

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. letter	Carol Jackson to POTUS re: welfare reform, 1p (partial)	ca. 1993	P6/B6

### RESTRICTIONS

- P1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

PRM Personal records misfile defined in accordance with 44 USC 2201 (3).

- B1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- B2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- B3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- B4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- B6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- B7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- B8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(9) of the FOIA].
- B9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].



George Warren Brown School of Social Work

June 20, 1994

Mr. Bruce Reed  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your exceptional leadership in putting together President Clinton's welfare reform proposal.

A number of very positive features of the plan will lead to positive results -- and change many lives for the better -- in the years ahead.

The asset building features, although only a small part of the proposal, may be particularly effective.

As the President's plan reaches Congress, we will be working to support not only the asset features, but the whole package.

If I can be of help in moving this along on Capitol Hill, do not hesitate to call.

Again, Bruce, thanks for your hard work on this. It is a very important step forward.

With very best regards,

Michael Sherraden  
Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor  
of Social Development

From the desk of

*H. L. Naslund*

Mr. Bruce Reed, Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Reed:

The author sees the welfare problem from a very narrow perspective, even as he understates the annual burden, which is far in excess of \$14 billion. There are no practical ways to make unmarried, uneducated, young unskilled school dropouts with children productive and self sufficient. This underclass is basically beyond saving, so the maximum effort should be devoted to preventing that first pregnancy and every one following. As the problem is cumulative and compounded with every passing day, only extraordinary measures will suffice. This crisis is far more urgent than health care, although it overlaps that and the crime emergency.

Sincerely,

*Howard L. Naslund*

Howard L. Naslund      incl.  
7 Cove of Cork Lane  
Annapolis, MD 21401

# The Workplace

Commentary/by Aaron Bernstein

## WHY CLINTON'S WORKFARE WON'T WORK

**P**resident Clinton's plan to end welfare as we know it goes over big with middle-class voters caught between rising taxes and falling real incomes. His most controversial idea, a two-year limit on welfare benefits, is a particularly effective way for a Democrat to score points with conservatives.

Unfortunately, however, the concept is unrealistic and unworkable. The plan would rely on job training to get nearly a third of welfare mothers off the dole. Studies show that such training does help some recipients get work but not enough to achieve the President's goal. And forcing more than a million low-skilled women to seek jobs, as the plan implies, would wreak havoc at the bottom of the labor market. A more practical approach would be to whittle down welfare rolls by investing as much as possible in training while encouraging more recipients to work by raising the roughly \$700 a month they can earn before they lose benefits in most states.

**MORE SPENDING?** This isn't very splashy, of course—and it would mean ditching the two-year cutoff. But politics aside, there is little reason for welfare to provoke so much worry in the first place. Although Washington spends about \$14 billion a year on welfare, that's only 1% of the federal budget. And that's down from 1.4% in 1970, largely because benefits have lagged behind inflation (charts). "The Administration's plan wouldn't be a bad idea in the best of all possible worlds, where jobs and money [for training] were plentiful," says Heidi I. Hartmann, director of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a Washington-based group that has studied welfare. "But we don't have that."

The time-limit idea was proposed in 1988 by prominent Harvard University public-policy professor David T. Ellwood. He's now an official at the Health & Human Services Dept.

where he co-chairs the Administration's welfare planning group. Ellwood suggested combining time limits with extensive training for welfare mothers, plus child-care and health-care assistance once they landed a job. He also wanted public jobs for those who couldn't find jobs through these so-called workfare programs. Either way, a recipient's benefits would have ended after two years.

The problem is that training can do only so much. For instance, since 1985, California has run one of the country's first large-scale workfare programs. It slashes welfare grants for recipients who don't participate in state-provided

because their children are too young. So imposing a cutoff would throw 1.5 million people into the labor market.

The result: The unemployment rate for black and Hispanic women, who account for 55% of all welfare mothers, might double, to 20%. Wages for both groups would plummet, knocking more families into poverty and into other programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, and unemployment insurance. Indeed, all 20 million workers earning \$6.50 an hour or less would be undercut. If you put that many people into the market, the equilibrium wage for low-wage workers would fall, comments David Neumark, a University

of Pennsylvania economist who studies the minimum wage.

**TRUE REASON.** Creating make-work government jobs would ameliorate some of these problems. But 1.5 million minimum-wage jobs would cost at least \$15 billion a year. That isn't politically feasible. Even workfare for that many people would cost at least \$5 billion more a year. The Administration recently suggested a tax on



education, training, and job searches. These efforts helped participating welfare mothers earn 24% more over two years than mothers who remained on regular welfare, according to a 1993 study by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corp. (MDRC), a nonprofit New York-based research group. However, that amounted to a mere \$519 a year—hardly enough to launch anyone out of welfare. As a result, the program cut welfare payments by only 7% a year. "Although the results are encouraging, you won't eliminate welfare this way," says MDRC President Judith M. Gueron.

Of course, the Administration could apply the two-year cutoff anyway. But government spending might actually increase. About 30% of the 5 million adults on welfare leave the rolls before two years, studies show. Two million more would be excluded from workfare

welfare grants and food stamps to raise funds. But a meaningful tax on families getting \$375 a month, the average welfare grant, could cause many recipients to lose their housing. "The real reason we have welfare is that it's cheaper to have poor mothers take care of their own children than to get them job-ready, create jobs for them, and pay someone else to look after their kids," says Hartmann.

Clinton should pursue the core of his plan, which is workfare. It makes sense to spend \$5 billion or so a year on training and child-care assistance, backed up by threats to cut benefits of nonparticipants. But unless he can find an extra \$15 billion, his pledge to end welfare does little more than stir up ire against society's poorest members.

Bernstein covers the workplace for BUSINESS WEEK.

Curt Leslie  
Box 698  
Wallula, WA 99363  
509/547-5807  
June 14, 1994

Mr. Bruce Read  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Reed:

Caught you on GMA and I was impressed by your interest in welfare reform.

However, I would suggest that you are going the wrong direction from the wrong starting point for the wrong reasons!

The key words you used are empower and responsibility.

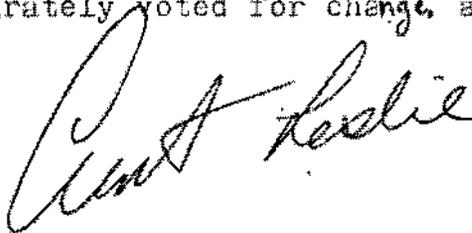
This country has a very large and strong segment that wishes a return to outright chattel type slavery. They know that they cannot get there outright, yet, so they are perfectly willing to have a half measure, our present welfare system. Your idea of empowering one group of people automatically disempowers another group, making people responsible takes away layers of hidden control.

If you would change welfare reform you must change our society, and it would be simple, clean, and revenue neutral.

It would be to simply return this society to a sixteen hundred hour work year, a four day work week if you will. Then, adjust the income tax rates to make sure that the people of this country stay with the same NET income.

But, sadly, diverse fascists and would be slavers from Ted Kennedy to Newt Gingrich, from Bob Dole to Tom Foley, would NEVER do this, they would not be able to have the rest of us by our private parts, they would lose their control, as we would have the time and energy to control them!

Your plan is doomed, do the best you can, and when this country explodes into food riots, anarchy, then a brutal civil war resulting in four little regional nation states, each with their own nuclear arsenal, the American people desparately voted for change, and you didn't deliver enough.



2500 Buena Vista  
Berkeley 94708  
June 14, 1994

Dear Mr. Reed,

You are on Clinton's welfare team.  
Welfare depends on jobs. I send an essay  
on how to get them. (Land tax, with 3 excep-  
tions, 1798, 1813, 1861, has been local not  
federal, but it can be stimulated by federal  
encouragement or withholding of funds or  
even sending tiny seed funds such as a mere  
\$10,000 per town.) Has land-taxing worked  
in the past? Hell, yes! (apology for cussing

Sincerely

*Tertius Chandler*

Tertius-Chandler

p.s. I do answer questions.

# Happy Workers

by Terius Chandler

Karl Marx laid stress on the already known fact that the employer is in a stronger financial position than the men seeking work - some of whom may indeed be destitute. The employer has or soon expects some cash surplus. The job-seeker has often little or nothing and is ready to put up with low pay, heavy work, even rudeness, to land a job.

It is perhaps not recognized how completely a land-value tax turns this situation around. A really high land tax - enough to remove land from the investment market - lowers land prices, thus bringing land into better use and of course creating jobs on the way. Experience in New Zealand, Australia, and Taiwan has shown land-value taxation can result in over 98% employment for decades, some years over 99%.

New look where that puts the worker! Employers are eager to hire him. And if a boss gets unfair or merely rude, the worker can simply quit and look elsewhere. There will be another boss down the road eager to hire him.

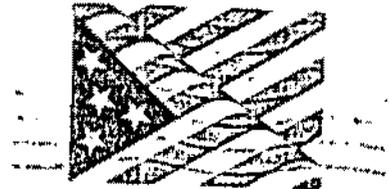
He must do some work, of course. An outright loafer isn't worth keeping on the payroll. But as long as a man puts in a reasonable day's work, he is sitting pretty. He can even move around to find a line that suits his aptitudes and tastes; he'll work better that way anyway, so even the bosses benefit.

You may notice I don't mention women workers. With the men all employed and wages reasonably good, most families don't need to send the housewife out to bring in another paycheck. Nor do families need to send children on to college or even high school, for with full employment there is no need to have degrees as a hedge, a comparative advantage in the work market. In New Zealand, schooling ends at 15. So that huge expense is avoided.

The reader may think I daydream. Not so. I lived through the artificial boom caused by World War II, when bosses put up signs like "Be nice to our workers - we can get more dishes." And I spent 6 months of 1955 in New Zealand, when employment was well over 99% and harmony was such as could barely be believed.

Yes, LVT (land-value taxation) takes the nastiness out of business relations, even as it removes fear of finding no job at all.

NO REWARD WITH NO  
SUBSTANCE



MIL. Bruce Reed  
(Apt. 101 - Thomas Schland)  
40 White House  
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20500

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WITH A FORKED-TONGUE, ONE SIDE  
SAYS 'END WELFARE' AND THE OTHER  
DISTRIBUTES CONDOMS, AT NO COST,  
ENCOURAGES ITS USE, EMPHASIZES  
THE PLEASURE OF SEX WHICH SHOULD  
INCREASE SEX ACTIVITY, PREGNANCIES,  
WELFARE OR ADORPTIONS, POSSIBLE  
SPREAD OF AIDS AND AID. ELDERLY  
WAKES AN ADVERT OF A DECAYED  
SOCIETY. SUPERIOR & ST. LOUIS  
RESPONSIBILITY. DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT THE MATTER IS - 2  
WHERE ARE YOUR FEELS IN THE PRIVATE  
SECTION. ST. LOUIS

EM  
JD:TH

Young Kyu Kim  
AAA 30  
Caller Box 10001  
Saipan MP 96950

White House

Dear Mr. President:

Few days ago, I saw the news concerning the New Jersey's sixty-four dollars monthly support for every poor children whose parents are incapable for supporting them. According to Wayne Bryant's suggestion, he won't allow sixty-four dollars because the medical care and the food stamps are already adequate. Well, I certainly agree with his suggestion because I also think that the medical care and the food stamps are good enough.

