal government. This would result in increased costs on State and local governments and may result in another uncontrolled outflow of illegal migration from Cuba.

**Amendments to Title IV - Restricting Welfare and Public Benefits  
for Aliens**

To ensure that Cuban and Haitian entrants receive the same benefits as refugees:

1. In section 402(a)(2)(A)(i) after the word "Act", insert "or as an alien who meets the definition contained in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980;"
2. In section 402(b)(2)(A)(i) after the word "Act", insert "or as an alien who meets the definition contained in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980."
3. In section 403(b)(1)(A) after the word "Act", insert "or as an alien who meets the definition contained in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980."
4. In section 412(b)(1)(A) after the word "Act", insert "or as an alien who meets the definition contained in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980."

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
FAX COVER SHEET

NOTE: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED FOR THE RECIPIENT ONLY.

DATE: 12.11.95

TO: Bruce Reed 1071028

HHS

FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: JOCELYN M. JOLLEY  
456-7500 (TEL) 456-6221 (FAX)

RE: FYI

OMB is handling response

PAGE 1 OF 12

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call (202) 456-7500.

FAX SENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

NOV 20 1995

November 2, 1995

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), we are pleased that the Administration has included as part of its objections to the House and Senate welfare reform bills measures that would cut benefits to legal immigrants. Addressing the provisions concerning benefits for non-citizens outlined in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) letter dated October 18, will go a long way to assuring a more responsible and equitable welfare reform bill. We remain extremely concerned, however, that as the welfare reform conference moves forward, pressure will mount to find cost savings by denying all immigrants a safety-net.

The adverse unconstitutional treatment of naturalized citizens and lawful immigrants is indefensible. As stated in the OMB letter, we agree that the social safety-net ought to serve the taxpayers who pay for it, including legal immigrants and naturalized citizens who work hard and play by the rules. Cuts in Medicaid eligibility would be particularly devastating to our communities. The immigrant restriction on Medicaid proposed in the House bill would mean less funding for high-immigration states, cause serious harm to public health, and jeopardize the delivery of health care in immigrant communities. If treatment is delayed until emergency care is required, needless suffering is inflicted and the resulting costs will be born by Medicaid and state and local health programs.

We urge you to continue your strong opposition to the unjustifiable treatment of immigrants during Conference negotiations and to strongly consider vetoing a welfare bill that treats our immigrant populations unjustly and inequitably. We feel that the immigrant language in the Deal and Daschle substitutes, which was supported by every Democrat, are as far as the law should go. We strongly recommend that the Administration reject any immigrant restriction which yields no financial savings or that impose substantial administrative costs. For example, if the Congress proceeds with plans to block grant Medicaid, the issue concerning immigrant Medicaid eligibility becomes budget neutral.

Your Administration's forceful opposition to immigrant provisions in pending welfare bills reaffirms your commitment, expressed during our August 1st meeting, to join the Hispanic Caucus in countering efforts that divide our nation by creating fears and blaming others. We

HHS, Bruce Tread, OMB

President Clinton  
November 2, 1995  
Page 2

would like to recognize the work of several persons within the Administration on this issue, including OMB Director Alice Rivlin, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, and Attorney General Janet Reno. In addition, at the White House, Bruce Reed, Patrick Griffin, and Janet Murguia have been very receptive.

We look forward to working with you on a welfare reform measure that is responsible and does not unjustifiably penalize our U.S. immigrant population.

Sincerely,

Eril Pastor

Carlos Romo Brabo

[Signature]

Robert E. Jones

Robert A. Under

[Signature]

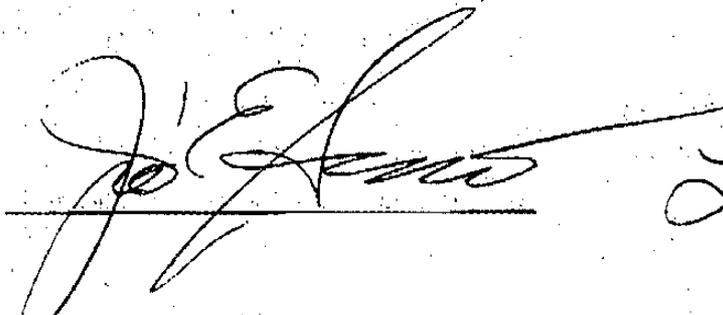
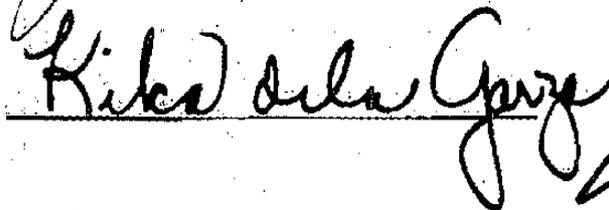
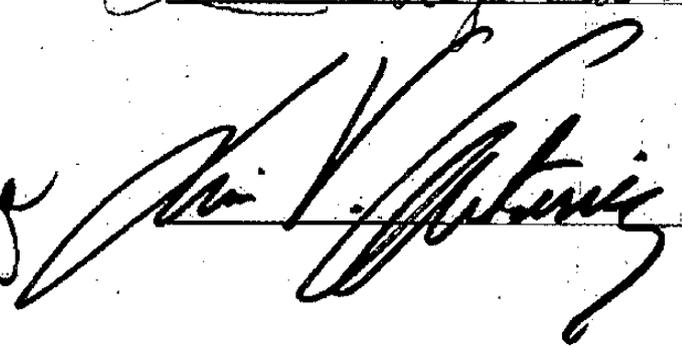
Harry Snyders

[Signature]

[Signature]

Bill Richardson

President Clinton  
November 2, 1995  
Page 3

  
Lucille Reybal-Allard  
  
Rick Warren  


President Clinton  
November 2, 1995  
Page 4

The signatures of the following Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are affixed to the letter to President Clinton regarding welfare reform.

Rep. Ed Pastor  
Rep. Solomon Ortiz  
Rep. Robert Underwood  
Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez  
Rep. Nydia Velazquez  
Rep. Jose E. Serrano  
Rep. Kika de la Garza

Rep. Carlos Romero-Barcelo  
Rep. Esteban Torres  
Rep. Xavier Becerra  
Rep. Robert Menendez  
Rep. Bill Richardson  
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez

Enclosure

CC: OMB Director Alice Rivlin  
Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala  
Attorney General Janet Reno  
White House Legislative Affairs

PATRICK LEAHY  
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND  
FORESTRY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
JUDICIARY

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

25 Nov 20 11:18

November 9, 1995

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

You were right last year to insist on reforming our welfare system. You were right to insist that budget cuts should not come at the expense of our children's futures. You were right to draw the distinction between true reform and mere budget-cutting -- the distinction between hope for the future and simple mean-spiritedness.

I am sorry to report that the Republican leadership of Congress has chosen to take another path -- the path away from equal opportunity for all children and toward a system that abandons families in poverty.

Despite overwhelming bipartisan support for welfare reform, key decisions in the welfare reform conference are being made on a purely partisan basis. As a Senate Democratic conferee, I and my staff have been excluded from all conference meetings. I have been advised that the Republican leadership does not ever intend to meet with any Democratic members. The Republicans will simply sign the Conference Report without any opportunity for amendments by Democrats.

As a result, the conference report which is not subject to amendment will reflect radical views outside the bipartisan mainstream. Food stamps, the nation's largest child nutrition program, will be slashed by over \$30 billion, billions more than required by the budget resolution. Vast loopholes will be torn in the nutritional safety net through which millions of hungry children may fall. And yes, the National School Lunch Program is being cut and at least partially block-granted.

This past Tuesday, the citizens of Kentucky had an opportunity to send a message on Tuesday, and, in the words of Democratic Governor-elect Paul Patton, "Kentucky has said no to cuts in Medicare and school lunches." I believe most citizens in every state in the Union would send the same message if given the chance.

The Republicans are out of step with America -- and, as the report you issued today

HHS, Bruce Keef, OMB

President William J. Clinton

Page 2

shows, they are out of step with reality. One million to two million more children in poverty is not what Americans want.

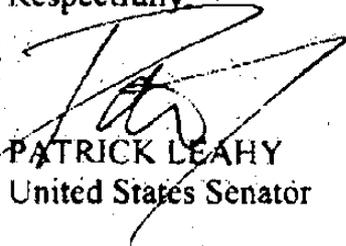
New facts about this legislation seem to emerge every day, and they paint a disturbing picture. I recently asked the Department of Agriculture to analyze the effect of this legislation on the nutritional health of pregnant women who depend on food stamps.

The Department of Agriculture reported that under the Senate bill, 29,000 pregnant women a month will be thrown off the food stamp program because they cannot find a job. The House bill is worse. Either bill will lead to an increase in health problems during pregnancy and a damaged future for many, many children.

Most of the nutrition cuts in both the House and Senate bills are totally unrelated to welfare reform--they are simply across the board cuts to help pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

After you veto this bill, I am ready to work with you and the Republican leadership so that welfare can truly be reformed.

Respectfully



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator

LYNN WOOLSEY  
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET  
ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
439 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0506  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5181

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0506**

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
1101 COLLEGE AVE., SUITE 200  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182  
FROM PETALUMA CALL:  
(707) 795-1452  
NORTHGATE BUILDING  
1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 140  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903  
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554  
INTERNET ADDRESS:  
woolsey@ht.house.gov

November 15, 1995

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Certainly, it is not an easy decision for you to veto the welfare reform bill that is coming out of conference, and I applaud your courage.

Of course, a bill that will push over one million more children into poverty, as this one will do, is not what you meant when you said that it is time to "end welfare as we know it." In addition, we know that this bill sets strict time limits on welfare benefits without providing assurance that welfare recipients will get the education or job training they need to get off welfare permanently. There's not nearly enough funding for child care, and the bill only tinkers around the edges of our deeply flawed state-by-state child support collection system. Most importantly, this bill will end the guarantee of assistance for poor children.

You know, Mr. President, that my ideas about welfare reform do not come from theory, from books, or from movies like "Boys Town." They come from experience. I know it! I lived it!

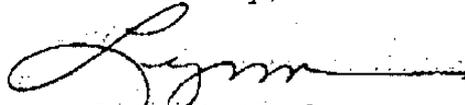
I know that if I had received the child support I was owed, I would never have needed public assistance in the first place. I know that without my education and job skills, it would have taken me a lot longer to work my way off welfare. I know that if the government had not provided me with the safety net of health care coverage, or the means to pay for child care, my kids might not have become the healthy, wonderful people they are today.

President William J. Clinton  
November 15, 1995  
Page 2

As the Co-Chair of the House Democratic Task Force on Welfare Reform, I worked with my colleagues and representatives from your administration to contribute this knowledge and personal experience to a Democratic welfare reform bill. And when 100 percent of House Democrats voted for this legislation, we demonstrated that conservative, moderate and liberal lawmakers can agree on welfare reform that retains welfare as an entitlement, gets mothers to work and strengthens the safety net for their children.

Mr. President, I hope that you will think of my family when the Republican welfare reform bill comes to your desk. Veto this mean-spirited bill, and lay the foundation for real welfare reform that people who care about getting children out of poverty can support.

Sincerely,



Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress

LW/lvt

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 1995

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
President  
The White House  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Congressional Urban Caucus, we write to urge you to veto any welfare reform package which would destroy the safety net for disadvantaged children.

We are concerned that the block grant approach embraced by both the House and Senate bills would shift the burden of maintaining critical safety net programs to states without adequate federal resources, diminished state maintenance of effort and state accountability. Combined with the proposed tax cuts in the Budget Reconciliation legislation, especially deep cuts in the Earned Income Tax Credit program, children, poor families and senior citizens will be pushed deeper into poverty. From preliminary analysis of the House and Senate bills, an additional one million children would be pushed into poverty and already disadvantaged families would be made 25 percent poorer.

While the specific impact of the House and Senate bills on our nation's disadvantaged families in the communities we represent is still unclear, what is clear is that both bills would remove the federal guarantee of benefits for poor children and their families. The devastating consequences of this action would be felt in cities across the nation.

Reductions and block granting of Food Stamps, child nutrition, and child protection programs are especially indefensible at a time when the Budget Reconciliation package gives \$245 billion in gilt-edged tax breaks to wealthy Americans, when billions in corporate welfare and farm subsidy programs remain intact and when we are providing the Pentagon with billions of dollars they did not even request.