I think this is a serious matter that we should think carefully, and make a reliable decision. Why should the goverment support the child when its not their child?

Sincerely,

  
Young Kyu Kim

June 15, 1994

Mr. Bruce Reed  
White House Aide  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Reed,

For the past two years, I've taught in a program in Houston, TX, aimed at helping AFDC clients obtain a G.E.D. My students are all women on welfare, from 18-45 years old, with 2-6 dependent children each, average. They are U. S. citizens, not immigrants. About half are second generation welfare recipients. They speak freely of living with boyfriends, "husbands" or mothers who are also receiving public assistance.

I teach Adult Basic Education, which correspondeds to grades K- 6 in the public schools. Some can't read. Most don't know multiplication tables, and decimals, fractions and percents are over all their heads.

The Human Services Dept. provides them with a free bus pass (\$360.00/yr. value), and free day care. The school provides free text-workbooks and school supplies. If the women drive their own cars to school, they get a gas reimbursement. One of my students acquired a car and is driving to school, but she won't tell DHS because she's still getting the bus card, too.

The AFDC students are supposed to attend class 20 hrs. a week. Their attendance is regulated monthly by DHS. If it falls below a 75% participation level, they will lose their day care. That's what the "system" tells them. More than half of the women in my class do not meet the participation level, but they are allowed to stay on my roll because "we need the numbers". Meanwhile, there is a waiting list of other people who want to come to school, but, because space is limited, I don't have room for them.

It has been said that the student can only be reinstated one time after they fail to meet the required participation level. The ones who get "dropped" turn right around and get a new referral to come to school, because they have learned to work the system. Half of the seats in my class are "occupied" by people who fail to show up as required.

Many of the women in my class frequently come dressed in new clothes, with salon hairstyles, sculpted nails, and wear a lot of jewelry. Please understand that I am not against women on welfare wanting to look nice. But when a woman jumps up in the middle of class and announces she must leave early because she has to renew her health club membership, I think something is wrong. Where do they get the money for these things if they are "on welfare"? How many of the government benefits are "trickling down" to meet the nutritional, educational and physical needs of their children?

Among those who do attend class, some won't even pick up a pencil. I have to coax, beg or bargain with them to do classwork, or open their books or work some math problems. When I ask them why they are coming to school, I get responses like "We have to so we can get our check", or "if we don't, they'll short our food stamps." I think the AFDC legislation went astray when it assumed that people on welfare had the maturity, self-discipline and education to handle checks and food stamps in a responsible way. One of my students uses her check for lottery tickets; another talks of selling her food stamps for cash.

So that you won't write me off as a callous person, I want to tell you that I was born into a "welfare" family. I am the sixth of eleven children. In the 50's and early 60's my parents didn't get checks or food stamps. A woman we called the "soup lady" came to us weekly with food and medicine. She took us to the doctor if we needed to go. She was a person who related to us, not a bureaucracy.

When I was 15, I went to live away from my family, because I would not give in to the pressure to quit school and go to work full time. I rented a room in a widow's house, and got a restaurant job by lying about my age. I paid \$10/wk. for my room and bought my own food. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school. My history teacher and counselor helped me enroll in a state college. I worked two part-time jobs, and received a grant and a scholarship. I made the Dean's list and graduated on schedule. I have since obtained a Master's as well.

Even though you might say I overcame the odds, I feel like the odd one out. My students have health care through Medicaid. I have been without health insurance for two years because I am a part-time employee at two part-time jobs. I can't afford health insurance, but I am taxed so that my students can have it. I don't get paid for sick days (I've missed one day in two years). I can't even afford to be a good citizen and serve on a jury, because I won't get paid for the time off.

Should a financial crisis arise, I can only hope that some of my good friends can help me out. If I lose a job due to budget cuts or downsizing, I can't draw unemployment, because I am only a part-time employee. I am not married and have no children. I have tried to live a responsible life. Because of this, I am less well off than the AFDC students I teach.

I accepted my teaching position because I felt that I, a survivor of welfare and poverty, would be an inspiration to these students. Forget that! How can they be inspired to change their lives when they have it better off than I do?

My plea to the government is: Please find a way to feed the "real" poor (not the ones who buy top brands with food stamps). Please clothe the naked, and stop doling out checks that go to purchase designer clothes. Do something to provide shelter for the homeless, instead of paying the rental fees on leather furniture and VCR's. Stop giving benefits to the adult children of America who have no intention of becoming self-reliant. Give the death sentence to this lifestyle that the "Great Society" birthed.

If our country must keep AFDC, let's change the acronym to ACDP: Aid to Children with Dependent Parents.

Most respectfully,



Teresa R. Moore  
4331 1/2 Pease St.  
Houston, TX 77023  
713-921-1251

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1994

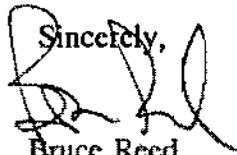
Mr. Wayne Carroll  
P.O. Box 547  
Hewitt, Texas 76643

Dear Mr. Carroll:

Thank you for your letter concerning child support enforcement. I appreciate your taking the time to write and for sharing your concerns with us.

I am forwarding your letter to staff of the Working Group on Welfare reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Sincerely,



Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

Dear Mr Reed,

4/22/94

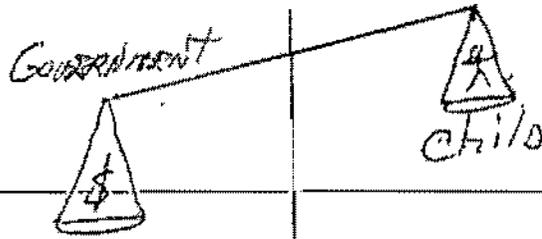
In order to fix what is wrong one must first determine what is wrong. It seems our government no longer cares to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The key for political leaders is to make them look good and money is the answer. Money comes even before the needs of a child. There is financial support and emotional support and each is addressed in the order of the court yet govt. cares not and tips the "scales of justice" not for the child but for money. A parent can steal a child by simply crossing the state line. If one can not afford a skip trace then they must write their child off for the govt. will not assist nor even run a social security number. The govt. will inform you if you fail to pay they will find you. Even with a false address given the court support gets through yet the Post Office says that there is no such address or person. Even if one locates their child and spends years and thousands of dollars going through the justice system and a arrest warrant issued the system fails. Without enforcement there is no justice. The govt. will cross state lines when it is money not a child and take one's pay check and give it to a wanted criminal but will not effect an arrest warrant on the parent holding a child.

hostage from the love of their family. The govt. says this is a civil matter and they care not about the child. District Attorney's consider their operation criminal law. If the parent had taken a car then they could operate but to take a child is civil and funds can not be spent. Govt. agencies are the biggest offenders against the family. Not only will they not assist in locating a child they will become party to hiding a child and will not honor court orders. Here is a good example; A individual that assisted me with reaching my daughters told me his story. He has spent over \$100,000<sup>00</sup> trying to locate his three daughters. One day two men in business suits entered his business and announced they were there to take all his money and his business too for child support. He told them to go ahead but they will look very stupid in court. They asked why? First, I have custody, second, there is a state warrant, third, there is a federal warrant. He asked where his ex-wife was. They replied, "That is confidential." What about the children? They responded, "We are only obligated to the mother." (children do not matter). My friend put a detector on the trail and learned that she was on welfare in two different states at the same time but the govt. would not come

to the aid of the law and justice. He notified the states of the crime of being on more than one welfare roll and giving false information. The states replied that it was fed. money to see them. The feds replied the money was provided to the states to see the states. He has not found his children yet. But the govt. would find him and try to take money from a citizen living within the law to give it to a wanted criminal. The system fails children, and a parent is expected to write their child off while the government protects and serves at tax payer expense a person listed in the National Computer Register of Wanted Persons. If you really care to serve those who pay you ask those who have tried the system and know what needs to be fix to save the child.

Because the system does not work the govt makes parents write off their children then govt becomes the big man that is only interested in money and does it all at tax payer expense.

The focus is the child  
not money!  
Thayne  
Carroll



## The Government is Party to Child Abuse?

The govt. enforces at tax payer expense one parent's rights over the other.

Can cross state lines.

Not interested in child will not assist in location or honor Judge's order or arrest warrants

It matters not that parent can afford legal services and may have spent enough in legal fees to send the child to college the govt. will at tax payer expense take the finances of a parent who can not afford legal fees and give it to the one who will spend the money on more legal fees.

Money can be repaid with interest yet it is collected at tax payer expense. A parent who steals a child's name, heritage and love of family and a wanted offender is of no concern to the govt. A parent is expected to write

their child off due to failures & systems.

If parent can not afford to locate child or legal battle, must write child off.

It matters not what a parent finds their child and spends years going through the justice system at their expense and receives a arrest warrant

Without enforcement there is no justice. The govt. says this is a civil and local matter and will not assist to cross state lines. Local enforcement lack funds to fight the battle to return a person across state lines and say it is not worth the effort for judges are reluctant to jail or fine a mother as the crime is committed over and over and the other parent must be able to go back to court each time.

A crime without recourse

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1994

Mr. Kevin H. Hickey  
108 Lexington Drive  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

Dear Mr. Hickey:

Thank you for your letter of June 8 enclosing your proposal on the Community Work Experience Program. I appreciate your taking the time to share your ideas with us.

I am sending your proposal to the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Reed", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Reed  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

Kevin H. Hickey  
108 Lexington Drive  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901  
(301) 593-0867

June 8, 1994

Bruce Reed  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy  
The White House  
Washington, DC. 20500

Dear Mr. Reed,

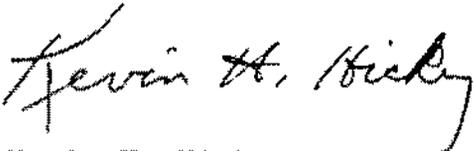
I have been following the work of the Task Force on Welfare Reform, and I attended one of the sessions last summer. Having contributed to the welfare reform efforts of the 1980's I am more than a little interested in the Clinton Administration's efforts.

I recently submitted the enclosed program design to the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. I think it's an interesting approach to the Community Work Experience Program. I hope that whatever finally results from your work it will afford, support, and motivate states to try different approaches. I think it vital that the entire community be invited and summoned to contribute its talents, time, and experience. In a small way I think my design does just that through its reliance on active managerial and worker facilitators.

If I can be of any service (unpaid or otherwise) to you, the President, and your staff, I would be happy to do so.

I extend my best wishes to you and my appreciation for what you and the Administration are trying to accomplish.

Sincerely,



Kevin H. Hickey

enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1994

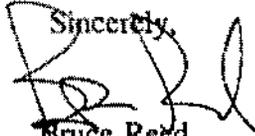
Mrs. Donna Elrod  
P.O. Box 87  
Whiteville, Tennessee 38075

Dear Mrs. Elrod:

Thank you for your letter concerning welfare reform. I appreciate your taking the time to write and for sharing your concerns with me.

I am enclosing the detailed summary of the Work and Responsibility Act of 1994. I hope this will answer your questions on our proposed welfare reform plan.