We urge you to reject any House-Senate agreement on welfare reform which is founded on a retreat of the federal commitment to disadvantaged children based upon punishment, arbitrary deadlines under the guise of flexibility for states. We know you support welfare reform that is instead based on concrete measures to strengthen families to get them off welfare dependency--not tear them apart. Welfare reform must be based on the way that people really live their lives, and how we can help them get off welfare, and stay off welfare. How people can get good jobs and keep them. How they can make every dollar of their paychecks count.

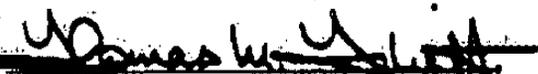
HAS, OMB, Bruce Reed

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
 Page 2  
 November 15, 1995

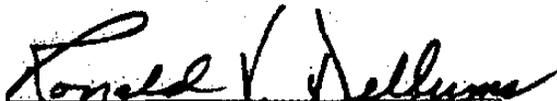
How they can get to work through a viable mass transit system. How they can care for their children.

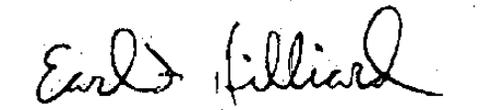
These are the goals we must pursue if we are to comprehensively reform our welfare system in a genuine way. Let's focus on reform that offers a hand-up and a chance for a better life off of the welfare rolls.

Sincerely,

  
 THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

  
 BOBBY L. ROSE

  
 RONALD V. DELLUMS

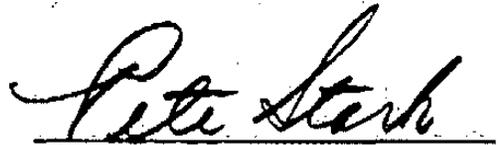
  
 EARL F. HILLIARD

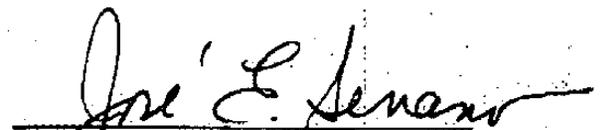
  
 BOB FILNER

  
 JOHN LEWIS

  
 WILLIAM J. COYNE

  
 MAXINE WATERS

  
 FORTNEY PETE STARK

  
 JOSE E. SERRANO

  
 JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

  
 NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

  
 BARNEY FRANK

  
 ROBERT T. MATSUI

  
 NANCY PELOSI

  
 CARRIE P. MEEK

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
Page 3  
November 15, 1995

*Eleanor Holmes Norton*

**ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

*Bruce F. Vento*

**BRUCE F. VENTO**

*Polphus Towns*

**POLPHUS TOWNS**

*Eddie Bernice Johnson*

**EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

*John Conyers, Jr.*

**JOHN CONYERS, JR**

*Matthew G. Martinez*

**MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ**

*Gary L. Ackerman*

**GARY L. ACKERMAN**

*Ferrold Nadler*

**FERROLD NADLER**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1995

**MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED**

**FROM: SUSAN BROPHY  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

**SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter which was sent to the President from Rep. Mike Ward (D-KY).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time and would appreciate your looking into these matters. Please respond directly to the member's specific concerns and forward a copy of the response to Jocelyn Jolley in room 102E of the White House.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jocelyn at 6-7500.

Enclosure



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1703

October 13, 1995

95 OCT 24 PM 1:11

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding postcards to share with you the concerns of my constituents regarding welfare reform proposals coming out in Congress.

Many of my constituents have contacted me to express their strong opposition to any welfare measure introduced in Congress that would harm women and their children. I would appreciate it if you would keep their view in mind.

I share their concerns, and I would be supportive of ensuring the welfare system is one that rewards work, helps people who help themselves, while taking care of the truly needy. I strongly oppose punishing children and those truly at risk.

I appreciate your consideration of the enclosed postcards signed by my constituents.

All best wishes and regards.

*Bruce Reed - DPC*  
*Arne Buono -*  
*Residential HHS*

Sincerely,

Mike Ward  
Member of Congress

MDW:cj

SANDER M. LEVIN  
12TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE:  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
OVERSIGHT



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2200 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 226-4981

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
SUITE 120  
2107 E. 14 MILE ROAD  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48310  
(810) 268-4444

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

OFFICE OF CONG. SANDER M. LEVIN  
12TH DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

FAX MESSAGE

DATE: November 3, 1995

TO: Bruce Reed

FAX: 486-5557

FROM: Congressman Sandy Levin

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 7

NOTES:

PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

If asked about welfare reform (the probability of which is made more likely by the Engler announcement of last week, discussed briefly below), the following is suggested:

The President is determined to achieve welfare reform. The key to welfare reform is getting people off welfare into productive work so they can achieve full individual responsibility.

Each state should have broad flexibility how they achieve this goal; Gov. Engler's announcement of last week illustrates the need for each state to follow the path deemed best for it.

But there's a basic standard for real reform in every state -- strong on work for the parent and not punishing the child.

There is no reason we can't accomplished real reform this month through discussions involving both parties in both the House and Senate, and the White House.

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: BRUCE REED  
FROM: ERIC GOULD  
RE: MICHIGAN WELFARE REFORM PLAN  
DATE: November 3, 1995

-----  
The following is a brief summary of Governor Engler's welfare reform proposal:

o Require persons seeking financial assistance to attend an orientation meeting with a person from the Family Independence Agency (FIA-the new name for the Department of Social Services) and the Michigan Jobs Commission and sign a contract spelling out a client's obligations for assistance.

o Initial assistance will be for 60 days only. Most clients will be referred to the Michigan Jobs Commission and required to enroll in job training or be directed to a prospective employer. If the client does not cooperate within 60 days, the case will be closed.

o If the client discontinues work or job training after 60 days, they will have benefits reduced by 25 percent and in four months the case will be closed.

o The only clients not having to fulfill these conditions will be those:

- Employed 20 hours per week;
- Severely disabled or caretakers of a severely disabled child;
- Pregnant women and women with infants from birth and up to six weeks after the birth of the child;
- Minor mothers (however, they must be enrolled in school).

o All minor parents will be required to live with parents or in other adult-supervised settings in order to receive financial assistance.

o Money for child care will be paid directly to the client and the client will select and pay the child care provider. The child care provider will not need to be licensed nor screened by the State, to ensure there has been no previous abuse, neglect, or criminal behavior.

o Other changes include transportation, foster care, and adoption services.

**Analysis/Concerns**

Of the 30,000 people who participated in Work First and found jobs last year in Michigan, 14,000 remained on the job for more than three months. Under the sanctions proposed in the Governor's plan, their benefits would be cut by 25 percent and may be cut off entirely in four months.

The plan calls for the State to pay the client a set amount for day care and the client will then pay the day care directly. However, if the payment is not enough to cover the cost of care, then the client is either going to end up with inferior day care, leave the child at risk, or have to use money from other sources such as food or rent to pay for day care.

The social contract will require a woman who gives birth to be back on the job or job training within six weeks after the baby is born.

The plans and associated legislation lack in detail and there is no language or commitment to paying for the sorts of programs and training called for in the plan.

# Steps Taken On Welfare In Michigan

## Mothers Face Work Soon After a Birth

By PETER T. KILBORN

In another month or two, most women on welfare in Michigan will probably have to be working within six weeks of having a child or they will lose their benefits.

New welfare recipients there who do not obtain jobs, paid or unpaid, are likely to become ineligible for benefits in two months. Michigan fathers would lose their driver's and professional licenses for not supporting their children. And welfare recipients would be docked 10 percent of their payments to reimburse their landlords for damage to housing.

In an apparent attempt to outpace other states and show the nation how to make welfare recipients go to work, Michigan's Republican Governor, John Engler, proposed these and other changes yesterday in a state welfare program that already leads the nation in steering recipients into jobs, with about 39 percent of its 130,000 welfare recipients working — three times the national average.

With Congress on the last lap of writing legislation to hand most of the control over welfare to the states, most likely in December, Mr. Engler submitted his proposals yesterday to a supportive State Legislature. He wants his own program, an expansion of one he established three years ago, to take effect immediately afterward. He would then begin spending the block grant money that Congress is expected to allocate to all states for largely unrestricted use on welfare, replacing a system currently controlled by Washington.

If, as widely expected, the overhaul of the welfare system is approved by the full Congress and is signed into law by President Clinton, states are likely to begin a stampede to re-invent welfare in ways most suitable to them. Michigan made a point yesterday of being the first out of the gate.

"We want to be ready to go as soon as the legislation is passed in Washington," said Gerald H. Miller, director of the Michigan Department of Social Services. The Governor's spokesman, John Truscott, said, "We want to be the first state. We want to be the model for the rest of the nation."

In Michigan, welfare is redefined. Mr. Miller's department is to become the Family Independence Agency, which would oversee a Family Independence Program. The principal Federal welfare program, Aid to Families With Dependent Children, will become Family Independence Assistance.

The state's welfare system would be greatly simplified, too, Mr. Miller said. The standard form applicants fill out would be cut to 5 pages from 25. Many reporting requirements would be eliminated, and layers of the welfare bureaucracy would shrink, with most of the work assumed by the caseworker, who would be called a family independence specialist.

But Michigan's rush to be first stuns people who argue that the changes the Governor has already made have yet to be proven, especially in a recession, when jobs, now abundant in Michigan, disappear. State welfare spending could soar as the state tries to fulfill its promise to support people who seek to find work and fail.

"From our standpoint, the speed with which they are moving is just appalling," said Sharon Parks, senior research associate at the Michigan League for Human Services, a research and advocacy organization in Lansing, the state capital.

Mr. Truscott acknowledged the problems arising from a recession. But he said that starting with the first block grant, the state would set aside a contingency fund, although how much of the grants would go to that was undecided. He also said he would expect Congress to help him with emergency aid.

"Congress can always revisit this," he said. "If it gets to the point where states cannot handle it." But Congress has made no such provision for a bailout.

At a news conference today and in an outline of a bill he plans to submit to the State Senate and House, Mr. Engler said he would deny welfare to mothers under 18 and provide coverage for them only when living under adult supervision, trying in that way to discourage young women from using a baby and a welfare check as a means of leaving home.

The new program would be at once tougher on people who refuse to work and gentler on those who make an effort. Instead of food stamps, for example, many people who do find jobs but remain on welfare will be freed of the stigma of using food stamps and be given cash for food instead.

NYT  
A14  
11/1

# LOCAL NEWS

Detroit Free Press

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

# Engler hopes to sign welfare bill

BY CHRIS CHRISTOFF  
Free Press Lansing Bureau Chief

LANSING — Gov. John Engler's welfare reform plan was put on a fast track Tuesday, fueled by the lofty mission of lifting the poor off the dole by tightening job requirements for recipients and instilling a self-sufficiency ethic.

The plan won't proceed without hitting some bumps. House Republicans hope to rush the plan out of the Human Services Committee and to the full House by Friday — a schedule some House members criticized as too fast for such a major bill.

Engler wants to sign the bill by the end of the year to coincide with welfare changes Congress is expected to pass,

which would shift most welfare responsibilities to the states.

At a hearing Tuesday, Democrats, welfare advocates and some Republicans expressed concern that Engler's plan is vague about details such as how it will pay welfare recipients for child care and for transportation to the jobs they must find.

One provision would require new mothers who receive welfare to return to their part-time jobs no later than six weeks after they give birth.

"I'm very uncomfortable with putting forth a plan that encourages that separation at infancy," Rep. William Bohler, R-Hesperia, told Department of Social Services Director Gerald Miller, who oversees the drafting of the plan. "I don't think there's a greater

## WHAT THE PLAN WOULD DO

- Give welfare recipients 60 days to find a part-time job or, if none are available, sign up for 20 hours of community service per week. If they don't comply after 60 days they would lose benefits.
  - Cut off benefits after four months to welfare recipients who quit or lose a job and don't seek other work.
  - Instead of food stamps give equivalent cash to recipients who earn \$350 or more per month from work.
  - Require all minor parents to live with parents or in another adult-supervised home, and attend school.
  - Suspend driver's licenses and professional licenses from parents who don't pay required child support.
  - Change from Department of Social Services to Family Independence Agency.
- work role than a mother bonding with her children." But Miller, Engler said other plan supporters said if such details aren't workable, they can be changed. They said the plan would encourage needy

people to work.