I am also forwarding your letter to staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sincerely,  
  
Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

Mrs. Donna Elrod  
P. O. Box 87  
Whiteville, Tenn. 38075

Bruce Reed  
White House Aide  
Welfare Reform  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Reed,

I read an article in the Commercial Appeal that contained your name and was talking about Charles Murray's thinking about welfare. I would like to say as a taxpayer, Mr. Murray is on the right track: There are however a few things no one speaks about in the reform. One is the fraud going on. I know of two cases where the wife goes to Human Services and tells that she and her husband are separated, applies for help, and gets food stamps, welfare, W. I. C. K., childcare and anything else that is free. One case has spent years in the Vocational School, and will continue as long as the Government pays her to go. I would like to know who investigates these claims? How can we continue to support all these people and get ahead? One of the cases husband is a welder and makes a good salary, they are separated now, but only for 2 months, the help was there long before.

There are people that need help, most of them would be too proud to apply for it. First the Government needs to get to work on the fraud. End it! Then work on the ones that really need it, and make it so that if caught taking help under false statements there would be a penalty, like paying back to the Government the money. If in this Town of 1,100 people I know of two cases, how bad can it be nation wide? Just wanted to add a few thoughts to your already headache! Thanks for listening and as a Taxpayer I really am tired of feeding the people that have more than I do! I am 51 years old, and have been very hard hit in my life, I managed without Government help and so can a lot of others. What I have worked for and earned, has made a stronger person.

Thanks for your time and I hope soon changes will be made!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Donna Elrod

*Mrs. Donna Elrod*

---

Bruce —

This is the  
first cut of  
letters to the  
President —

more later!

Emily

---

Correspondence# 1024358  
Department of Health and Human Services

MWP

WR-Letters

September 23, 1993

WANTS

Ms. Carol D. Jackson  
1518 Fifth Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

TO  
WORK  
NEEDS A JOB

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have expressed in him by writing.

To give your concerns the special attention they deserve, the President has asked me to forward your letter to the Department of Health and Human Services. I have asked them to provide you with a prompt reply, but please bear in mind that it may take several weeks to look thoroughly into the concerns you have raised. Should you have any questions after reviewing their response, you may write to: Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,



Marsha Scott  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
Director of Correspondence and  
Presidential Messages

9309270018

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1  
LISTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

THE FOLLOWING PAGE HAS HAD MATERIAL REDACTED. CONSULT THE  
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION.

1024358  
HHS  
MWP +  
POID  
55/288-6010  
12/14  
was off AFDC  
for 4 mos.  
while working  
never has to  
apply

Carol D. Jackson  
1518 5th Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

President Clinton  
White House  
1600 Penn. N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500

*Not the report  
of letters to...*  
Dear Mr. President:

Writing to you may seem stupid to many people, due to the loss of confidence many have expressed in you. But President Clinton, I am one who has not lost that confidence.

I am writing in regards to your plans for welfare reform. At this time I need to say that I feel real afraid to what's going to happen. My fears stem from not being able to obtain gainful employment.

Yes, I know I am one of thousands, maybe millions who are unemployed, but Sir, I am also one of a few who "want" to work, who has gone back to school for the last 4-5 years and still cannot sell my education and knowledge for employment. Also, not that it should make any difference, I am an African American.

I have lived on welfare for the last 17 years, and when I decide to make a difference in my life, it gets tougher. Now we have a plan, but that plan if I don't find employment will put me and my children in the street.

Yes, I am married. My husband is a janitor, working part time [REDACTED]. Child support recovery takes half of his earnings, leaving him with 177.00 to help support a family of six including himself. He is a janitor with a degree from college, yes he is also African American.

I ask, what can a person do? I've written to the Gov. of our state, Gov. Bransted. My letter was shifted to the Human Service department here in Des Moines, Iowa.

I've cried out to the system, I've cried out to the Gov't, I've cried out to God and you know what, I'm still sitting at home crying. I don't believe a minimum wage job will help me to reform from welfare. I don't believe a minimum wage job will help me to support my family, my four children.

The last job I had, I lost because I reported child abuse, in all forms, and sexual harassment. I'm paying today for telling people what has happened to me in a work place. This was told to the Gov. and nothing was done. But yet there is laws against child abuse and sexual harassment. This went as far as the perpetrator being fired and yet I am still out of work.

Mr. President or who-ever reads this, how can welfare recipients make a difference if we are being held against our will in poverty by a system that will now allow us to be or become that productive person in which "they" (system) long for us to be.

Mr. President, I have no doubts that you will do your job. A job that is much bigger than any of us welfare clients. But I do need to ask that something be done. There are many who do not want welfare, and there are many, such as myself who believe welfare is a temporary service for those who "need" help. I also know that welfare is degrading, it leaves no room for self-esteem, it leaves many lazy people, people who just lay around waiting for that check once a month.

Again, but who am I? Just one who wants to make a difference, one who wants to be. If I only had a chance, I could prove myself as worthy, productive and sincere about being productive.

Mr. President, there is no-one else to tell my story to. I want to work, I need a job and I want to be able to take care of my children, without public assistance.

What can I do? Volunteering will not pay my bills, volunteering will not provide a roof over our heads or food in our mouths. Volunteering is not the solution.

I know I am grabbing at straws by writing, but I know someone has an answer. I understand Sir, that you're a very busy person, but are you too busy to speak with a person who needs to understand what is happening or who needs answers to what I believe is a major problem and is going to be a major problem for thousands of other welfare recipients.

The only problem with my situation is that I "want" to work. I've gone to school, I've earned many certificates and two college degrees, I've completed what society would say is a test of willingness to better myself, but yet I remain in

and below poverty, not even being able to pay my rent at this point.

Sir, practically giving up, but hanging on, I will continue to keep my eyes on the Lord and to hope and pray that before the reform begins I can begin to do better for myself and for my family.

God bless you Mr. President and the First Lady, and maybe my writing you was not as stupid as some people may think.

Thank you for listening, maybe, just maybe I can receive a reply or a comment to what I can do. One other thing, please don't refer me to our Gov't or our system. I've tried that route. I've tried and it has failed me.

Again, thank you and may God bless you and your family.

*Carol D. Jackson*

Carol D. Jackson  
1518 5th Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50314  
9515)288-6010

12/14 PP

Correspondence# 1293549  
Department of Health and Human Services

WA -  
MWP

February 4, 1994

Ms. Jodie J. Mills  
Apartment 4  
20024 30th Avenue South  
Seattle, Washington 98198

Dear Ms. Mills:

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have expressed in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Health and Human Services for any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the concerns you have raised. Should you wish to contact them directly, you may write to: Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



Marsha Scott  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
Director of Correspondence and  
Presidential Messages

9/20/98

6  
AUG 54

1293549

Dear Mr. President Bill Clinton,

HHS  
WMA

When I voted for you, I knew you  
were a trustworthy man truly inter-  
ested in the people of America. You  
would be the man to pull America up  
to its feet again. Making it possible  
for all Americans to work restoring  
their personal pride and pride in  
their country and government.

Well I am here to tell you Mr.  
~~President~~ President there is no pride  
in the welfare line. So I did what  
every self-respecting American does  
and went job hunting. Lucky me I  
found a job. Not just a job but a  
job with lifetime career possibilities.  
I was elated.

But just as I was beginning this  
job, my opportunity to realize the  
American dream, complications set  
in. I got a job being the substitute  
lunch lady in the Highline School District.  
The only way to become a full-time  
employee is to start as a substitute.  
I also am starting "on call" and

must float around to any of the 33 different schools in the district wherever a substitute is needed.

Well I need a properly running car, a phone, a home, electricity, clean ~~and~~ clothes and appearance. My 2 boys and I, have been living for over 2 years in a very small 2 bedroom apt. we call home. I need a phone for emergency reasons and to be called into work. Electricity for heat, hygiene, cooking. A proper running car with insurance. That's the law. I need a car to work because the bus will not always get me where I need to be on time to do my job.

I was not expecting a \$115<sup>00</sup> electric bill for January but I got one any way. My tabs for my car are due in January \$57<sup>98</sup> for my "1978" Volkswagon Bus. A \$30<sup>00</sup> phone bill. \$66<sup>00</sup> for my car insurance payment. Plus my car because of, lack of funds, is in

such a state of disrepair it just quit rolling. It needs a tune-up, valve job, fuel filter and some thing with the distributors. This working totalling about \$250<sup>00</sup>.

Now also this month I need to buy such necessity items as;

Laundry soap and quarters for the machines in the Laundry mat, this averages per month about \$30<sup>00</sup>,

also Light Bulbs 3<sup>00</sup>

toilet Paper 6<sup>00</sup>

Bath soap 2<sup>00</sup>

Shampoos & conditioners 4<sup>00</sup>

Tamppons 4<sup>00</sup>

Tooth paste 2<sup>00</sup>

Dental Floss 2<sup>00</sup>

Sub. Fed 6<sup>00</sup>

Cough Syrup 4<sup>00</sup>

Ther-a-Flu 6<sup>00</sup>

Sponges 1<sup>00</sup>

Coffee Filters 2<sup>00</sup>

Napkins, Paper towels 3<sup>00</sup>

75<sup>00</sup>

I also need a food workers permit to work at a cost of \$8<sup>00</sup>. Not even looking toward the 522<sup>00</sup> traffic ticket I got for driving with no insurance. And then ~~but~~ lets not forget my rent for the cracker box I call home \$395<sup>10</sup>.

Well the total cost of my necessary bills for the month of January, so I may get a job and cut the ~~off~~ apron strings that keep me tied to welfare, are more than twice the amount of my DSHS check.

I decided that a job was too important to pass up so I decided to pay the things to keep me working instead of my rent. And then was turned down for rent help with an evictions notice in hand thru DSHS stating that I was suppose to pay my rent instead of make myself capable of working and becoming a productive member of society. Why? Where is the profit for America in this attitude?

I want to work I need gas  
to get to and from work too by  
the way about \$50<sup>00</sup> per month.  
I have not received a pay check  
yet as I was hired on on Dec 7, 1983,  
just before winter break. State  
positions pay only once per month  
and have a one pay period holding.  
So I am distraught. I believe  
I did all I can do to better my  
self and the government is not  
putting an honest personal effort  
in supporting the individual  
citizen to succeed. I just  
needed a little boost to succeed  
but instead ~~of~~ I was tripped  
again. I desperately want on my feet  
Why can't the American government  
believe in my sincerity the way  
I believed in yours. Please help  
me.

1-206-878-8319

J. Joe E. Mills  
JOE E. MILLS

20024 30<sup>TH</sup> AVE. So. #4

DHS CASE #  
442107546-0

SEATTLE WA 981198

(I mean to look at the money spent in foreign  
relations and the space program (what about  
the 2nd?))

1857P

12-1-93

Dear Pres. Clinton:

I have a story to tell you. I am one of A 1000 stories in this country. I am a single parent working to make ends meet while my ex-husband has not met his support payments for 15 years. For the past 1 1/2 years I've been involved in a legal battle with him. I've incurred over \$5,000.00 in legal fees. Sometimes I've worked 2 jobs, received ADC to help, all the while he's living in prison and has received an inheritance worth almost 1/2 (HALF) A million dollars. I have received a judgement AGAINST him, but he is still using the legal system to thwart his obligations. Meanwhile I'm working for a little more than minimum wage, with no insurance. By supporting US Senate bill S. 976 and H.R. 773, you are giving us

another weapon in this war we are waging. I voted for you. I feel you are the best hope for this country. This problem is second to none. Millions of children are suffering need badly. Parents staying in the welfare system because they have no other choice. Collecting the child support due them is the first step in helping these people regain their lives and self-esteem. Making the non-custodial parent take responsibility for their actions and children is paramount. Thank-You Mr. President for establishing the working group to address this problem. Keep up the good work.

<sup>Duen</sup>  
Robyn Duen  
1506 SE Center  
Portland, Oregon  
97202  
503-233-9192

November 8, 1993

Donna Shalala  
Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W., Room 600E  
Washington, DC 20201

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT  
23 NOV 1993 11:16

RE: Our Welfare System

Dear Ms. Shalala:

I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment by President Clinton to head the Department of Health and Human Services. I would also like to offer my support in the tremendous job that waits you -- that job being the reform of the current welfare system in this country. In addition, I would like to offer my comments and suggestions concerning this problem.

A recent article (August 29, 1993) in the Dallas Morning News shows that the State of Texas has had a 52% change in AFDC caseloads from 1989 to April 1993. The article continued to state that "despite everyone's best efforts, the number of welfare recipients has climbed inexorably, increasing by one-third since 1989." I am sure similar figures exist for rest of the nation. I believe the time has come for major changes in our current welfare system.

As a former welfare recipient from the State of California, I do understand and agree that there is a need for a welfare system in the United States. I do not, however, agree that it should be a perpetual system -- there has to be a stopping point!

In 1971 I found myself in the position of being a divorced mother with no high school education or job skills and two children to support. My only option was the California welfare system. By taking advantage of educational opportunities available to me at that time, I was off the welfare system partially by 1973 and fully by 1975. I strongly believe that others can and should do the same.

The California welfare system had a program called WIN or Work Incentive Program. Under this program I took the opportunity to complete my high school diploma by attending an adult high school. In addition to working on courses to complete my high school diploma, I was attending business courses offered by the same school. During school hours my children attended a state run child care facility. Besides my regular welfare check, I received additional funds each month as an incentive to stay in this program. This program also taught me how to interview for a job, how to dress properly for a job interview and generally offered support in all my efforts.

I am sure that there are similar and more advanced programs available to welfare recipients in most states but getting people to take advantage of these opportunities is a vital key to this system. Information about such programs should be made available to all welfare recipients and they should be strongly urged to take advantage of any such program or possibly lose their benefits. In addition, after training, the recipient should be given additional assistance for child care and medical benefits, if deemed necessary. The mind set of many recipients is "Why should I take a job earning minimum wage, which usually doesn't provide adequately for my family, when I will lose benefits". In this situation there is no incentive to improve!

SB-931210-8

9311185057

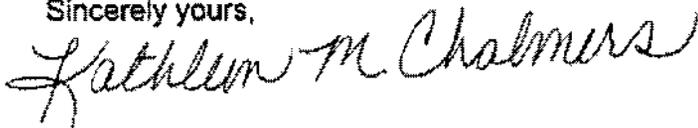
Education and training provide some of the answers but it is not a panacea. Parents may need help in raising their self-esteem, coping with depression and may need some guidance in their parenting skills. From personal experience not enough is being done to make absent fathers support their children. Stronger laws need to be instituted and enforced in all states.

There are no easy answers to this tremendous problem but I think there are answers that will serve us all well, taxpayer and welfare recipient, alike. We all need to work together to find them.

As for me personally, I currently work for a major oil company in Dallas as a Jr. Tax Audit Analyst. I am working on my bachelor's degree in accounting. Both of my children attend the University of Texas at Arlington. One of them will soon graduate with a degree in criminal justice. There is indeed life after welfare! I'm living proof of that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen M. Chalmers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Kathleen M. Chalmers  
2124 Laramie Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75149

HHS

Feb. 13, 1994

Dear President Clinton,

I don't understand to much about what you intend to do to welfare people. But theres one thing I can say and I'm not proud of it, is that I've been on welfare for many a year. Many of times I've tried to get off but they don't give you a choice. I've gotten a job as a Nurses Aid and within 2 to 3 months been your off S.S. before you can get on your feet. People need more then 3 months to be able to work their money so they can pay their rent, food, utility and many other things. If Social Services helped them while they worked for about 6 mos. to a year maybe you would see a difference in people getting off. I know this will probably never happen and I also know you probably won't ever read or listen to what I have to say. But no matter what I did if S.S. did that for me I'd be off for within the next year.

I really hope you read my  
letter and respond to me as  
soon as you are able.

Please listen because I know  
it would do a lot for me and  
maybe a year from now I can  
say - yes I use to be on welfare  
but no more and be proud of  
myself.

Thank you  
Yours truly,

Ms. Lynn Robinson

133 Forest Ave.

Shiley, D.C. N.Y.

11967

535 F St.-P.O.Box 980  
Blaine, Wash. 98231  
September 10, 1993

206/332-  
5320

WA

WS

Welfare Reform Working Group  
200 Independence Ave., S.W. Room 638E  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Gentlemen/Ladies:

On August 20th, I was flicking the channels on TV and caught Bruce Reed and the tale end of the C-SPAN program. They said that if anyone had any ideas about how to "improve the system" to write in.

I have never written to any other program (government or otherwise) but felt so strongly about this issue that I knew I must write in.

If I had been asked years ago about people on welfare I probably would have said that most of them were cheaters. Because I knew a few. Lazy people who didn't want to work and knew how to "work the system". It use to make me mad.

But, if you ask me the same question today, I have a different outlook. Yes, there are still cheaters out there. But I think that what you have a lot of today is people who have, for one reason or another, been thrust into poverty. Mostly women and children; because of divorce situations. I am now one. I have met many others in the same situation I'm in. My sister has also recently (because of divorce and lack of child support) had to go on welfare. Years ago, when I was still married, my best friend ended up having to leave her husband and ask for assistance as she had two small children to take-care of. I know of many other battered wives and victims of abuse who all needed assistance. We hate the welfare system, but have no place else to turn.

Going on welfare is an eye-opener. It is not a system that helps but actually hinders. If you get any extra money in (as in child support or gifts) and report it, it will be deducted two months down the road from your check. That then means you will be extremely short on money that month to pay bills. Your bills then go in the rear and you are then forever trying unsuccessfully to catch up. I am constantly getting disconnect notices on my electric, heat, water, and telephone. Not to mention that there have been times when the rubbish company didn't collect my rubbish because I hadn't paid the bill. I then find myself trying to beg and bargain with all of these companies. If you take any of your check money to buy needed clothes or shoes for your children you then once again become short on money for the bills. I usually try to go to a couple of churches that give out free clothes and shoes but many times you cannot get the right sizes. I then go to second-hand shops to buy used items. Once again you cannot always find the right size to fit. It becomes very discouraging. Plus the items that you see at the churches are usually items that are very worn or stained or in need of repair. I have also had to now bury my pride and go to the food bank. It helps to stretch out your food stamps. But the food that you get there is usually beyond the date and vegetables and fruit are usually rotten. It is hard to find anything that is fresh and good at the food bank. This then makes you feel like you don't deserve anything better. My children have asked me, "Why is it that we always get rotten food?" "Is God punishing us?"

It is hard not to be discouraged on welfare. I get depressed a lot now. I went from being controlled by my husband to being controlled by the welfare system. I have also been lied to by people who work for the system. So, I know now not to trust the people who work for the system.

How I would change the system, would be to give the people hope and encouragement. Not despair! When someone enters the system find out what their skills are (and interests). If they need to further their education then set that up so that they can. Give them the training that they will need in order to get a good job. What I feel should be done about daycare needs is that there should be a screening for moms who would be qualified to work in a daycare setting. (Welfare moms) Instead of having the state pay for daycare, let the welfare moms operate a daycare for other welfare moms only. Have a supervisor there at all times. If the moms need to learn CPR teach them! I had daycare in the past that was paid for by the state and it is difficult to find daycare because the state pays less than what the daycare charges. Plus the daycare then has to deal with waiting for payments and plenty of paper work. It isn't good business sense to take welfare children. Construct a daycare building that would be big enough to have a few rooms so that you could separate according to age. Let the welfare moms operate the daycare so that other welfare moms can go to work or back to school to further their education. Do not charge for the daycare service! If a mom is only making \$5.00 or \$6.00 per hour she cannot afford to pay for daycare. It is impossible! She won't get rich either! So nobody needs to worry about that.

Do not penalize someone on welfare if they get a little extra money. They are not going to get rich in a hurry! The extra money is a godsend!

Provide transportation to a job or school with a van or mini-bus. There are a lot of people on welfare who cannot afford a car and they don't have bussing in every community. Again you could have someone on welfare operate this vehicle.

Have a section of the welfare office for jobs only. Better than what they have at the unemployment office. Ask employers that are seeking workers to call the welfare office first. See if some employers would be willing to train. Have someone check on the people who get hired to see if it has worked out. Let's have some success stories!

I also feel that the welfare office could benefit from a monthly newsletter. I thought about starting my own! The newsletter could include free clothing and other items that people would be willing to give to others in need. If someone needed a ride or babysitting that could be included as well. Success stories could also be printed, therefore giving encouragement to others.

Another idea about daycare would be to give the moms some incentive to work there. Give them extra money in their monthly check or separately. Moms with young children might like to work in a daycare. Once again, do not penalize the moms for the extra money.

I do not feel that moms on welfare should keep having children but I don't know what would be a solution to the problem as it seems to be an attitude or free spirit style. Not caring how many children they bring into the world. Maybe an offer of free birth control? I do not believe that everyone on welfare should be sterilized or that the women should be forced to have birth control implants in their arms.

45  
 What really makes my blood boil is when I see reports on TV about people who are on welfare in 5 or more states! These people are true criminals! How these people can live with themselves is beyond me. There should be a task force to keep on top of such criminals. Also, anyone who may be working in a welfare office and also collecting from the system. Maybe there should be a reward system (money) for anyone who turns in someone cheating the system. It would save money in the long run. Plus, some of the people who do the cheating are from other countries. I feel that we shouldn't roll out the carpet for people from other countries. People from other countries should not be allowed to come here and get immediately on welfare. I know of a family living in a brand new home and they are on welfare. There are eight children in the family and the husband doesn't believe in birth control. They can hardly speak English but have new clothes, bikes, etc.. The man will have a hard time getting off of welfare because his English is so poor that I doubt that he will be able to get a job. His wife just had a baby in June and so she will probably have another one in 1994. These people live better than my family does and I have lived here in this country all my life; working up until 1991. I have been working and paying taxes since 1971. I do not feel that people from other countries should be allowed to get any welfare benefits at all. Maybe then you wouldn't see so many people so eager to cross the border. Once these people come they then send word back for other relatives and friends to do the same. This is more of a drain on an already drained system. I am not speaking about just Mexico but other countries as well. There are some people who fly in from other countries to collect their welfare then they fly back. Let's put a stop to such people!

Well I do hope that my long letter will be read and acknowledged. I will be waiting to hear from you. -

I am looking for work, if you know of any jobs in the Whatcom County area. I'm willing to be trained. I do not want to be on welfare for the rest of my life but I need a good paying job in order to support my family.