Even the name of the far agency, the Department of Social Services, would get a makeover: Family Independence.

"We think the best way is a job," Engler said. "Welfare sector jobs are available people, and our system focused on providing people jobs."

Having parents in jobs better example for children recipients, Engler said. "We end the culture and the pay dependency."

Rep. Shirley Johnson, R-chairwoman of the House subcommittee on social services approved

# SECTION B

Michigan Deline, Page 2  
Obituaries, Page 2

Call City Desk, 1-313-222-6600

# this year

state's welfare reform  
rather "asks people to come on and  
participate in life."

said Engler's plan is not punitive, but  
rather "asks people to come on and  
participate in life."  
Johnson said her sister was on  
welfare for years in Chicago and would  
have benefited from being prodded into  
finding a job.

"She lost her self-respect and dig-  
nity," Johnson said. "If she had been  
required to participate in life it would  
have been an awful lot better for her  
and her children, who are now on  
welfare."

Engler's plan goes several steps  
further than the state's present system  
in prodding welfare parents to get jobs.

A linchpin of the proposal would  
give recipients 60 days to comply with  
rules that they find a job. After that,  
See WELFARE, Page 3B

TEL: 12

• WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1995/DETROIT FREE PRESS 3B

# Engler hopes to sign welfare bill this year

WELFARE, from Page 1B

they would be cut off benefits.

Those who find a job but then quit or lose it would have four months to find a new job or perform community service, or lose their benefits.

Miller said the deadlines for finding a job replace his original plan to set a two-year limit on welfare benefits.

He said the state will abide by a five-year limit on receiving benefits that's expected as part of Congress' reform package.

Engler said he will ask lawmakers to set aside extra funds to accommodate larger welfare caseloads during economic downturns.

Kathleen Gmeiner of the Hunger Action Coalition said Engler's rule changes could allow some poor people to fall through bureaucratic cracks and wrongly lose their benefits.

"People will have 60 days to find a job, but that creates a whole new set of bureaucratic procedures," Gmeiner said. "What if someone has a sick child, or they can't get to work some days

"I'm absolutely sure people who don't deserve to be cut off from benefits will be cut off."

The plan requires minor parents on welfare to live with parents or another approved adult, and to attend school. It also would give cash instead of food stamps to recipients who earn \$350 or more per month on a job.

Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Redford Township, said she was not convinced Engler's plan will provide welfare recipients with enough money to pay for child care so they can work.

## UPBEAT NAME

LANSING — The Department of Work or Else would have conjured visions of a harsh future. Anything with Welfare, Social Service, or Aid would have been a reminder of the mollycoddling past.

So they settled on something that sounds like a place where you'd go to buy life insurance.

Welcome, Michigan, your new Family Independence Agency.

Courtesy of Gov. John Engler and his welfare director Gerald Miller, the FIA will replace the Department of Social Services as the source of government aid to poor people.

It's a new identity for an agency with a new mission that will stress work and independence from government assistance.

"We needed a different psychology that didn't foster dependence, that focused on the family, independence and self-reliance," said Engler spokesman John Truscott.

The department's last name change occurred in the mid-1960s when the Department of Social Welfare became DSS.

—Dowryn Bell

NOV-01 95 (WED) 10:07

CONGRESSMAN LEVIN

TEL: 12

P. 004

\*\* TOTAL PAGE 07 \*\*

JOHN H. CHAFEE  
RHODE ISLAND  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
SENATE ARMS CONTROL  
OBSERVERS GROUP

# United States Senate

June 14, 1995

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202/224-2821  
TDD: (202) 224-7817  
PROVIDENCE OFFICE:  
10 QUINCY STREET  
SUITE 221  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903  
(401) 528-6284  
TDD: (401) 781-1130  
TOLL FREE NUMBER  
IN RHODE ISLAND  
1-800-662-5188

The Honorable Robert Dole  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

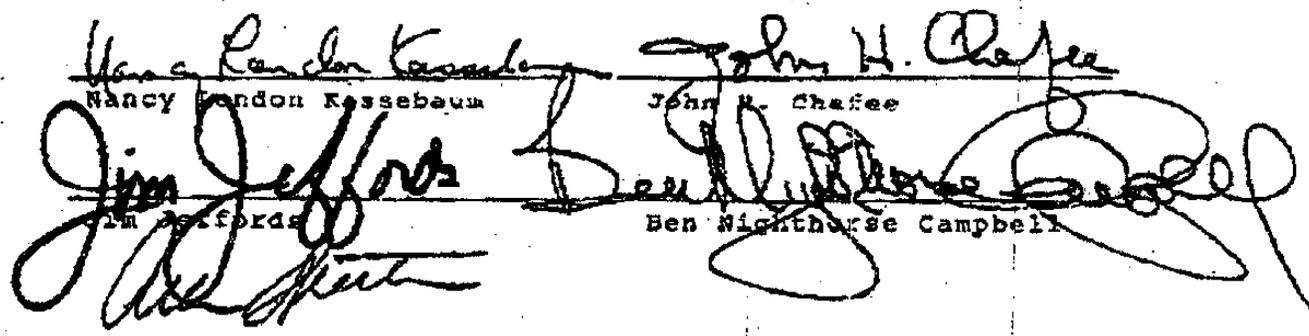
Dear Bob:

As the Senate prepares to consider welfare reform legislation, we are writing to express our concern about attempts to alter provisions in the Senate Finance Committee-passed "Family Self-Sufficiency Act" relating to teen pregnancy and out-of-wedlock births. The House-passed "Personal Responsibility Act" includes a so-called family cap, and would deny benefits to children born to teenage women and to children whose paternity cannot be established. Chairman Packwood wisely chose not to include these provisions in the Finance Committee proposal. We applaud this decision, and would strenuously object to their addition.

Key Republican Governors have expressed their opposition to such mandates. These restrictions are inconsistent with the stated goal of providing maximum flexibility to the states. Moreover, there is no evidence that such provisions have any impact on the rate of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. As such, mandates of this kind will only appear punitive because it is the children who will be denied much-needed assistance through no fault of their own.

We urge you to resist any efforts to add these provisions to the Senate bill, and look forward to working with you toward that end.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter



05-17441. White Legals Affairs

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

94 MAR 18 P5:24

March 17, 1994

The Honorable Bill Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We again call your attention to the fervent hope of House Republicans that Congress will make a serious attempt to pass welfare reform this year.

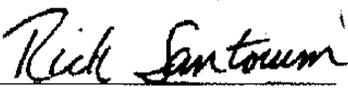
OMB Director Leon Panetta told Congress recently that your welfare reform bill will be sent to Congress in early April. We eagerly await the bill's arrival and compliment you in advance for submitting a bill.

But we all know that sending a bill is only the first small step toward reform. Thus, we call upon you to emphasize to the Leadership in both Houses and the appropriate Committee chairmen that you are intent on passing a bill this year. At this moment, it is clear that Congress is setting a rather sluggish pace in addressing welfare reform. With a word from you, the process will come to life. There is absolutely no reason why we cannot pass a bipartisan bill this year.

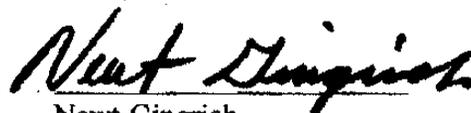
To ensure that House Democrats know how intent we are on undertaking welfare reform this year, we will soon file a discharge petition to bring the House Republican bill (H.R. 3500) to the Floor under an open rule.

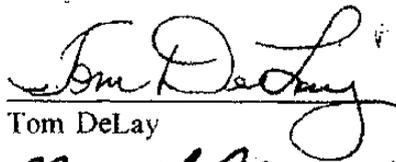
We are confident that once your bill is released, we will be able to work together in a bipartisan fashion to dramatically reform the nation's welfare system.

Sincerely yours,

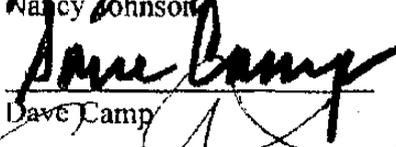
  
Rick Santorum

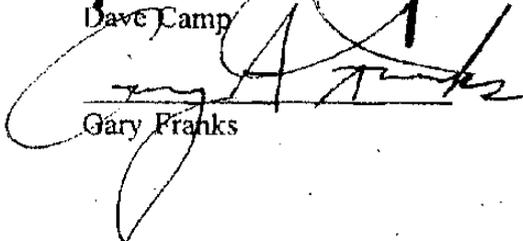
7/18/94

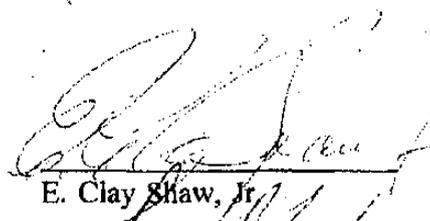
  
Newt Gingrich

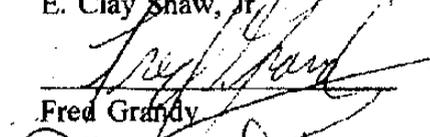
  
Tom DeLay

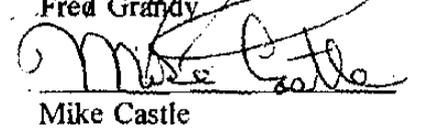
  
Nancy Johnson

  
Dave Camp

  
Gary Franks

  
E. Clay Shaw, Jr.

  
Fred Grandy

  
Mike Castle

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1994

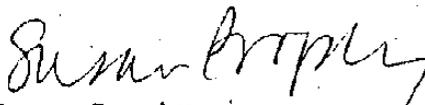
Dear Representative Santorum:

Thank you for your letter regarding welfare reform. I appreciate your informing the President of your concerns.

The President has been advised of your interest in this matter, and you will receive a response from him in the near future. In the meantime, if I can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Susan Brophy  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Rick Santorum  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

According to information available to us, no further response was sent.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from several members of Congress.

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter being sent to Capitol Hill. Since we did not want to respond to this letter without your guidance, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to LeeAnn Inadomi (WH-East Wing) within 48 hours. She will then print the letter in final form and have it sent to the President for his signature.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call LeeAnn at 456-7500.

Enclosure

White House Affairs

25-8834

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

94 MAR 28 P12:11

March 18, 1994

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We share your belief that asset-based anti-poverty strategies are an invaluable tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. The political will - in Congress and among the American people - exists for their implementation. If we intend for asset-based anti-poverty strategies to reach significant numbers of the poor, these strategies must be included in comprehensive welfare reform.

The current rules for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) provide cash payments for consumption while discouraging savings and enterprise. Too often, welfare reform attempts have been centered on modifying recipients' behavior with penalties. In contrast, asset-based anti-poverty strategies create a path to savings, investment, and accumulation of assets which leads to ending one's own poverty with dignity.

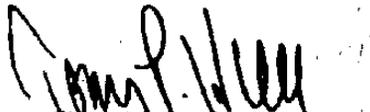
Bills introduced during this Congress include the Microenterprise Opportunity Expansion Act and the Microenterprise and Asset Development Act. These bills propose many important anti-poverty measures including removing the restrictions on asset accumulation by poor people by raising the AFDC savings limit above the current \$1,000 ceiling for recipients starting businesses, saving for education and training, or saving to purchase a new home. The Individual Development Account Demonstration Act proposes a five-year demonstration project that would encourage and reward poor people for saving towards homes, education, and businesses through Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). An IDA would be an earnings-bearing, tax-benefitted account whose deposits would be matched on a sliding scale by the Federal and/or State governments. Amounts from an IDA could be withdrawn without penalty only for the purposes of first-home purchase, post-secondary education, business development, and retirement. The Federal government would be supporting asset accumulation by the poor, just as it does for the non-poor.

The Federal government spends more than \$100 billion per year to provide incentives to middle-income and upper-income people to accumulate savings and assets (e.g., home mortgage interest deductions and tax deductions for retirement pension accounts). Federal anti-poverty policy should support

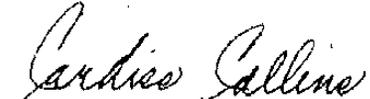
asset-building activities, not penalize them. Current policy is telling the poor that they cannot save for their children's education, that they cannot start their own business, or that they should sell everything they have just to get some temporary assistance. This traps people on welfare -- which is both morally wrong and economically foolish.