Sincerely,

*Susan E. Metcalf*  
 Susan E. Metcalf

*When divorced:*

*Work experience:*

*Children:*

*Training / edu:*

FN

CSE

Aug 1993

Dear Sirs

I have been watching your debate on Welfare Reform on CNN.

I feel that there is only a bit of understanding for a Welfare Parent. I am 28 yrs old & have 3 very beautiful young boys ages 7, 8, & 12.

My oldest son is very intelligent & at the top of his class in school.

He wants to go to college to be a Doctor. He is working very hard to get there.

But I know I may not be able to afford this for him.

I have to worry every month if our food will run out, or if our utilities will be shut off. Our AFDC is only \$224 a month & our Food Stamps \$90. Our rent is \$390 & our utilities usually run 100 more a month. We all try hard to be energy efficient to help cut the utilities. My children already want jobs to help money out, this is not fair for them to worry about.

They should be children. They are all of school age now. And I want to work full-time. But even a full-time job doesn't pay enough to cover the rent, food, schooling, medical bills & clothing. A full or part-time job means I lose all welfare help. So what is my choice. Work & still not make enough or

stay on Welfare and that's not  
enough.

I sit here and worry everyday  
about what I can do.

My Children deserve much more.

But I give them a clean home, lots  
of love & family understanding.

But most of all I give them a mother's  
time.

My children keep saying Mommy  
it'll be alright we'll take care of you.

It breaks my heart.

I want to take of them, not them for me.

They don't understand either how

daddy lives so good. He has a new

car, goes to colts & cub games, has a nice

house & lives great... & Mommy has to

fight so hard to survive for so little.

They are used to a different life and

it's hard for them to see why it's changed.

I only want to do my best for them.

I can only pray for the country

children you will find a way to

help them & us all.

We are not rich, But we are people to

& our children deserve a chance

for good lives.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carla Kipper

Family

STATUS: \*

IDENTIFICATION OF WRITER:

Mary Gerhart  
1339 High Street  
Bucyrus, OH 44820  
(419) 562-8507

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LETTER:

CG letter, single mother of two children on welfare, could not afford to take a job because she would lose Medicaid coverage for herself and children, worried about dental care being dropped from Medicaid (in Ohio?)

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIMARY LETTER CONTENT:

\\ GOVERNMENT-RELATED HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS \ MEDICAID \ LOST  
COVERAGE/GAINFUL EMPLOYED

1339 High Street  
Sucyrus, OH 44820  
February 4, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Clinton  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I would like to address the health care and welfare issues. I am currently receiving ADC but I will graduate this June with an Associate Degree in Mechanical Design Engineering. I am a single mother of two children and I am very thankful that we have a system that enables some of us to get back on our feet.

I am writing this to express my feelings that I think there should be national health care available to everyone. Before I decided to go back to college, I would see jobs in the paper that I was capable of but the reason I didn't apply was that I would lose Medicaid insurance. Hopefully, my degree will help me find employment that has medical benefits. The point is that if there were national health care, I probably would have never been on government assistance. Having medical insurance made it worth staying on ADC until I could better myself with an education.

I read in my local newspaper that dental coverage would be taken away from adults on Medicaid. I think that's crazy. Instead of taking benefits away, why not emphasize "getting an education" to those on government assistance. Sure, it's available, but I was the one who had to inquire about it.

I can remember being in one of the first evaluation meetings for assistance and a guy stood up front trying to scare everyone

into not trying to fraud the government out of any money. I never heard once that most of the time, a single mom is almost always eligible for financial aid to attend college. I had to find that out on my own and it shouldn't be like that. People on assistance should be told that it is available to them.

I'm sure that I represent a majority of single moms getting assistance, that have stayed on assistance solely because of insurance reasons and not because we don't want to work.

I almost wish I would have taken social work and business management because having been in the "system", I sure have a lot of ideas how it could improve. Hopefully, you will see to it that it does.

Sincerely,

*Mary Gerhart*

Mary Gerhart

PERSONAL STORIES DATABASE

IDENTIFICATION OF WRITER

Mary Gerhart  
1339 High Street  
Bucyrus, OH 44820

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LETTER

CG letter, single mother of two children on welfare, could not afford to take a job because she would lose Medicaid coverage for herself and children, worried about dental care being dropped from Medicaid (in Ohio?)

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIMARY LETTER CONTENT

GOVERNMENT-RELATED HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

MEDICAID

LOST COVERAGE/GAINFUL EMPLOYED

11/29/93

PERSONAL STORIES DATABASE

Page 5

*Consent given 11/29/93*

STATUS: (510) 676-1957\*

IDENTIFICATION OF WRITER:

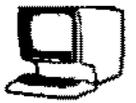
Robina Marques-Phelps  
2001 Salvio St. Suite 17  
Concord, CA 94520

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LETTER:

Widow at 24 with two kids struggles through welfare system, got tringing to raise children. Felt humiliation at treatment by providers. Problems of losing coverage when jobs lost.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIMARY LETTER CONTENT:

\\MEDICAID\\SPENDING DOWN POOR



## MED-BILL ELECTRONIC

January 27th 1993

Dearest Ms Rodham Clinton,

First, I would like to congratulate you on your position. To help people receive Medical benefits. Bless you!

I know you are a very busy person but I would like to share a story with you.

I lost my husband when I was very young and had two small children to care for. Like young families we did not plan for a death in the family, so need I say more. It left us with no income, no life insurance, no medical insurance and a very bitter woman. With just a high school diploma it was plain to see I was going nowhere. I had no family to help me, but two little precious lives that depended on me.

Everyone said go on welfare, you don't have a chance now. Believe me at first I thought that my life had come to a end. I could not get welfare because I was going to get social security (widow benefits at the age of 24). But I received not one check till 6 months later after I had to call the

congressman's office to see if they could help me. They did help. I received a check the next night by courier. But I wasn't able to receive medical insurance for my family. So yes I had to go the welfare to see if I could get insurance. I was thankful to receive insurance, but my children and myself were treated rudely. To this day my daughter is still afraid of the dentist. (My daughter Honore is 22 years).

I use to send the children in to get food in the market because they were so rude to me.

One day I decided that I was going to change my life, if it took the rest of my life to do it. Welfare had a job program to check in too, but to was not required. My children were very young. I took the test that they had given, I guess I did a fairly good job. That afternoon a counselor called me at the neighbors home asked if I could come in the next day. It was hard because my car was taken and I was afraid that my house was going to be next. To make a long story shorter several weeks went by. They had me in classes, how to be interviewed as well as learn how to write a resume. After that they sent me to a junior college to do

typing as well as computers. I also sat in some medical classes on my own.

But I was too late, to be able to pay my bills I had to file bankruptcy. I have been affected by it even now, so has my husband and he had nothing to do with it.

Then my big chance came, I was called by Los Medanos hospital (President Clinton spoke there last year to our community) for a interview. I was so excited I was ready to bust. I had decided that my children deserved more than to live on welfare. I wanted them to know that they can do any thing and be anything that they wanted. Just work hard and believe in the lord as will as the people.

Will I did get the job, and I worked there for seven years, it was a good job. I had the opportunity to work with drug abuse children, as will as try to help mothers to get on there feet, to believe in themselves. But that was not my job description. It is just that I felt good about myself. I wanted to help, to let them know that they can make a difference.

But to be honest Ms Dodham Clinton I have been so depressed with the way things are. I prayed each day that you as well as President Clinton will be able to help people

like myself that had a dream, to try to start there own business.

I remarried five years ago my husband had a good job in construction. I decided to have another baby, my husband has no children. Well I was working at another hospital I had serious problems, complication with me, not the baby he was taken at 6 months and is perfectly healthy. Two months after the baby was release from the hospital. The hospital fired me. Yes, your right, I now had no medical insurance again. Will I had to go to work again I had the opportunity to be a instructor and teach students to be a (AMA) medical assistants. (students who were afdc or changing careers because of workcomp injuries ect) I had the chance to teach students people skills. For instinct when a person comes in to a doctors office why does the receptionist have to say, may I have your Medical card, this embarrass the patient. It would be just as easy to say, may I have a copy of your card please. People in the medcial field lack human caring, as well as doesn't knoww how to do medical billing which causes great problems in the office as well as high cost of insurance.

So my pea brain decided that I wanted to go into Medical Billing. By being able to talk to physicians about problems that occur in the office, it was quite obvious that billing was a real problem. Insurance billing is a highly specialized area, composed of seemingly infinite numbers of details. But we all know Doctors do not like to pay there help very well, but expect them to do every thing. It is really sad.

Will my husband losted this job. I started this business with a partner but it hasn't taken off yet. So we are in a fix, no medical insurance, income just barely enough to cover the over head. What happen to the american dream to own your own business. We (meaning the people) need help with medcial insurance.

I thank you, if there is anything I can help you with, it would be a honor.

Sincerely

Robina Marques Phelps  
Robina Marques-Phelps

(ACT) 1345869

Dear Mr. President,

I'm hoping that my letter to you will not get lost in the shuffle of all your mail because I feel like I have some good advice for you concerning Welfare Reform.

As a Welfare recipient, I can speak only for myself of, of course. During the years that I was living with my husband I was dependent on Welfare on a couple of occasions. I was young and had young children. However, I can assure you, I didn't have three children for more Welfare money. When I married at 18, I believed my life would always be with my husband and that he would always take care of us. It's sad that it didn't work out that way.

When I left my husband in 1983,  
I was pregnant with my 3<sup>rd</sup> son.  
I signed up for food stamps, AFDC,  
and childcare assistance. Only a  
couple months later I found a job  
and if it hadn't been for the  
childcare assistance, I don't know  
how I would have made it. After  
a year and a half, I reconciled with  
my husband for a year or two.  
But we couldn't make a "go" of it.

We were living in Oregon  
the second time we separated. I  
believe I was on welfare there for  
almost 8 months before I was  
required to seek work.

The state of Oregon paid for  
my drivers license and my first  
two months of auto insurance. They  
also offered to make reasonable  
repairs on my car if I needed it  
so that I could seek work. They  
gave me \$800 to purchase new  
clothes so I could look nice for  
a job interview and also offered to  
reimburse me for gas in my

job search. Needless to say, I found a job within the first week of looking and I held that job for 5 1/2 years. That job not only made me independent from AFDC but also gave me back my self esteem and made me feel good again.

Not all of us on Welfare would like to remain here, I don't know where people get the idea that being on welfare is a "career". It's only an existence. But Oregon gave me the tools I needed to get on my feet. All the help I needed, including Childcare assistance was available to me. And it worked.

In Oregon, if you want to work, they made sure you could, and if you didn't make an effort because you said you didn't have a license or insurance or such, they made it right so that you would have NO EXCUSE not to work.

W.H.

4  
It's a great program and I think you should look into it when considering Welfare Reform. Maybe what you need is really Childcare Assistance instead of Welfare.

And now, equally important, I would like your help in looking into the Family Support Bill that didn't get passed in Arkansas, which is my place of residence now. I am asking you as a mother of a disabled son who has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy to please look into this bill and help get it PASSED. Every state should have it.