Believing that poor people can and should be supported to end their own poverty, we request that the proposals embodied in these bills be explicitly integrated into the Administration's welfare reform.

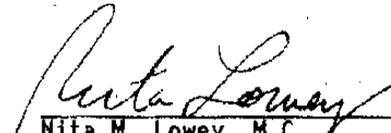
Sincerely,

  
Tony P. Hall, M.C.

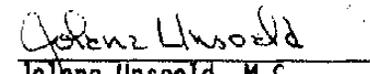
  
Bill Emerson, M.C.

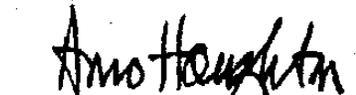
  
Cardiss Collins, M.C.

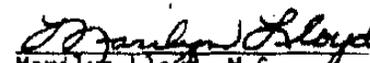
  
Fred Grandy, M.C.

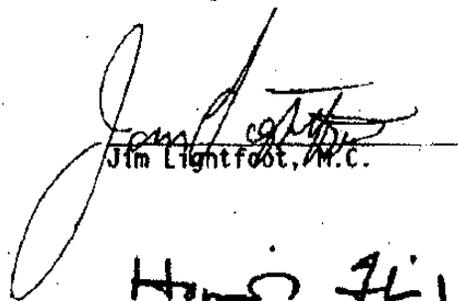
  
Nita M. Lowey, M.C.

  
Curt Weldon, M.C.

  
Jolene Unsoeld, M.C.

  
Amo Houghton, M.C.

  
Marilyn Lloyd, M.C.

  
Jim Lightfoot, M.C.

  
John Lewis, M.C.

  
Hamilton Fish, Jr., M.C.

*Robert E. Andrews* <sup>D/NE</sup>  
Robert E. Andrews, M.C.

*Elliot L. Engel* <sup>D/NY</sup>  
Elliot L. Engel, M.C.

*Eric Fingerhut* <sup>D/NE</sup>  
Eric Fingerhut, M.C.

*Thomas J. Manton* <sup>D/NY</sup>  
Thomas J. Manton, M.C.

*James E. Clyburn* <sup>D/SC</sup>  
James E. Clyburn, M.C.

*Louis Stokes* <sup>D/OH</sup>  
Louis Stokes, M.C.

*Corrine Brown* <sup>D/FL</sup>  
Corrine Brown, M.C.

*Alcee L. Hastings* <sup>D/FL</sup>  
Alcee L. Hastings, M.C.

*Carrie P. Meek* <sup>D/FL</sup>  
Carrie P. Meek, M.C.

*Edolphus Towns* <sup>D/NC</sup>  
Edolphus Towns, M.C.

*Ronald V. Dellums* <sup>D/CA</sup>  
Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

*Major R. Owens* <sup>D/MS</sup>  
Major R. Owens, M.C.

*Mike Kreidler* <sup>D/WV</sup>  
Mike Kreidler, M.C.

*Lynn Schenk* <sup>D/CA</sup>  
Lynn Schenk, M.C.

*Leslie L. Byrne* <sup>D/CA</sup>  
Leslie L. Byrne, M.C.

*Lane Evans* <sup>D/CA</sup>  
Lane Evans, M.C.

Pat Schroeder <sup>100</sup>  
Patricia Schroeder, M.C.

Bob Filner <sup>100</sup>  
Bob Filner, M.C.

Patsy T. Mink <sup>100</sup>  
Patsy T. Mink, M.C.

James L. Oberstar <sup>100</sup>  
James L. Oberstar, M.C.

Stephen L. Neal <sup>100</sup>  
Stephen L. Neal, M.C.

Thomas H. Andrews <sup>100</sup>  
Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.

Maurice D. Hinchey <sup>100</sup>  
Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.

Neal Smith <sup>100</sup>  
Neal Smith, M.C.

William J. Hughes <sup>100</sup>  
William J. Hughes, M.C.

Albert Russell Wynn <sup>100</sup>  
Albert Russell Wynn, M.C.

Charles B. Rangel <sup>100</sup>  
Charles B. Rangel, M.C.

Floyd H. Flake <sup>100</sup>  
Floyd H. Flake, M.C.

Mike Parker <sup>100</sup>  
Mike Parker, M.C.

James P. Moran <sup>100</sup>  
James P. Moran, M.C.

James T. Walsh <sup>100</sup>  
James T. Walsh, M.C.

Richard H. Lehman <sup>100</sup>  
Richard H. Lehman, M.C.

*Esteban E. Torres* D134  
Esteban Edward Torres, M.C.

*Peter A. DeFazio* D134  
Peter A. DeFazio, M.C.

*Eleanor Holmes Norton*  
Eleanor Holmes Norton, M.C.

*Nancy N. Johnson* D134  
Nancy N. Johnson, M.C.

*Walter R. Tucker, III* D134  
Walter R. Tucker, III, M.C.

*Mel Reynolds* D134  
Mel Reynolds, M.C.

*Arthur Ravenel, Jr.* D134  
Arthur Ravenel, Jr., M.C.

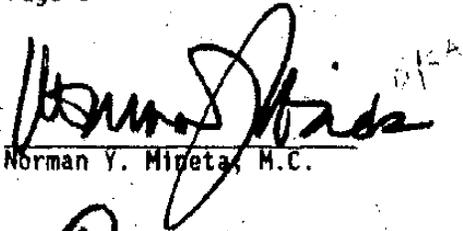
*Dick Swett* D134  
Dick Swett, M.C.

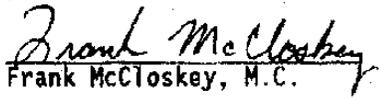
*Bennie G. Thompson* D134  
Bennie G. Thompson, M.C.

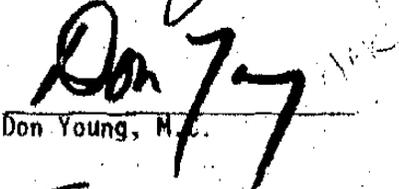
*Elizabeth Furse* D134  
Elizabeth Furse, M.C.

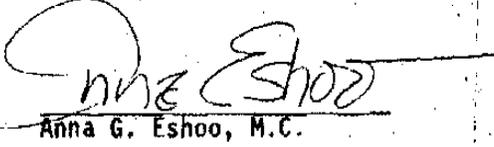
*Lynn C. Woolsey* D134  
Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.

*Eddie Bernice Johnson* D134  
Eddie Bernice Johnson, M.C.

  
Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.

  
Frank McCloskey, M.C.

  
Don Young, M.C.

  
Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.

  
Sam Farr, M.C.

  
Robert C. Scott, M.C.

  
Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

  
Jeirald Nadler, M.C.

  
Alex McMillan, M.C.

  
Peter Deutsch, M.C.

  
Martin H. Lancaster, M.C.

  
Bill McCollum, M.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from several members of Congress.

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter being sent to Capitol Hill. Since we did not want to respond to this letter without your guidance, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to LeeAnn Inadomi (WH-East Wing) within 48 hours. She will then print the letter in final form and have it sent to the President for his signature.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call LeeAnn at 456-7500.

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1994

Dear Tony:

Thank you very much for your letter in support of asset-based strategies to break the cycle of poverty.

As you may know, I have long been a strong supporter of measures to help the poor build assets. The current welfare system discourages work and savings, instead of rewarding people for their own efforts to lift themselves out of poverty.

Microenterprise has been a high priority of the Small Business Administration since I took office. We are also working to make sure that microenterprise and Individual Development Account demonstrations are part of the Administration's welfare reform proposal. As I said in an address to Congress last year, our goal should be to help people not need us anymore.

Thank you for the bipartisan support you have given to these innovative ideas. We have an historic chance to reform our welfare system to provide the right incentives and convey the right values.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Bill*

The Honorable Tony P. Hall  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Samples of responses  
to Democratic and  
Republican Congressmen*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1994

Dear Representative Emerson:

Thank you very much for your letter in support of asset-based strategies to break the cycle of poverty.

As you may know, I have long been a strong supporter of measures to help the poor build assets. The current welfare system discourages work and savings, instead of rewarding people for their own efforts to lift themselves out of poverty.

Microenterprise has been a high priority of the Small Business Administration since I took office. We are also working to make sure that microenterprise and Individual Development Account demonstrations are part of the Administration's welfare reform proposal. As I said in an address to Congress last year, our goal should be to help people not need us anymore.

Thank you for the bipartisan support you have given to these innovative ideas. We have an historic chance to reform our welfare system to provide the right incentives and convey the right values.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Bill Emerson  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*HL-Legis Affairs*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1994

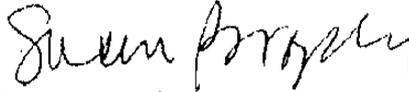
Dear Representative Kleczka:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Supplemental Security Income program. I appreciate your sharing your concerns with the President.

The President has been advised of your interest in this matter, and you will receive a response from him in the near future. In the meantime, if I can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Susan Brophy  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Gerald D. Kleczka  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY *SB*  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Presidential Correspondence

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from several members of Congress.

The President has requested that he see and sign every letter being sent to Capitol Hill. Since we did not want to respond to this letter without your guidance, I am requesting that your office draft a response and return it to LeeAnn Inadomi (WH-East Wing) within 48 hours. She will then print the letter in final form and have it sent to the President for his signature.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call LeeAnn at 456-7500.

Enclosure

062649

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 1994

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006-9900

Dear Mr. President:

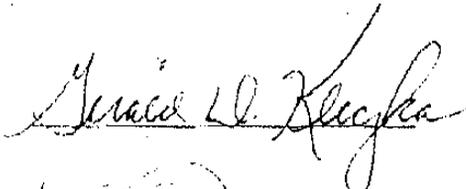
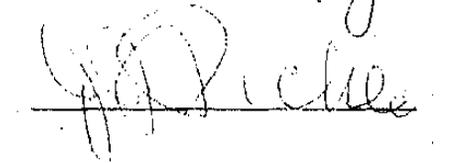
The Supplemental Security Income program (SSI) is intended to provide assistance to low-income disabled, blind, and aged individuals. In Fiscal Year 1993, the federal government spent almost \$20 billion on SSI payments. That is over \$7 billion more than the federal benefits paid under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. With this amount of taxpayer dollars going towards SSI payments, it is our responsibility to ensure that these benefits are being used appropriately.

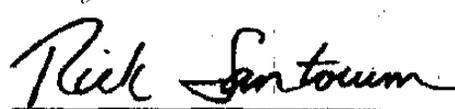
Unfortunately, this has not been happening. We have seen widespread reports of abuses in the SSI programs for both children and substance abusers. Recent government reports, Congressional hearings, and media attention have confirmed that SSI, as it is currently administered, is flawed.

Let us stress that we do not wish to see deserving recipients negatively affected in any way; we would simply like to see SSI reformed so that it serves to help the disabled, blind, and aged recipients it was intended to assist, while preventing opportunities for abuse.

We urge you to either address this matter in your welfare reform plan or to support our efforts to include SSI reform during Congressional consideration of your plan. Together, we can ensure that these needy individuals receive the assistance they deserve, while protecting valuable taxpayer resources from misuse. We thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Park

Mike Keidler

Leslie Payne

Wick Smith

Peter Barca

William Porter

Max Baker

Bill Hughes

Edmond

Jim Lawrence

Wally Henger

Christy Jays

Tom Barrett

Gary Holmstrom

Bart Gordon

Andy Moss

Tom Felt

Jim Lewis

Tom Lewis

Frank

Karen Shepherd

Hon. Gerald D. Kleczka  
Hon. J.J. Pickle - 1  
Hon. Nancy L. Johnson - 1  
Hon. Rick Santorum - 1  
Hon. Mike Parker  
Hon. Mike Kreidler - VA  
Hon. Leslie Byrne - VA  
Hon. Nick Smith - R.M.  
Hon. Peter Barca  
Hon. William Orton  
Hon. Pat Roberts  
Hon. Bill Hughes  
Hon. Glenn Poshard - D  
Hon. Jim Sensenbrenner - R  
Hon. Wally Herger - R  
Hon. Christopher Shays  
Hon. Tom Barrett  
Hon. George Hochbrueckner - R  
Hon. Bart Gordon - R  
Hon. Austin Murphy - R  
Hon. Tom Petri - R  
Hon. Tim Johnson - R  
Hon. Tom Lewis - R  
Hon. Buddy Darden  
Hon. Karen Shepherd - R

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 24, 1994

Dear Representative Herger:

Thank you very much for your letter expressing your concerns about the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI).

I share your concern that the large federal expenditures on the program should be well managed and appropriately used. We need to do all we can to ensure that benefits go to those who deserve them and to minimize waste, fraud and abuse.

As you know, I support the creation of an independent Social Security Administration which will be more directly accountable to me and to Congress for the management of this program. I am also supportive of efforts currently underway to re-engineer the administrative process at SSA to make it more efficient and responsive to its customers. We need to take a close look at some of the abuses that have been reported concerning children and substance abusers and devise thoughtful solutions.

I appreciate your desire to move quickly on these issues and several of them are addressed in HR 4277, the independent agency bill. I look forward to working with you to come up with sensible solutions to these difficult problems.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*

The Honorable Wally Herger  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Samples of responses  
to Democratic and  
Republican Congressmen*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 24, 1994

Dear Glenn:

Thank you very much for your letter expressing your concerns about the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI).

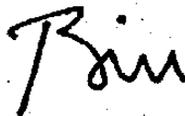
I share your concern that the large federal expenditures on the program should be well managed and appropriately used. We need to do all we can to ensure that benefits go to those who deserve them and to minimize waste, fraud and abuse.

As you know, I support the creation of an independent Social Security Administration which will be more directly accountable to me and to Congress for the management of this program. I am also supportive of efforts currently underway to re-engineer the administrative process at SSA to make it more efficient and responsive to its customers. We need to take a close look at some of the abuses that have been reported concerning children and substance abusers and devise thoughtful solutions.

I appreciate your desire to move quickly on these issues and several of them are addressed in HR 4277, the independent agency bill. I look forward to working with you to come up with sensible solutions to these difficult problems.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Glenn Poshard  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*WR - Legis. Affairs*

**ASL Welfare Reform Team  
Congressional Activity  
April 18, 1994**

**MEETINGS**

**April 13**

**Reps. McCurdy:** On April 13, David Ellwood and Bruce Reed met with Representative McCurdy (D-OK). Representatives Slattery (D-KS) and Wheat (D-MO) did not attend as originally scheduled [Mary].

**April 14**

**Senator Boren:** On April 14, David Ellwood met with Senator Boren (D-OK) [Rich].

**Reps. Goodling and Molinari:** On April 14, Mary Jo Bane and David Ellwood met with Representative Bill Goodling (R-PA), Ranking Minority Member of the House Education and Labor Committee. Representative Susan Molinari (R-NY) did not attend as originally scheduled [Rich, Mary Beth].

**Congressional Hispanic Caucus:** On April 14, the Co-Chairs and Fernando Torres-Gil met with the members of Congressional Hispanic Caucus [Rich, Mary, Irene].

**Rep. Berman:** On April 14, David Ellwood met with Representative Berman (D-CA). [Mary, Irene]

**Rep. Martinez:** On April 14, Mary Jo Bane met with Representative Martinez regarding the JOBS hearing next week [Mary Beth].

**April 15**

**Ways and Means Staff:** On April 15, Bruce Reed, Wendell Primus, and Isabell Sawhill conducted a bipartisan briefing for staff of members of the Ways and Means Committee [Rich].

**April 18**

**Paul Offner:** On April 18, David Ellwood will meet with Paul Offner, Chief Health/Welfare Counsel of the Senate Finance Committee [Rich, Sarah].

April 19

Senate Leadership Staff: On April 19, Jerry Klepner, Susan Brophy, and Rich Tarplin will meet with John Hilley and Grace Reef of the Senate Majority Leader's staff concerning timing and strategy for welfare reform.

Finance Committee Staff: On April 19, Jerry Klepner, Susan Brophy, and Rich Tarplin will meet with Lawrence O'Donnell of the Senate Finance Committee concerning timing and strategy for welfare reform.

April 20

Senator Moseley-Braun: On April 20, David Ellwood will meet with Senator Carol Moseley-Braun concerning welfare reform [Rich, Sarah].

April 26

Representative Meehan - Cable Show: On April 26, Mary Jo Bane will participate in a taping of a cable show "Capitol Hill Report" with Representative Martin Meehan (D-MA) (Time: 4:00 p.m. and Location: House Recording Studio).

**HEARINGS**April 19

JOBS Program: On April 19, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Human Resources will hold a hearing on the JOBS program. Mary Jo Bane, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, will testify (Time: and Location: TBA).

Welfare Reform: On April 25, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources is tentatively scheduled to hold a field hearing on welfare reform in Hartford, CT (Time and Location: TBA).

Welfare Reform: On May 2, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources is tentatively scheduled to hold a field hearing on welfare reform in Tampa, FL (Time and Location: TBA).

WR-Leg Affairs

TO: Mary Jo Bane  
David Ellwood  
Bruce Reed

FROM: ASL Staff

DATE: April 14, 1994

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS MEMBERS BRIEFING  
April 14, 11:45 a.m., HC 8 (Capitol)

**Attendees:**

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), a bipartisan organization, has 18 members (see attached list). Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY) is the Chairman.

**Background:**

The briefing should begin with a very brief overview of the proposal. The members are very anxious to have an interactive discussion about details of the initiative.

A few CHC members have been briefed on this issue as part of the Freshman Caucus or individually (Representatives Roybal-Allard, Velasquez and Becerra). The CHC staff also has been briefed on this issue by the HHS staff. Attached are detailed reports from those meetings.

CHC members are very interested in this issue, particularly, the financing proposal to change the deeming provisions of the SSI program for elderly legal immigrants. On February 24, 1994, CHC members sent a letter to the President opposing "the elimination of aid to elderly, blind, or disabled legal immigrants.... If the plan submitted to Congress includes such cuts, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus would be forced to oppose attempts to finance welfare reform on the backs of the poor" (see attached).

CHC members feel that the Administration is feeding into the anti-immigrant debate by proposing to pay for welfare reform by cutting SSI benefits to elderly legal immigrants. Becerra does not believe that the Administration can hold the line on this issue. He recognizes that when the bill gets to Congress, Republicans will move the package to the right and add anti-immigrant language to the bill. However, Becerra argues that an Administration package which includes this proposal will be pushed even further to the right.

He strongly urged the Administration to take the high ground and not adopt this proposal. Becerra warned that Serrano feels very strongly about this issue. Indeed, Serrano canceled a CHC members meeting with Welfare Reform Working Group members because he did not want to hear a defense of this proposal. Other CHC members and staff also have expressed their opposition to this proposal.

The following are CHC members views on other key issues:

**Phase-In:** Members and/or staff understand the need for a phase-in strategy.

**JOBS, Time Limit, Exemptions and Extensions:** Members have expressed some concerns about the quality of the job training and education programs; personalized job training and education programs to fit the needs and interests of the recipient and the needs of the job market; and time limit extensions for recipients with limited English capabilities. Serrano's staff suggests that when a recipient gets a job, much needed services such as child care should continue and taper off.

**Work Program:** Members and staff are concerned about displacement of other workers, particularly government workers.

**Minor Mom, Family Caps and Prevention Issues:** The living requirement for minor mothers with appropriate safeguards (exemptions) and simple bypass process is not cumbersome. Most did not like the family caps - it is viewed as a punitive and ineffective.

**Child Care:** Consensus that child care for recipients and working poor is vital. Roybal-Allard's staff suggested that the definition of child care should be expanded to include child care provided by extended family members. This kind of care is prevalent in the Latino community. Some concern that there is a need for more child care services for very young children (ages 1-3) especially since we are focusing on young mothers.

José E. Serrano (D-NY)  
Chairman

Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)  
Vice-Chair

Ed Pastor (D-AZ)  
Secretary-Treasurer



### Congress of the United States Congressional Hispanic Caucus 103rd Congress

E (Xika) de la Garza (D-TX)  
Ron de Lugo (D-VI)  
Solomon P. Ortiz (D-TX)  
Bill Richardson (D-NM)  
Esteban E. Torres (D-CA)  
Berns Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
Xavier Becerra (D-CA)  
Henry Bonilla (R-TX)  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)  
Luis Guterres (D-LI)  
Robert Menendez (D-NJ)  
Carlos Romero-Barceló (D-PR)  
Frank Tejeda (D-TX)  
Nidia Velázquez (D-NY)  
Robert Underwood (D-Ouism)

Richard V. López  
Executive Director

#### Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus - 103rd Congress

José E. Serrano (D-NY)  
Chairman  
336 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-4361  
AA: Eilyn Tossano  
Appt. Sec.: Mayra Ortega

Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)  
Vice-Chair  
324 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-1766  
AA: Henry Contreras  
Appt. Sec.: Miriam Wilson

Ed Pastor (D-AZ)  
Secretary-Treasurer  
408 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-4065  
AA: Gene Fisher  
Appt. Sec.: Jackie Soliz-Chapa

E (Xika) de la Garza (D-TX)  
1401 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-2531  
AA: Bernice McGuire  
Appt. Sec.: Rika Clark  
(f) 5-8510/(p) 5-6872

Ron de Lugo (D-VI)  
2427 Rayburn HOB  
(202) 225-1790  
AA: Sheila Ross  
Appt. Sec.: Lorraine Hill

Solomon P. Ortiz (D-TX)  
2136 Rayburn HOB  
(202) 225-7742  
AA: Lencho Rendón  
Appt. Sec.: Vicky Hoffpauier

Bill Richardson (D-NM)  
2349 Rayburn HOB  
(202) 225-6190  
AA: Isabelle Watkins  
Appt. Sec.: Isabelle Watkins

Esteban E. Torres (D-CA)  
1740 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-5256  
AA: Albert Jacquez  
Appt. Sec.: Mary Ann  
Bloodworth

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
127 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-3931  
AA: Mauricio Tamargo  
Appt. Sec.: Ingrid Sanchez

Xavier Becerra (D-CA)  
1710 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-6235  
AA: Elsa Márquez  
Appt. Sec.: Jean Song

Henry Bonilla (R-TX)  
1529 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-4511  
AA: Steve Ruhlen  
Appt. Sec.: Christine Pallezín

Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)  
509 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-4211  
AA: Jeffrey Bartel  
Appt. Sec.: Lidia Rodriguez

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus - 103rd Congress  
Page 2

Luis Gutiérrez (D-IL)  
1208 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-8203  
AA: Doug Scofield  
Appt. Sec.: Maggie Muir

Robert Menéndez (D-NJ)  
1531 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-7919  
AA: Michael Sutton  
Appt. Sec.: Karen Kasma

Carlos Romero-Barcelo (D-PR)  
1517 Longworth HOB  
(202) 225-2615  
AA: Pedro Rivera Casiano  
Appt. Sec.: Nelsie Parada

Frank Tejeda (D-TX)  
323 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-1840  
AA: Jeff Mendelsohn  
Appt. Sec.: Bianca Peñalver

Hydia Velázquez (D-NY)  
132 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-2361  
AA: Karen Ackerman  
Appt. Sec.: Joyce Power

Robert Underwood (D-Guam)  
507 Cannon HOB  
(202) 225-1188  
AA: Terry Schroeder  
Appt. Sec.: Angie Borja

José E. Serrano (D-NY)  
Chairman  
Lucille Kasten-Alford (D-CA)  
Vice-Chair  
Ed Pastor (D-AZ)  
Secretary-Treasurer



**Congress of the United States**  
**Congressional Hispanic Caucus**  
103rd Congress

E (Kika) de la Cruz (D-TR)  
Ron de Lago (D-VI)  
Solomon P. Ortiz (D-TX)  
Bill Richardson (D-NM)  
Enrique E. Tamm (D-CA)  
Diana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
Xavier Becerra (D-CA)  
Henry Bonilla (R-TX)  
Lincoln Dierkes (R-FL)  
Luis Guterres (D-RI)  
Robert Menendez (D-NJ)  
Carlos Rosendo-Barral (D-PR)  
Frank T. Laferriere (D-TX)  
Nedra Volz (D-NY)  
Robert Underwood (D-GA)

Richard V. Lopez  
Executive Director

February 24, 1994

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concern about recent reports that the Administration continues to consider paying for welfare reform by cutting programs targeted to low-income individuals. Among the proposals recently mentioned in the press are the taxation of welfare benefits and housing assistance programs and the elimination of aid to elderly, blind, or disabled legal immigrants.