My son is getting weaker and heavier by the day. Picking him up and bathing him is difficult for me. I never want to have to put him in a nursing home because I can't afford the home health care needed so I can work. Will I be destined to remain on Welfare because

it costs more for care for them  
than it is worth to work? Please  
support the Family Support Bill.  
Look into it.

I want to work, I love  
working. And if I wasn't a single  
parent, I'd live at work. But  
the system doesn't make it  
easy for single mothers in most  
states, and especially if one of  
your children is disabled.

Myself and family and  
friends urged me to write to  
you. We'll all be waiting for a  
response from you.

Good Health for you  
and your family,

Sincerely,

Crystal Hillstrom

P.S. Good health for Socks too.

CRYSTAL HILLSTROM

444 CONE ST

Mt. HOME, ARK 72653

(501) 424-36

**RICHARD J. DURBIN**

30TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

AT-LARGE WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1320

July 1, 1993

2463 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20016-1320  
(202) 226-8271

628 SOUTH 8TH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4082

400 ST. LOUIS STREET, SUITE #3  
EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62026  
(618) 692-1082

221 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE #106  
CENTRALIA, IL 62801  
(618) 692-4285

Mr. David Ellwood  
Mr. Bruce Reed  
Co-Chairs, Working Group on Welfare  
Reform, Family Support and Independence  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Messrs. Ellwood and Reed:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the creation of the President's Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence. I wish you well in your work on this complex issue and appreciate your invitation to share my thoughts with you.

The President has set forth some important principles for welfare reform. People who work full-time should have the hope of lifting their family above the poverty line by their work. More effective child support enforcement is essential, so that absent parents bear their fair share of the cost of raising their children. Education, training, and other services, including child care, must be made available to people on welfare so that they can make the transition to work. And recipients must understand that receipt of cash welfare payments entails a responsibility to work if they are able. I support these core principles.

If welfare is to be successful and regain the support of the American public, it must do a better job of encouraging self-sufficiency and reduce the tendency of some families to become mired in dependency. One of the issues that must be addressed is what happens to mothers who have additional children. Some governors have suggested reducing the increase in their welfare payments in order to reduce any financial incentive to have more children. I think there is a better approach which builds on the President's principles.

Let us begin with a fundamental reform. Every healthy welfare recipient will have three choices to remain eligible for payments: formal education, job training, or public service employment. There will be no exceptions. We will accept the responsibility to make child care and transportation available, using other welfare recipients to provide it.

What happens if another baby is born to the family? For the first 6 months, the mother will be allowed to stay at home to nurture the child. She will be encouraged to breastfeed, and will be offered training in other parenting skills to give the child the best possible start during those critical early months. But every child over the age of 6 months who is on welfare will see his or her parent leaving for work or school every day.

We will condition the increase in welfare payments for that baby on several factors:

1. Diligent prenatal care before the baby is born;
2. Timely check-ups and immunizations after the baby is born;
3. Family planning counseling;
4. Enrollment and active participation in WIC and Head Start; and
5. For unmarried mothers, cooperation in identifying the father so we can establish his child support responsibility.

Those who live up to these goals will receive a welfare payment increase in recognition of the needs of the additional child. Failure to live up to these goals will diminish or eliminate that extra income.

This approach seeks to encourage good behavior and give the infant the best chance to survive and succeed.

It will save money in the long term, because each of the elements designed to protect and enhance the child will spare our economy expense in the future. Fewer low birthweight babies in intensive care units, kids immunized against childhood diseases, and involvement of families in WIC and Head Start all contribute to the plus side of the ledger. And those savings will subsidize the schooling and work opportunities for the parents.

For this system to work, the federal government must make the commitment to ensure that every healthy welfare recipient participates in job training, education, or work. But the investment is worth it. The children who grow up in the restructured system will be much stronger and have a greater chance to succeed than those who are mired in the welfare system of today.

I am encouraged by the President's interest in this issue and look forward to the results of your work.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
Member of Congress

RICHARD G. LUGAR  
INDIANA

U.S. SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202-224-4614

FOREIGN RELATIONS  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

May 25, 1994

Mr. Arthur D. Pratt  
President  
Flynn Christian Fellowship Houses, Inc.  
4040 West 10th Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46222

Dear Arthur:

Thank you for your recent letter. I appreciate you taking the time to outline the Life-Incentive Program.

As you know, the current welfare program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has encouraged dependency and illegitimacy. I support the thrust of your proposal, the Life-Incentive Program because it addresses the flaws with the AFDC program and promotes job and family responsibility.

I have shared your proposal with colleagues involved in the welfare reform debate. I have forwarded your outline to Senator Moynihan, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Moynihan has been an advocate of welfare reform for many years. Also, I have sent your plan to Senator Hank Brown, chairman of the Senate Republican Welfare Task Force and to the co-chairmen of President Clinton's Welfare Task Force, Bruce Reed and David Elwood.

I am not certain that welfare reform will be addressed this year. The Finance Committee has been working exhaustively on health care these last few months. At this time, Senator Moynihan has not scheduled any hearings to consider welfare reform. The Administration has kept delaying the introduction of its welfare plan.

Again, thank you for the outline. I admire your desire to improve the lives of people on welfare.

Sincerely,

*RGL*  
Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator



*Bruce Reed*

*this is a friend of  
Senator Lugar's*

Troy A. Bryan  
Legislative Assistant

*Thank you  
for working  
on this idea*

306 Hart Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510  
(202) 221-1811

Senator Richard G. Lugar  
Indiana

# Life Effectiveness Training (LET)

1505 North Delaware  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 638-9998

94 APR 26 AM 11:54

## Board Of Directors

Arthur D. Pratt

*President*

Janet Hair

*Vice-President*

Robert Adsit

*Secretary-Treasurer*

April 21, 1994

Senator Richard Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Dick:

I appreciate your warm response to our proposal to phase out AFDC Welfare and replace it with a Life-Incentive Program which would offer government loans to poverty-level teenagers to develop both their vocational and avocational skills.

I have drawn up a brief outline of the principle concepts behind a bill that would phase out AFDC Welfare and replace it with a Life-Incentive Program. Would you consider using your staff to shape such a bill and further present it to the Senate and to the President? I realize that a honing of this idea would be necessary but feel the basic concepts are sound.

I realize that this is an ambitious program but feel that radical surgery is required if the inner city is to be turned around.

Sincerely in Christ,



Arthur Pratt, President  
Life Effectiveness Training

Enclosure: outline

Sheila Adsit  
Rt. Rev. Edward Jones  
Ken Lemons  
I. E. Michael, M.D.  
Phil Patterson  
Basil Romanovich  
Vic Ruthig  
Rev. Mac Wells  
Norman White  
Issac Womack  
Johnelia Womack

Judge D. William Cramer  
Karl Stipher, Esq.  
*Deceased*

Elvis T. Fleming  
*Director of Development*

Dorothy Perine  
*Executive Assistant*

An Outline for Legislation to Phase Out AFDC Welfare  
and Substitute a Life-Incentive Program  
for Below Poverty-Level Eighteen Year Olds

1. AFDC Welfare for age eighteen recipients would be discontinued and the entire program gradually phased out. All recipients presently on welfare would continue unless diverted to work in training by other government programs.
2. A new Life-Incentive Program administered by the Welfare Department would be instituted as follows:
  - a. At age fourteen, as a substitute for AFDC, all poverty-level children would be tested and reviewed by Welfare in co-operation with the Public Schools to determine a Life-Incentive Plan with two goals which the students themselves would choose: (1) a vocation for which training in high school would immediately commence; (2) two avocations (like basketball, woodworking, figure skating, Gospel singing, etc.), training for which could also immediately commence.
  - b. If at age eighteen the incipient training for both the vocation and avocation were successfully started - and the student had a part-time job returning a minimum of \$80 a week - the student would qualify for government, low-interest loans to complete four more years of training in his or her chosen fields. Loans of up to \$150 a month, as in the case of student college loans, could be repaid gradually after the student had obtained work in his or her chosen vocational fields. Married students would be eligible for an additional \$100 a month, thus giving an incentive to marriage among the poor.
  - c. The students would receive Medicaid during the duration of their training which could be extended up to five years in special cases.
  - d. The Welfare Department would provide counseling services during the incipient and final stages of the Life-Incentive Plan.

Discussion: AFDC Welfare, as it presently operates, unwittingly gives incentives to (a) have children out of wedlock when the husband rarely is significantly involved in the family, and (b) unwittingly forms in the recipient a state of dependency that reduces personal incentive.

In the Life-Incentive Program:

- a. Both men and women would be induced at age fourteen to receive vocational training and to begin to plan to enter the job market.
- b. With a job bringing in \$80 a week and a loan of \$150 a month, there would be sufficient income for both a young man and woman to be married and to begin to restore the two-parent family in the inner city. The additional \$100 to married couples would further encourage marriage.

- c. Students would be helped where they live and in their schools rather transported to special "camps" for their training.
- d. Training in the avocational areas might produce a great variety of new youth activities, such as basketball tournaments, Gospel singing contests, chess tournaments, woodworking competition in boys' and girls' clubs and community centers which would increase their curriculum.
- e. The high school welfare workers would be challenged to help boys and girls toward significant careers and family and cultural development.
- f. For a married couple, the income would be as follows:

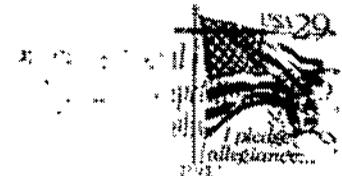
two part-time jobs, minimum \$320:	\$640
two loans @ \$150 each:	300
\$100 additional for a married couple:	100
	\$1,040

This would prove sufficient income to start a family, thereby encouraging the low-income males to adopt not only job responsibilities but also parental responsibilities. This would compensate for the present lack of incentive among young males that must contribute substantiall to crime and delinquency problems in the inner city.

Summary: The present welfare system, which encourages dependency, largely excluding males from family responsibility, would be gradually transformed to a system encouraging both job and family responsibility among both men and women.



**Life Effectiveness Training**  
1505 North Delaware Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202



04/22/94 19:59 INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA 462 DCR#5

Senator Richard Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510



World Hunger Year  
505 Eighth Avenue • 21st Floor  
New York, NY 10018-6582  
212-629-8850  
Fax 212-465-9274

**Founder**  
Harry Chapin  
1942-1981

**Chair**  
James B. Chapin

**Executive Director  
and Co-Founder**  
Bill Ayres

Established 1975

April 8, 1994

Bruce Reed  
Office of Domestic Policy  
Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Bruce,

I enjoyed meeting with you yesterday. I am sorry that I had to leave in the middle of your responses to our many questions. My best friend and partner's wife died suddenly the day before, and I needed to catch a train back to New York.

Here is an updated version of the sheet I gave you. I know that some members of the Working Group think Child Support Assurance is another name for welfare, but the difference is work and the increasing involvement of the absent parent. Certainly it is only one piece in the poverty puzzle (of our enclosed Hunger/Poverty Wheel), but it is a most important element.

The strategy that I have not heard people talk about recently is actually eliminating AFDC payments for families who have the whole assurance package outlined on the accompanying sheet. I realize that finding jobs for all these women is not easy, but it will be far easier if the need only be half-time jobs and far more appealing if recipients know they will almost double their income and maintain health care if they find a part-time job.