Welfare reform promises to assist millions of low-income families on the path toward self-sufficiency. It makes little sense to cut programs currently available to assist low-income families in order to pay for a newly designed welfare system. The benefits of that improved welfare system -- decent jobs and a better standard of living -- would be offset by reductions in other vital programs that permit low-income families to survive.

If the plan submitted to Congress includes such cuts, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus would be forced to oppose attempts to finance welfare reform on the backs of the poor.

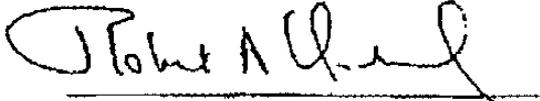
We look forward to working with you to develop welfare reforms which is worthy of our best efforts and the hopes of millions of poor families.

Sincerely,

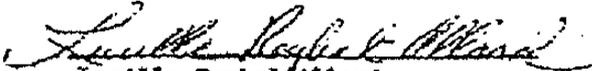
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jose E. Serrano, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lydia Palazquez

President William J. Clinton  
February 24, 1994  
Page 2

  
Robert Underwood

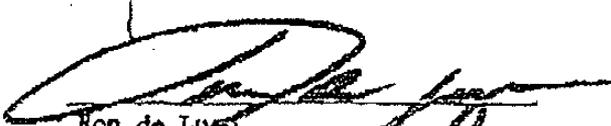
  
Esteban E. Torres

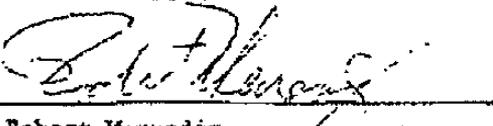
  
Lucille Roybal-Allard

  
Ed Pastor

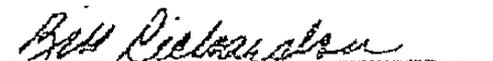
  
Javier Becerra

  
Luis Gutierrez

  
Ron de Luco

  
Robert Menéndez

  
Carlos Romero-Barceló

  
Bill Richardson

FORM 10-75 (REV. 1-27-75)

**WELFARE REFORM MEETING REPORT**

**MEETINGS**

**Member/Organization:** Jose Serrano

**Date:** 4/12/94

**HHS/Working Group Staff**

Irene Bueno  
Patricia Sosa

**Attendees**

Lucy Hand

**Notes/Issues of Concern**

On April 12, Patricia Sosa and Irene Bueno met with Lucy Hand, to discuss the proposal. Lucy has been on the Hill for many years and is knowledgeable about the welfare reform system. She has not spoken to her boss about all the issues we raised and she provided much of her personal opinions.

**Phase-In:** She has no problem with the phase-in strategy but stressed that the program must evolve as more older recipients are phased into the program.

**JOBS, Time Limit, Exemptions and Extensions:** Her boss has no problems with the time limits provided that there are exemptions for those who need substantial education and training particularly, recipients with limited English skills.

She is concerned about the quality of training programs and the displacement of workers.

**WORK Program:** Lucy is concerned that recipients who find jobs will lose all services (child care, health care etc.) She is concerned that if the services ended immediately, recipients will fall "off the cliff" back into welfare. She suggests that the services be tapered off.

**Minor Mom, Family Caps and Prevention Issues**

She thinks that her boss would oppose the family cap but would not oppose the minor living requirement provided that there are exemptions and that the minor could live with a "responsible adult."

**Child Care:** Lucy feels that the child care program is very important, especially for the working poor.

**Financing:** Serrano does not like the proposal to pay for welfare by changing the SSI "deeming provision" rules.

*Follow Up*

*WELFARE REFORM MEETING REPORT*

*MEETINGS*

*Member/Organization: Xavier Becerra*

*Date: 3/3/94*

*HHS/Working Group Staff*

David Ellwood  
Fernando Tores-Gil  
Irene Bueno  
Moia

*Attendees*

Xavier Becerra  
Elsa Marquez  
Valerie Small-Navarro  
John Fitzpatrick

*Notes/Issues of Concern*

David explained that all the financing options are difficult and will be strongly opposed. However, David said that the Administration is considering the option of limiting elderly legal residents from obtaining SSI benefits by changing the deeming provision. David said that personally he thinks that if an American citizen brings his/her elderly parents that that citizen made a commitment to financially support the parent and should be held financially responsible.

Becerra asked David how the Administration plans to hold the line on that position. He does not think it is politically possible to hold that line. He thinks that the anti-immigrant political forces will push the line further back to include other immigrants. Politically, Becerra said that he understands if the Administration will eventually end up at this position. However, he feels it is wrong for the Administration to start off with this position. If the Administration concedes this point in the beginning, amendments will be offered to go even beyond those immigrants. The Administration should let someone else offer that kind of amendment.

Becerra warned that he and other members of the Hispanic Caucus will lobby against the bill if this provision is included. Becerra understand that the Administration needs to include a provision that deals with undocumented immigrants. Becerra cautioned that there will always be people who say that the Administration has not gone far enough with respect to undocumented immigrants.

Becerra has some ideas about dealing with this issue. For example,

he suggests the welfare reform plan could include language to reiterate current law prohibiting undocumented immigrants from receiving welfare and to beef up enforcement of fraud in the system. This would allow the Administration to say that it is doing something about undocumented immigrants. Becerra said he is willing to work with the Administration to develop these provisions. However, Becerra did not have specific financing ideas.

Becerra also mentioned that Serrano canceled the CHC meeting with David because Serrano thought it would be a waste of time if David planned to defend elderly legal immigrant SSI proposal.

Member/Organization: Xavier Becerra

Date: 3/24/94

*HHS/Working Group Staff*

David Ellwood  
Susan Brophy  
Rich Tarplin  
Mary Bourdette  
Irene Bueno

*Attendees*

Xavier Becerra (CA)  
Eva Clayton (NC)  
James Clyburn (SC)  
Eric Fingerhut (OH)  
Herb Klien (NJ)  
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)  
Bobby Rush (IL)  
Nydia Velasquez (NY)  
Lynn Woolsey (CA)

Rep. Clayton opened up the meeting welcoming David for speaking to the group and presented the principles the Freshman Class developed.

Rep. Velasquez expressed concern about time limits - she feels that they reinforce the stereotype that people on welfare do not want to get jobs. She said the Administration needs to make a commitment to create jobs but do not displace other workers.

Rep. Woolsey asked for examples of the kinds of jobs that would be created under the WORK Program.

Rep. Becerra asked about the costs and financing.

Rep. Klien seemed slightly concerned about the gambling taxes since he represents Atlantic City.

Rep. Rush expressed serious concerns about creating a system that continues to stigmatize recipients and suggested that we need to provide a job program and incentives to employers to hire recipients.

Rep. Roybal-Allard reiterated Rush's concerns. She also expressed concern about the how we frame the issues of welfare reform and the terminology we use. She asked specifically about the kind of training that would be provided - education vs. training.

Rep. Fingerhut is concerned about that we will spend money on training and programs and the number of those receiving welfare will not be reduced. We need to make sure we put the money in the right programs.

*Follow Up*

Rep. Clayton concluded that we probably need a another to discuss training and education. Velasquez's staff has asked about this meeting.

*WELFARE REFORM MEETING REPORT*

*MEETINGS*

Member/Organization: Nydia Velasquez

Date: 3/24/94

*HHS/Working Group Staff*

David Ellwood  
Susan Brophy  
Rich Tarplin  
Mary Bourdette  
Irene Bueno

*Attendees*

Xavier Becerra (CA)  
Eva Clayton (NC)  
James Clyburn (SC)  
Eric Fingerhut (OH)  
Herb Klien (NJ)  
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)  
Bobby Rush (IL)  
Nydia Velasquez (NY)  
Lynn Woolsey (CA)

Rep. Clayton opened up the meeting welcoming David for speaking to the group and presented the principles the Freshman Class developed.

Rep. Velasquez expressed concern about time limits - she feels that they reinforce the stereotype that people on welfare do not want to get jobs. She said the Administration needs to make a commitment to create jobs but do not displace other workers.

Rep. Woolsey asked for examples of the kinds of jobs that would be created under the WORK Program.

Rep. Becerra asked about the costs and financing.

Rep. Klien seemed slightly concerned about the gambling taxes since he represents Atlantic City.

Rep. Rush expressed serious concerns about creating a system that continues to stigmatize recipients and suggested that we need to provide a job program and incentives to employers to hire recipients.

Rep. Roybal-Allard reiterated Rush's concerns. She also expressed concern about the how we frame the issues of welfare reform and the terminology we use. She asked specifically about the kind of training that would be provided - education vs. training.

Rep. Fingerhut is concerned about that we will spend money on training and programs and the number of those receiving welfare will not be reduced. We need to make sure we put the money in the right programs.

#### *Follow Up*

Rep. Clayton concluded that we probably need a another to discuss training and education. Velasquez's staff has asked about this meeting.

Member/Organization: Nydia Velazquez

Date: 4/12/94

*HHS/Working Group Staff:*

Irene Bueno, ASL  
Patricia Sosa, ACF  
Lenny Glickman, ACF

*Attendees:*

Patrick Jackson, Legislative Assistant

*Notes/Issues of Concern*

According to Patrick Jackson, Cong. Velazquez overall concern is the availability of jobs that will allow poor women, now on welfare, to support their families. Where are the jobs that will provide adequate income and benefits is her big question. This seems to be an issue that permeates Patrick's concerns with the two years time limit as well as the WORK program. In addition, she strongly opposes limiting SSI benefits for noncitizens.

*Issues:*

Phase-In Strategy: We did not receive very much of a reaction on this issue (if someone else remember any particular comments please let me know.)

JOBS - She is very supportive of education and training programs. For her, it would be important that the JOBS program takes into consideration the various degrees of experiences and educational needs of welfare recipients. She would be opposed to any program that has a cookey cutter approach. People in her District have comment on the need for education and training programs to relate to the job market.

Time limits - She is very worried of the concept of a time limited income maintainance program. The Congresswoman is concerned with the lack of jobs that will provide sufficient income and benefits to support a family.

Exemptions - Patrick expressed some concerns with only exempting mothers with children younger than one. His impression is that the Congresswoman will have some reservations in requiring mothers with very young children to work particularly if access to child care is a problem.

Extensions - Language barriers are of great concern in the context

of the JOBS program. It would be important for the Congresswoman to see a proposal that allows extensions beyond two years for those who are not work ready because of language barriers.

WORK - Velazquez may be skeptical of the WORK program because, although it is an opportunity to work for wages, families will still not earn enough to adequately support themselves. He mentioned displacement as a concern. Organized labor is quite strong in the Congresswoman's District. She seems to object to Gulliani's efforts to fire city government employees and substitute them with welfare recipients.

Minor Moms - She is not very supportive of the minor parent residency requirement particularly because of the economic burden it could represent to the minor's family. She is also concern with presuring kids to stay in abusive situations.

Family Caps - Patrick is pretty certain that the Congresswoman will not endorse a family cap proposal. However, if the proposal is a state option, she may be less concerned because she may assumed that it is very unlikely that New York and many others states will adopt the policy.

Prevention Issues - She is very supportive of getting the prevention message, particularly family planning, to as many people as you can. However, the Congresswoman objects to the characterization of welfare recipients as women motivated to have babies in order to get a welfare check.

Child Care - She is supportive of any major expansion of the child care program particularly child care for the working poor.

Financing - Strongly object to limiting SSI benefits to non-citizens. She is supportive of taxing casinos and other types of gambling.

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302

March 10, 1994

Bruce Reed  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
Domestic Policy Council  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bruce:

I am writing regarding your efforts as a member of the Administration's task force on welfare reform.