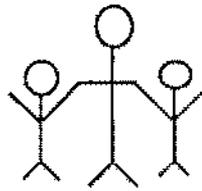
I would be happy to discuss this matter further with you and other Working Group members. In the meantime I will be working to generate grassroots support for the package.

Best regards,

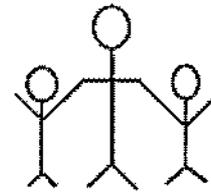
Bill Ayres  
Executive Director

Enclosures.

# Ending Welfare As We Know It: Child Support Enforcement & Assurance



Single Mother and  
Two Children 1994



Current Welfare System		Child Support Enforcement and Assurance with 1/2 time \$5 an hour job
Aid to Families with Dependent Children National Average:	\$4,404	NONE
Food Stamps: Assuming no excess shelter and dependent care costs	\$2,688	\$1,704
School Meals:	YES	YES
Child Care:	NO--Unless in education or training program.	\$2,000 Estimate--Depending on age of children and working hours and locality.
EITC:	NONE	\$1,560 EITC - \$ 398 FICA \$1,162 EITC Total
Wages:	NONE	\$5,200
Child Support Assurance:	NONE	*\$3,500--payment from non-custodial parent or government, if necessary.
Health Care:	YES	YES
Welfare Dependency:	YES	NO -- and part time jobs are easier to get and keep especially for single parents.
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$7,092</b>	<b>\$13,566</b>

\* An Average of \$1,500 would come from the non-custodial parent under the present system of child support enforcement.

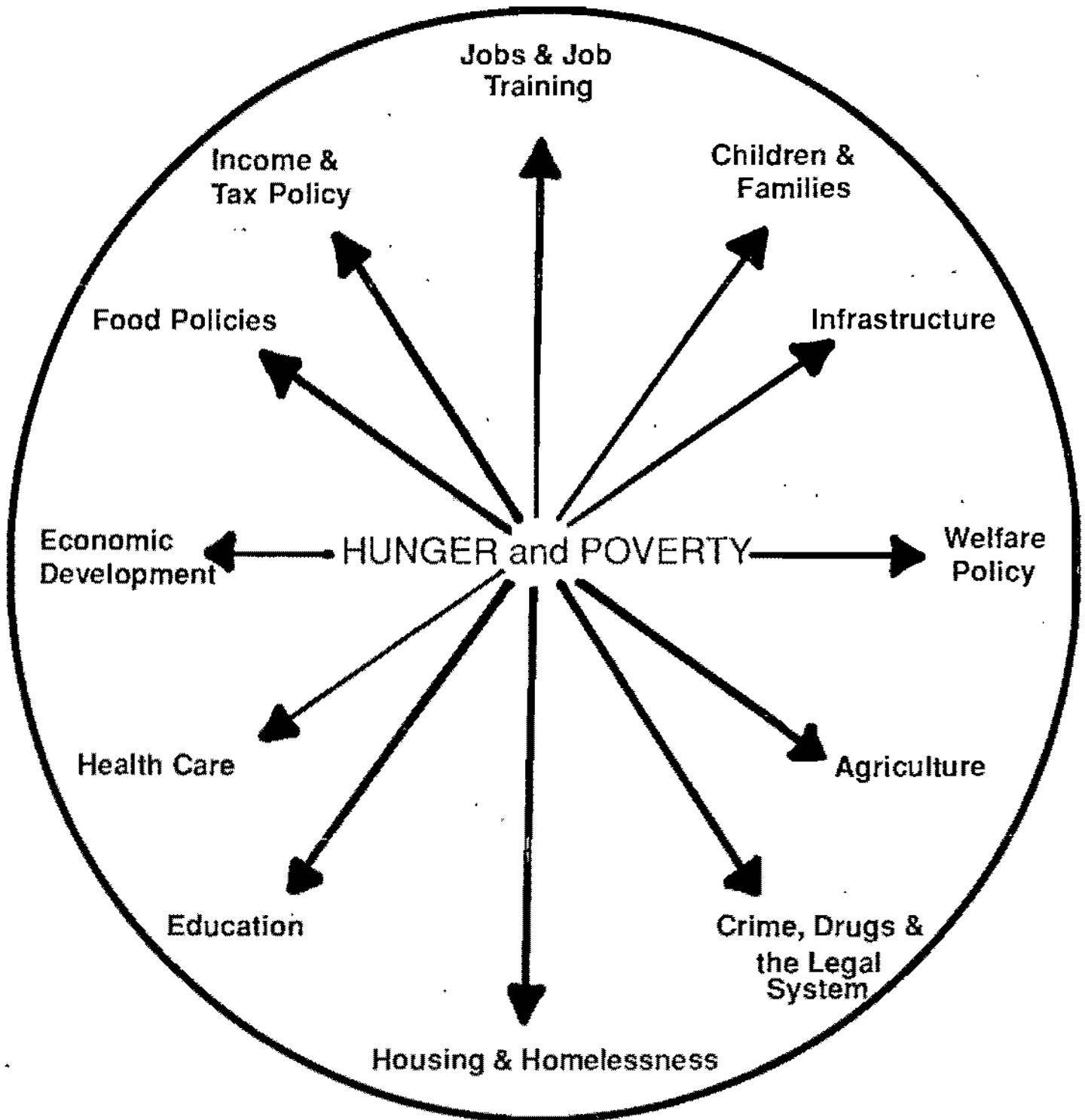
## Advantages of Child Support Enforcement Assurance:

- 1) Frees millions of children and their parents from poverty (The Poverty Guideline for a family of three is less than \$12,320 as of April 1, 1994).
- 2) Encourages and supports work and self-reliance.
- 3) Requires absent parents to support their children.
- 4) Eliminates the stigma and intrusions of welfare.
- 5) Reduces administrative costs of welfare and directs the system to foster self-reliance.
- 6) **REQUIRES NO NEW GOVERNMENT SPENDING.**



For further information contact Bill Ayres at  
World Hunger Year  
505 Eighth Avenue, 21st Fl., New York, NY 10018  
(212)629-8850 tel (212)465-9274 fax

# The Reinvesting In America Hunger & Poverty Wheel



**"There is no single answer to hunger and poverty, no silver bullet solution. It is all connected. Solutions emerge when we, who are working on parts of the problem, are connected to the whole through one another." -- Bill Ayres.**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1994

Ms. Miriam G. Bernstein  
3117 Esther Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45213

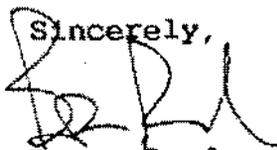
Dear Ms. Bernstein:

Thank you for your letter of April 15 concerning welfare reform. I appreciate your taking the time to share your ideas with us.

I am forwarding your letter to staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Again, thanks for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'BRUCE REED', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

12  
Idea  
Room 216  
EOB

MIRIAM G. BERNSTEIN

3117 ESTHER DRIVE  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45213  
(513) 731-6741

April 15, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
c/o White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I spoke to Susan Ness when she was in Cincinnati recently. I asked for the name of a White House contact person in the area of welfare reform. Susan suggested that I send the enclosed proposal to Bruce Reed.

Besides Bruce Reed, a copy of "SHOCK MARRIAGE" A PROPOSAL FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FAMILY is enclosed. I am copying this information to Susan Ness as well.

President Clinton and you have had an outstanding first year. Unfortunately, it is politics as usual. There is little comfort and no need to tell you to "beware of the Philistines!"

I hope that there is serious consideration of my proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Miriam G. Bernstein

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 3, 1994

The Reverend Fred C. Kammer  
President  
Catholic Charities USA  
Suite 200  
1731 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Fred:

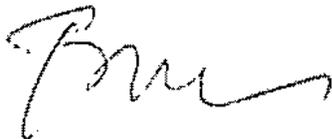
Thanks so much for your letter about my Administration's welfare reform efforts. I share your belief that, for welfare reform to be truly successful, we must move those who can from welfare to work.

I understand your concern about how we accomplish our goals. My Administration's Working Group on Welfare Reform has been drafting a system that rewards work and makes it easier for families to stay together. As you know, there is no easy answer, just as there is no single approach.

But every effort is being made to meet these two fundamental criteria. I have shared your letter with the Working Group so its members will have the benefit of your insight.

I hope you will continue to write me with your thoughts. I am grateful for your friendship and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Bill Clinton", written in dark ink.

May 9, 1994

The Honorable Mike Jacobs  
Johnson County Judge  
Post Office Box 278  
Clarksville, Arkansas 72830

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter regarding Johnson County's welfare reform efforts. I am pleased that communities across the country are encouraging Americans to take new responsibility for their lives.

As you know, the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services are currently reviewing all applications for federal waivers for experimental programs, and I am committed to ensuring that this process is completed as quickly as possible. I have shared your letter with my Domestic Policy staff, and we will certainly keep your thoughts in mind.

I appreciate your efforts to provide the people of your community the security they deserve. I know I can count on your continued involvement in the process as we work to make this dream a reality for all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

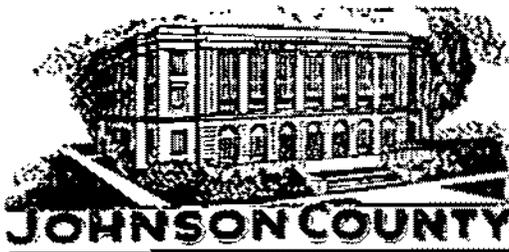
**BILL CLINTON**

BC/DNF/ps (Corres. #1334155)  
(4.jacobs.m)

cc: w/ inc Bruce Reed

If-Welfare

053929



MIKE JACOBS

Johnson County Judge  
 P.O. Box 278  
 Clarksville, Arkansas 72830  
 FAX 754-6098  
 (501) 754-2175

January 27, 1994

President Bill Clinton  
 The White House  
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

In your recent State of the Union Address, you announced to Congress and Americans that a welfare reform act would be submitted by spring. This announcement came as a welcome relief to those of us who agree that welfare's original purpose -- to act as a second chance and not a way of life -- has been overlooked far too long.

In September, 1992, our community was one of 13 in Arkansas that received funding for a grant from Families First to hire a community coordinator. While our community's funding of this grant strongly hinged upon the concept of establishing a Family Service Center to make assistance easier for those who truly need it, another side of the issue soon became apparent: government assistance is a way of life for many of our county's (and nation's) residents. This prompted us to ask "why?" and "what can we do to assist these people in becoming self sufficient?"

The leadership of Johnson County banded together at this time and identified this issue as a potential problem for our county. We developed a strategy to identify those persons in the county who were receiving welfare-type benefits and planned to track their allocation over a period of time. We then held a meeting to gain the state's approval to proceed with an in-depth study that would identify those persons who were receiving two, three, four or more various types of government aid (attachment A). To do this, waivers of confidentiality needed to be granted from welfare and service-type agencies which served our county's residents.

The local Housing Authority and Section 8 Housing signed these confidentiality waivers, but a lot of resistance occurred when other agencies were asked to do the same. According to a letter from the state DHS office, the Office of General Council prohibited such disclosure, especially Medicaid recipients, citing federal law which prohibits disclosure of any client identifying information. Consequently, our plan to identify the barriers to self-sufficiency in our county ended abruptly because of state and federal laws which protect the privacy of these individuals who are receiving assistance from the taxpayer's money!