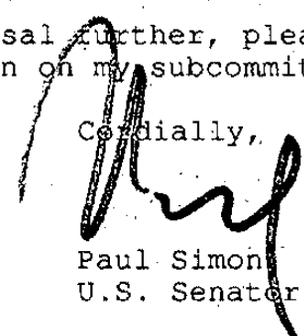
There is no question that a time-limited welfare proposal will bring with it a need to create some new jobs in the public sector, even if these are only a "last resort." As you may know, working with my colleagues Senator Boren, Senator Reid, and others, I have advocated a new "Community WPA," to provide welfare recipients and the long-term unemployed with an opportunity to work on projects that not only benefit the employees, but benefit the community as well. In addition to giving the participants an accomplishment to be proud of, this "project" approach provides for a natural end point for the public sector job.

Most welfare recipients want work, at the same time that there are huge needs in this country that are not being addressed. Why don't we put these two things together? That's what the WPA did. Building bridges, clearing parks, teaching people to read, involving people in the arts were all a part of that effort that enriched this Nation greatly, while it helped give people hope, pride, and a future. While we cannot duplicate the WPA, we can learn from it, and build on it.

I hope that you will work with me to include the WPA approach in the welfare reform proposal, at least as an option or demonstration project in some states or communities.

If you would like to discuss my proposal further, please don't hesitate to contact me or Bob Shireman on my subcommittee staff.

Cordially,

  
Paul Simon  
U.S. Senator

WR-leg. Affairs

# THE MAINSTREAM

---

Date: October 20, 1993  
Contact: Suzanne Klinker, U.S. Rep. Jim Slattery, 225-6601  
Jeff Fleming, U.S. Rep. John Tanner, 225-4714

## MAINSTREAM FORMS TASK FORCE; CITES GOALS FOR WELFARE REFORM

The moderate Mainstream Forum announced on Wednesday it has formed a Task Force on Welfare Reform to work closely with the Administration as it crafts legislation to help the Clinton-Gore Administration successfully change "welfare as we know it."

The task force includes 30 members of the Mainstream Forum and is chaired by U.S. Reps. Jim Slattery (D-KS), Karen Shepherd (D-UT), and Eric Fingerhut (D-OH).

In a letter released today, more than 75 members outlined the goals they want to achieve by reforming America's welfare system, and they praised the Administration's ongoing review of the current welfare system and its pledge "to end welfare as we know it."

"Our priority in reforming welfare must be to ensure access to job opportunities that move individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency," the members wrote.

In the letter, the members urge the Administration's Working Group on Welfare Reform to strongly consider streamlining the various welfare programs to improve efficiency. The members also believe child care issues for jobless parents must be examined to ensure that their children are safe while they seek employment.

"We also strongly endorse your call for community service employment for those welfare recipients who are not able to find jobs in the private sector."

More than 80 benefit programs provide both cash and non-cash aid to low-income Americans. These programs cost \$289.9 billion in fiscal year 1992. Broken down, that is \$207.6 billion in federal funds and roughly \$82 billion in state/local funds.

more >>>>>>>>

An unduplicated count of welfare beneficiaries is not available. But record numbers were served by the four most costly programs in 1992. Medicaid, the joint federal-state health care program for the poor, served 30.8 million people. Aid to Families with Dependent Children served an average of 13.8 million people in 4.8 million families per month. Supplemental Security Income provided benefits to roughly 5.6 million aged, blind, or disabled people each month. And food stamps served about 26.9 million people per month. (These numbers should not be added together as some receive benefits from more than one program.)

The Census Bureau classified 35.7 million people as poor based on pre-tax income in 1991, and it found that 73 percent of them were in households that received some income-tested aid other than through the Earned Income Tax Credit program, which is the largest.

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

We of the Mainstream Forum are writing today to share with you our support for reform of this nation's welfare system. We are encouraged that your Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence is conducting a thorough review of the system and are hopeful that its findings will lead to greater efficiency. We support the key provisions in your campaign promises to "end welfare as we know it": making work pay and establishing a two-year transitional period to move recipients off of welfare into jobs.

We applaud the Administration's effort to reform this country's health care system so that access to affordable health care is available to all. Affordable health care is key to moving welfare recipients off of welfare into jobs. Your work on health care should eliminate the need to choose between staying on welfare and receiving Medicaid benefits or working at a low wage job that does not provide coverage.

Our priority in reforming welfare must be to ensure access to job opportunities that move individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency. In calling for such job access, we strongly endorse prioritization of job placement, and access to adequate education and training. We support the establishment of a two-year transitional period on benefits, during which welfare recipients remain active in either a job search and/or work, or, when necessary, training and education.

The business community should be encouraged to play an active role in reshaping job training, education, and employment factors. Serious consideration must be given to economic incentives for private sector job creation. We also strongly endorse your call for community service employment for those welfare recipients who are not able to find jobs in the private sector.

Enforcement of child support is also essential at the federal level to ensure that, along with the recent increase in the EITC, working parents have the funds available to pay for child care and other costs associated with raising a child while working. Further, child care issues must be addressed in order to allow parents to pursue employment while feeling secure that their children are being cared for in a safe and supportive environment.

Finally, we believe that the costs and frustrations caused by the fragmented administration of the various welfare programs can be reduced by streamlining and updating existing processes and procedures.

We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

~~James McIndoe~~  
~~W. K. ...~~

~~Mark ...~~

~~Ed ...~~

~~Jim ...~~  
~~Bob ...~~

~~Jim ...~~

~~W. ...~~

~~W. ...~~

~~Ken ...~~

~~Ed ...~~

~~Jim ...~~  
~~Jimmy ...~~

~~Nathan ...~~

~~W. ...~~

~~Jim ...~~  
~~Buddy ...~~

~~Greg ...~~

~~Frank ...~~

~~W. ...~~

~~Sam ...~~

~~Tom ...~~

~~Hi Valt~~

Louise M. Slaughter

Elle Paschard

Tom Brown

Peta for Louney

Charles Wilson

Rip Roucher

Concord

Numbered

Cal Dooly

Tom J. Person

Paul Lepak

Earl Fomeroy

Jim Chap

John Tanner

Lein Jankut

John Spratt

Paul Gordon

Blanche M. Lambert

Karen Shepherd

Hutton Hutton

Bill Hester

L. Payne

King Coff

Paul Hinkman

David Price

Tom Hart

Mark Furr

Samy Carson

Q. Minge

Bill Sarpalin

Karen J. Thurman

Pete Sun

J. Long

Tim Holden

Walt Welch

Bud Cramer

She Ben

Peter O'Connell

Tom Barber

Frank Iqeda

Cliff Edwards

Phil Sharp

J. Barcia

Paul D. Bishop, Jr

Bob Fisher

Paul Taylor

Karen English

W. G. Esko

Pam Miller

J. Tol

Jane Mann

Jane Harmon

J. Hubbard

Scotty Paesh

## Signatories

Representative Jim Bacchus	Representative Tim Johnson
Representative Scotty Baesler	Representative Ron Klink
Representative James Barcia	Representative Blanche Lambert
Representative Thomas Barlow	Representative Martin Lancaster
Representative Sanford Bishop	Representative Larry LaRocco
Representative Rick Boucher	Representative Greg Laughlin
Representative Glenn Browder	Representative Bill Lipinski
Representative Bob Carr	Representative Nita Lowey
Representative Jim Chapman	Representative Dave McCurdy
Representative Bob Clement	Representative Paul McHale
Representative Ron Coleman	Representative David Mann
Representative Gary Condit	Representative Martin Meehan
Representative Jim Cooper	Representative David Minge
Representative Sam Coppersmith	Representative Jim Moran
Representative Jerry Costello	Representative Bill Orton
Representative Bud Cramer	Representative Frank Pallone
Representative Pat Danner	Representative Lewis F. Payne
Representative Buddy Darden	Representative Collin Peterson
Representative Nathan Deal	Representative Pete Peterson
Representative Calvin Dooley	Representative Earl Pomeroy
Representative Chet Edwards	Representative Glenn Poshard
Representative Glenn English	Representative David Price
Representative Karan English	Representative J. Roy Rowland
Representative Anna Eshoo	Representative Bill Sarpalius
Representative Bob Filner	Representative Phil Sharp
Representative Eric Fingerhut	Representative Karen Shepherd
Representative Martin Frost	Representative Ike Skelton
Representative Pete Geren	Representative Jim Slattery
Representative Dan Glickman	Representative Louise Slaughter
Representative Bart Gordon	Representative John Spratt
Representative Gene Green	Representative Bart Stupak
Representative Jane Harman	Representative Dick Swett
Representative Jimmy Hayes	Representative John Tanner
Representative Bill Hefner	Representative Gene Taylor
Representative Peter Hoagland	Representative Frank Tejeda
Representative Tim Holden	Representative Karen Thurman
Representative Jay Inslee	Representative Tim Valentine
Representative William Jefferson	Representative Charlie Wilson
Representative Don Johnson	

File  
WR-leg Affairs

October 20, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISTINE VARNEY

FROM: BRUCE REED  
SUBJECT: McCurdy and Welfare Reform

You can tell the President in your next Cabinet Report Summary that the chairs of the Welfare Reform Working Group (David Ellwood, Mary Jo Bane, and I) met with Rep. McCurdy three weeks ago, and we will be working closely with him to build support.

In fact, McCurdy and 80 House colleagues in the Mainstream Forum are sending a letter to the President today endorsing his approach to welfare reform and pledging to work with the Administration to pass a bill. I'm sending you a copy of that letter.

At last count, our group has met with 25 members of Congress and 75 Hill staffs, including a significant number of Republicans. To this point, the meetings have been primarily courtesy calls.

cc: Carol Rasco  
Howard Paster

October 19, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR CIRCULATION

FROM: BRUCE REED

SUBJECT: Mainstream Forum Press Conference on Welfare Reform  
Wednesday, October 20, 9:45 a.m.

Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-OK) and his House colleagues in the Mainstream Forum have scheduled a press conference tomorrow morning to release a letter to the President urging their support for welfare reform. The letter endorses the basic principles of the President's approach, including a two-year time limit, child support enforcement, training, child care, and access to affordable health care for all as a way to make work pay.

Around 80 House Democrats have signed onto the letter. Reps. Jim Slattery (D-KS), Eric Fingerhut (D-OH), and Karen Shepherd (D-UT) took the lead in drafting and circulating it. A copy of the letter and the list of signatories is attached.

We welcome their support for the President's approach, and will continue to work with them and others in both houses and both parties to develop a welfare reform plan that is consistent with the principles he has laid out. The Administration's Welfare Reform Working Group has already met on a bipartisan basis with dozens of members (including McCurdy) and Hill staff, as well as state and local officials, recipients, caseworkers, business leaders, and others. We have also held a series of field hearings around the country, which will conclude Nov. 8-9 in Memphis. We will be making recommendations to the President later this year, and the plan will be announced in early 1994.

House Republicans are working on their own welfare reform plan, which could be announced later this month. While we don't know all the details or costs of their plan, we welcome their efforts to make this a bipartisan issue and help the President pass a welfare reform plan.

If you have any questions or wish to send questions my way, you can reach me at 456-6515.

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 19, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

We of the Mainstream Forum are writing today to share with you our support for reform of this nation's welfare system. We are encouraged that your Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence is conducting a thorough review of the system and are hopeful that its findings will lead to greater efficiency. We support the key provisions in your campaign promises to "end welfare as we know it": making work pay and establishing a two-year transitional period to move recipients off of welfare into jobs.

We applaud the Administration's effort to reform this country's health care system so that access to affordable health care is available to all. Affordable health care is key to moving welfare recipients off of welfare into jobs. Your work on health care should eliminate the need to choose between staying on welfare and receiving Medicaid benefits or working at a low wage job that does not provide coverage.

Our priority in reforming welfare must be to ensure access to job opportunities that move individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency. In calling for such job access, we strongly endorse prioritization of job placement, and access to adequate education and training. We support the establishment of a two-year transitional period on benefits, during which welfare recipients remain active in either a job search and/or work, or, when necessary, training and education.

The business community should be encouraged to play an active role in reshaping job training, education, and employment factors. Serious consideration must be given to economic incentives for private sector job creation. We also strongly endorse your call for community service employment for those welfare recipients who are not able to find jobs in the private sector.

Enforcement of child support is also essential at the federal level to ensure that, along with the recent increase in the EITC, working parents have the funds available to pay for child care and other costs associated with raising a child while working. Further, child care issues must be addressed in order to allow parents to pursue employment while feeling secure that their children are being cared for in a safe and supportive environment.

Finally, we believe that the costs and frustrations caused by the fragmented administration of the various welfare programs can be reduced by streamlining and updating existing processes and procedures.

We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

~~James M. ...~~  
~~W. ...~~  
~~Mark ...~~  
~~Ed ...~~  
~~Jim ...~~  
~~John ...~~  
~~John ...~~  
~~John ...~~  
~~John ...~~  
~~John ...~~  
~~John ...~~

~~Jim ...~~  
~~Jimmy ...~~  
~~Nathan ...~~  
~~W.C. ...~~  
~~Jim ...~~  
~~Buddy ...~~  
~~Fred ...~~  
~~Frank ...~~  
~~Paul ...~~  
~~Sam ...~~  
~~John ...~~

**Signatories**

Representative Jim Bacchus	Representative Don Johnson
Representative Scotty Baesler	Representative Tim Johnson
Representative James Barcia	Representative Ron Klink
Representative Thomas Barlow	Representative Blanche Lambert
Representative Sanford Bishop	Representative Martin Lancaster
Representative Rick Boucher	Representative Larry LaRocco
Representative Glenn Browder	Representative Greg Laughlin
Representative Bob Carr	Representative Bill Lipinski
Representative Jim Chapman	Representative Nita Lowey
Representative Bob Clement	Representative Dave McCurdy
Representative Ron Coleman	Representative Paul McHale
Representative Gary Condit	Representative David Mann
Representative Jim Cooper	Representative Martin Meehan
Representative Sam Coppersmith	Representative David Minge
Representative Jerry Costello	Representative Jim Moran
Representative Sud Cramer	Representative Bill Orton
Representative Pat Danner	Representative Frank Pallone
Representative Buddy Darden	Representative Lewis F. Payne
Representative Nathan Deal	Representative Collin Peterson
Representative Calvin Dooley	Representative Pete Peterson
Representative Chet Edwards	Representative Earl Pomeroy
Representative Glenn English	Representative Glenn Poshard
Representative Karan English	Representative David Price
Representative Anna Eshoo	Representative Bill Sarpalius
Representative Bob Filner	Representative Phil Sharp
Representative Eric Fingerhut	Representative Karen Shepherd
Representative Martin Frost	Representative Ike Skelton
Representative Pete Geren	Representative Jim Slattery
Representative Dan Glickman	Representative Louise Slaughter
Representative Bart Gordon	Representative John Spratt
Representative Gene Green	Representative Bart Stupak
Representative Jane Harman	Representative Dick Swett
Representative Jimmy Hayes	Representative John Tanner
Representative Bill Hefner	Representative Gene Taylor
Representative Peter Hoagland	Representative Frank Tejada
Representative Tim Holden	Representative Karen Thurman
Representative Jay Inslee	Representative Tim Valentine
Representative William Jefferson	Representative Charlie Wilson

October 20, 1993

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Carol Rasco  
Howard Paster  
Christine Varney  
George Stephanopoulos  
Mark Gearan  
Jodi Greenstone  
DeeDee Myers  
Barbara Chow  
Belle Sawhill  
Bonnie Deane  
Kathi Way  
Christine Heenan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 18, 1993

✓  
[Handwritten note in a box: → NAF to Christine V.]

MEMORANDUM FOR HOWARD PASTER AND CAROL RASCO

FROM: CHRISTINE A. VARNEY *CAV*  
Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT: Welfare Reform Working Group

The President has asked that we update Congressman Dave McCurdy on the progress of the Welfare Reform Working Group and the results the recent public hearings.

Please let me know the outcome of your conversations with the Congressman by this Thursday, so that I can update the President in next Friday's Cabinet Report Summary.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

OCT 16 21:54

October 15, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CHRISTINE A. VARNEY *CAV*  
Secretary to the Cabinet

SUBJECT: Summary of Weekly Cabinet Reports  
Week of October 17 to October 23, 1993

**CABINET-WIDE ACTIVITY**

**HEALTH CARE REFORM**

This week's health care themes are preventive health and jobs. Cabinet Members have scheduled regional media time to discuss these issues, and are continuing to travel to promote the Plan.

**NAFTA**

Members of the Cabinet continue to work to promote NAFTA with travel, regional media events, Congressional testimony, and visits and telephone calls to targeted Members of Congress.

**WELFARE REFORM**

The working group on Welfare Reform held its fourth public hearing in Sacramento on October 8. The group met with California County officials and local elected officials.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEPARTMENT SUMMARIES**

**Department of Treasury**

- o **NAFTA:** The Committee on Ways and Means began its walk through of NAFTA on Wednesday morning. Chairman Rostenkowski expressed the need for the Administration to respond quickly to the Committee in providing details on: (1) its funding proposal; (2) the worker retraining

*Good Howard*

*Let Davey know what you can do on this*

**DAVE McCURDY**  
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
330 West GRAY, SUITE 110  
Post Office Box 1266  
NORMAN, OK 73070  
(405) 328-6300

103 FEDERAL BUILDING  
LAWTON, OK 73501  
(405) 937-2131

802 MAIN  
DUNCAN, OK 73533  
(405) 252-1434

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2344 RAYBURN HOB  
(202) 225-6106

MEMBER:  
**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND  
FACILITIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REARMS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3604**

October 15, 1993

To: Bruce Reed  
David Ellwood  
Mary Jo Bane  
Co-Chairs  
Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family  
Support and Independence

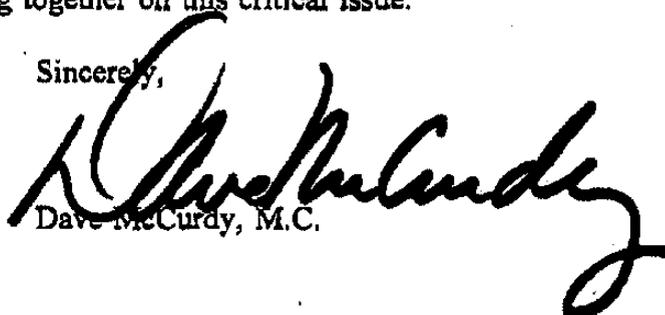
From: U.S. Representative Dave McCurdy

This is to inform you that members of the Mainstream Forum will hold a press conference on October 20 at 9:45 a.m. in room HC-8 of the Capitol to announce the formation of the Mainstream Forum Welfare Reform Working Group and to make public our letter to President Clinton regarding welfare reform. As you may be aware, our working group is led by Representatives Jim Slattery, Eric Fingerhut, and Karen Shepherd.

I wish to emphasize our sincere commitment to welfare reform and our desire to work closely with the Clinton Administration in achieving this goal. As we have discussed previously, I would like to invite you to address the members of the Mainstream Forum and to continue discussions on a more in-depth level with the members and their staff who comprise the Mainstream's Welfare Reform Working Group to establish common principles and a legislative strategy.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michele Gabert of my staff at 225-6165 if you have any questions. I look forward to working together on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Dave McCurdy, M.C.

DM:mmg

DAVE McCURDY  
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
330 WEST GAY, SUITE 110  
POST OFFICE BOX 1265  
NORMAN, OK 73070  
(405) 328-8500

MEMBER:  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3604

103 FEDERAL BUILDING  
LAWTON, OK 73801  
(405) 337-2131

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND  
FACILITIES

802 MAIN  
DUNCAN, OK 73533  
(405) 252-1434

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND  
TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2344 RAYBURN HOB  
(202) 225-6165

**FAX COVER SHEET**

DATE: 10/18 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Cathy Mays

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NO. 456-7028

FROM: Michele Gabert

*Suzanne Clunker  
Rep Station*

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover) 3

COMMENTS: Letter for Bruce Reed - We will  
release this letter to the President on Tuesday.

If all pages are not received, please call 202-225-6165.

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 19, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

We of the Mainstream Forum are writing today to share with you our support for reform of this nation's welfare system. We are encouraged that your Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence is conducting a thorough review of the system and are hopeful that its findings will lead to greater efficiency. We support the key provisions in your campaign promises to "end welfare as we know it": making work pay and establishing a two-year transitional period to move recipients off of welfare into jobs.

We applaud the Administration's effort to reform this country's health care system so that access to affordable health care is available to all. Affordable health care is key to moving welfare recipients off of welfare into jobs. Your work on health care should eliminate the need to choose between staying on welfare and receiving Medicaid benefits or working at a low wage job that does not provide coverage.

Our priority in reforming welfare must be to ensure access to job opportunities that move individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency. In calling for such job access, we strongly endorse prioritization of job placement, and access to adequate education and training. We support the establishment of a two-year transitional period on benefits, during which welfare recipients remain active in either a job search and/or work, or, when necessary, training and education.

The business community should be encouraged to play an active role in reshaping job training, education, and employment factors. Serious consideration must be given to economic incentives for private sector job creation. We also strongly endorse your call for community service employment for those welfare recipients who are not able to find jobs in the private sector.

Enforcement of child support is also essential at the federal level to ensure that, along with the recent increase in the EITC, working parents have the funds available to pay for child care and other costs associated with raising a child while working. Further, child care issues must be addressed in order to allow parents to pursue employment while feeling secure that their children are being cared for in a safe and supportive environment.



October 20, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISTINE VARNEY

FROM: BRUCE REED  
SUBJECT: McCurdy and Welfare Reform

You can tell the President in your next Cabinet Report Summary that the chairs of the Welfare Reform Working Group (David Ellwood, Mary Jo Bane, and I) met with Rep. McCurdy three weeks ago, and we will be working closely with him to build support.

In fact, McCurdy and 80 House colleagues in the Mainstream Forum are sending a letter to the President today endorsing his approach to welfare reform and pledging to work with the Administration to pass a bill. I'm sending you a copy of that letter.

At last count, our group has met with 25 members of Congress and 75 Hill staffs, including a significant number of Republicans. To this point, the meetings have been primarily courtesy calls.

cc: Carol Rasco  
Howard Paster

October 20, 1993

DISTRIBUTION:

Carol Rasco  
Howard Paster  
Christine Varney  
George Stephanopoulos  
Mark Gearan  
Jodi Greenstone  
DeeDee Meyers  
Barbara Chow  
Belle Sawhill  
Bonnie Deane  
Kathi Way  
Christine Heenan

**Signatories**

Representative Jim Bacchus	Representative Don Johnson
Representative Scotty Baesler	Representative Tim Johnson
Representative James Barcia	Representative Ron Klink
Representative Thomas Barlow	Representative Blanche Lambert
Representative Sanford Bishop	Representative Martin Lancaster
Representative Rick Boucher	Representative Larry LaRocco
Representative Glenn Browder	Representative Greg Laughlin
Representative Bob Carr	Representative Bill Lipinski
Representative Jim Chapman	Representative Nita Lowey
Representative Bob Clement	Representative Dave McCurdy
Representative Ron Coleman	Representative Paul McHale
Representative Gary Condit	Representative David Mann
Representative Jim Cooper	Representative Martin Meehan
Representative Sam Coppersmith	Representative David Minge
Representative Jerry Costello	Representative Jim Moran
Representative Bud Cramer	Representative Bill Orton
Representative Pat Danner	Representative Frank Pallone
Representative Buddy Darden	Representative Lewis F. Payne
Representative Nathan Deal	Representative Collin Peterson
Representative Calvin Dooley	Representative Pete Peterson
Representative Chet Edwards	Representative Earl Pomeroy
Representative Glenn English	Representative Glenn Poshard
Representative Karan English	Representative David Price
Representative Anna Eshoo	Representative Bill Sarpalius
Representative Bob Filner	Representative Phil Sharp
Representative Eric Fingerhut	Representative Karen Shepherd
Representative Martin Frost	Representative Ike Skelton
Representative Pete Geren	Representative Jim Slattery
Representative Dan Glickman	Representative Louise Slaughter
Representative Bart Gordon	Representative John Spratt
Representative Gene Green	Representative Bart Stupak
Representative Jane Harman	Representative Dick Swett
Representative Jimmy Hayes	Representative John Tanner
Representative Bill Hefner	Representative Gene Taylor
Representative Peter Hoagland	Representative Frank Tejeda
Representative Tim Holden	Representative Karen Thurman
Representative Jay Inslee	Representative Tim Valentine
Representative William Jefferson	Representative Charlie Wilson