We chose this strategy in our community with the belief that we had a significant chance to improve the system in Johnson County. This change was important because our county is currently undergoing an economic boom with the location of several new industries and the expansion of existing ones. Still, the number of welfare cases does not appear to be diminishing.

A strong argument for welfare recipients not desiring to become self-sufficient is that for many people this would mean an actual reduction in benefits and income. Why give up a housing allowance, food stamps, medical insurance and other assistance when one takes a minimum-wage job? One would need to begin a job paying an approximate \$6.26 per hour\* to equal the amount of assistance being received through federal and state assistance.

Sadly, for many Americans welfare has become a way of life and there appears to be no internal drive to achieve self-sufficiency for some. Welfare needs to be a safety net for occasional hardships that hit hard-working families. Agreeably, there needs to be a time limit set aside for receiving benefits to create a timely structure in order to prepare oneself for employment again.

This letter's intent is to show how we proposed a strategy to work with the concern of welfare reform in our county, and the resulting barrier we encountered with government bureaucracy. We wish you well in your endeavor to deal with this issue of great concern and stand ready to help enforce the new legislation in this part of Arkansas. Meanwhile, if we can be of any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Mike Jacobs  
County Judge, Johnson County

MJ:ar

\* ARVAC, November 1992

encl.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1994

Mr. Arthur Pratt  
Director  
Life Effectiveness Training  
1505 North Delaware  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Thank you for your April 21 letter to the President concerning welfare reform. I appreciate your taking the time to share your ideas with us.

I am forwarding your material to staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BRU REED', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

# Life Effectiveness Training (LET)

1505 North Delaware  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 638-9998

April 21, 1994

## Board Of Directors

Arthur D. Pratt

*President*

Janet Hair

*Vice-President*

Robert Adsit

*Secretary-Treasurer*

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

attention: Bruce Reed, Domestic Policy

Dear President Clinton:

After many years of providing transitional housing for welfare clients, we have undertaken during the last four years to attempt to stabilize twenty welfare families in permanent housing. We have provided some social services (housing, furniture, job possibilities) and recreational services (cookouts, birthday parties, treasure hunts for the children, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners). The Director's wife operated a painting and roof repair business that offered temporary jobs to many of the recipients. Rent from these families has paid 90% of the project's costs.

The Director of this project and his family have lived in the inner city in the center of the project and have on a personal basis become deeply acquainted with many of the welfare families. Many of the cookouts and other recreational services are held in his home which has become a sort of neighborhood center.

From this grass-roots experience, our observations about AFDC Welfare are as follows:

1. Though probably not often consciously getting pregnant to receive welfare, young women have an assurance of probably twenty years of income simply by the virtue of having children. This unwittingly sets a goal of dependency for them which must - even subconsciously - affect their school grades and their ambitions in life.
2. Welfare mothers usually do not overtly seek work because they do not wish to lose the security of welfare payments and Medicaid. The long-term program to help them get jobs and get off welfare (WINN) only succeeded in getting 10% of their clients off of welfare because the jobs usually did not pay as well as welfare.

Life Effectiveness Training (LET) is a comprehensive program of Drug/Alcohol Treatment  
Sponsored by Flynn Christian Fellowship Houses, Inc. A Not-For-Profit Corporation

Sheila Adsit  
Rt. Rev. Edward Jones  
Ken Lemons  
I. E. Michael, M.D.  
Phil Patterson  
Basil Romanovich  
Vic Ruthig  
Rev. Mac Wells  
Norman White  
Issac Womack  
Johnella Womack

Judge D. William Cramer  
Karl Stipher, Esq.  
*Deceased*

Elvis T. Fleming  
*Director of Development*

Dorothy Perine  
*Executive Assistant*

3. Men play very subservient roles in welfare families that are highly matriarchal in structure. Welfare encourages one-parent families and discourages marriage. The men are left with very little responsibility and, without jobs, very little to live for. It isn't hard to imagine why they commit crimes.
4. Welfare women are frustrated by their dependency and have latent anger which could contribute to inner-city crime and discontent.
5. Welfare mothers are very disciplinary with their children who frequently grow up with great passivity or great anger or both. Many of these children could be the problem people of the future.
6. Welfare mothers often feel compelled to have more children as their only means to increase their income.

AFDC Welfare has grown in multiplying progressions: 5,500,000 on welfare in 1980; 10,700,000 in 1987; almost 14,000,000 in 1993. Welfare is a national calamity. Its fault does not lie with the welfare recipients themselves but with the legislation that permits such a system.

Our recommendations to amend this legislation are:

1. Leave the present recipients on welfare but suspend welfare for new recipients.
2. For new recipients, structure a new Life-Incentive Program which would work as follows: high school students of below-poverty level would be encouraged to choose an avocation (art, wood working, basketball, Gospel music, etc.) as well as a vocation. All new recipients reaching the age of eighteen who earned a minimum of \$80 a week from entry-level jobs would receive loans up to \$150 a month in the new Life-Incentive Program to develop their vocational and avocational skills after leaving high school. Married couples could receive up to \$100 more.

Both men and women would receive the benefits of the Life-Incentive Program. Clients presently on welfare could switch to the new Life-Incentive Program as well. The program would be administered by a joint effort of the Welfare Department and the School System.

Results of the Life-Incentive Program (LIP) could be:

1. To bring the new recipients into the job market as well as encourage their avocational abilities (perhaps giving far more "status" to these abilities).
2. To encourage long-term training in vocational areas.
3. To give both men and women equal status in the Life-Incentive Program and thus encourage marriage relationships among the poor rather than one-parent families.

4. To encourage all sorts of new competition in avocational areas such as inner-city basketball tournaments, sports, music and arts festivals, etc. People would not only be trained to work but to live out and express their highest abilities.

Funding for the Life-Incentive Program could be on a loan basis, as a student loan, and could be repaid when the client obtained work on a full-time basis.

AFDC Welfare would be phased out on a gradual basis which would not be detrimental to present welfare recipients. The very considerable abilities of the social workers of the Welfare Department would be used to help young people to develop both their vocational and avocational skills. The schools would develop long-term programs of continuing education to fulfill Life-Incentive goals. Savings from not accepting new welfare recipients would be used to help finance the new Life-Incentive Program. Would you consider this Program for legislation?

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur Pratt, Director  
Life Effectiveness Training

Note to Mr Reed: Enclosed is a brief outline of the legislation for the Program. It has been submitted to both our Senator, Dick Lugar, and our Representative, Andy Jacobs (who gave me your name). Both have replied very positively.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1994

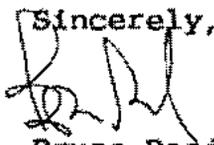
Mr. Charles J. Kean  
19706 SW 83rd Place, B-11  
Dunnellon, Florida 34432

Dear Mr. Kean:

Thank you for your letter concerning welfare reform. I appreciate your taking the time to write me about your concerns and ideas on "walk away" fathers and responsibility.

I am sharing your letter with staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sincerely,



Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

J. F. Cambe Group  
19706 SW 83rd Pl. Rd. B-11  
Striving To End Separatism

Dear Mr. Reed:

RE: WALK AWAY FATHERS

"Ma Ma, where's my Pa?"

The above, part of a political chant in 1884, could very well be asked today by millions of children.

Our intention is to use this and the attached tally sheet to shame the walk-a-way father.

President Bush was blamed for the heavy job loss in the United States during the Reagan-Bush administration years. Who can be blamed if jobs are lost because manufacturers are unable to find people willing to work at these jobs? During the Bush - Clinton campaign very little was said about this phenomenon. They did not dwell on the high cost to government of people who refuse to support their families.

Walk-a-way fathers leave behind unhappy children. The unhappy youth is more likely to be the dangerous, violent youth we read about too frequently. Leaders, in and out of public employment, need to get to these youth. They have to stress the need and the benefits of conforming to the discipline of a law and order society.

The walk-a-way father is taking money away from the rest of us. His public assistance money could be our public works money. We need parks and recreation, improved and new roads, and better classrooms; now not available due to lack of funds. Where is that money?

What can we do? We can start by teaching young men a clear picture of responsibility. He should know he has obligations to provide a home for his wife and children. By allowing abandonment to continue the harder it becomes to end separatism.

Sincerely yours,

*Charles J. Kean*  
Charles J. Kean  
Feb. 10, 1994

Mr. Bruce Reed, Chair  
Working Group on Welfare Reform  
Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 25, 1994

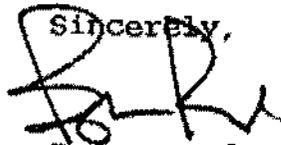
Mr. Thomas Keiser  
Suite 4  
550 West Duarte Road  
Arcadia, California 91007

Dear Mr. Keiser:

Thank you for your letter concerning welfare reform and food stamps. I appreciate your taking the time to write.

I am forwarding your letter to staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BRUCE REED', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

*Law Offices*  
**THOMAS KEISER**

Suite 4

550 West Duarte Road  
Arcadia, California 91007  
(818) 447-3539 • FAX (818) 447-3542  
State Bar #71447

December 13, 1993

Bruce Reed  
Deputy Domestic Policy Adviser  
The White House  
1616 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC

Re: "Welfare as we know it"

Dear Mr. Reed:

I read in the Los Angeles Times you are co-leader of the Administration's welfare reform task force, charged with ending welfare "as we know it". I want to briefly add my perspective.

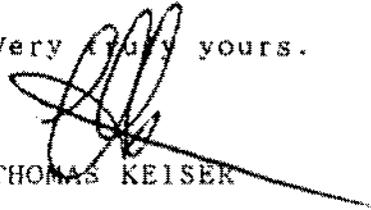
To change the welfare mentality, I believe you must restore dignity to the recipients. A big step in the right direction will be to eliminate food stamps. The savings, in program costs and administration, can be made into cash grants to recipients. Why is that important? A look back into history.

In 1934 Eleanor Roosevelt, who worked for affordable housing, called for indoor plumbing and toilets in every new home. The president's advisers were astounded. How, one asked, would anybody be able to tell the rich from the poor if that were the case? "In matters of such simple dignity and decency", she replied, "we should not be able to tell the rich from the poor."

The same situation exists with food stamps. Recipients are branded poor, stigmatized as unqualified to make responsible decisions by a government that doesn't trust them to spend money. Just because someone is poor doesn't mean they are irresponsible or ignorant. Having to use script to buy food let's everyone know they are second class citizens.

I encourage you to reform welfare by eliminating the aspects of welfare that degrade the recipient. I urge you to eliminate food stamps.

Very truly yours.

  
THOMAS KEISER

TK/t

PS: There are other important, equally desirable reasons to eliminate food stamps. If you'd like additional information, I'll be happy to elaborate. TK

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 28, 1994

Ms. Patricia Helvey  
6398 Highway 12 West  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Ms. Helvey:

Thank you for your letter of February 2 concerning welfare reform. I appreciate your taking the time to write and for sharing your concerns and ideas with me.

I am forwarding your letter to staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Sincerely,



Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

*Thanks for writing - I hope  
your son's situation works out.*

Copy of [unclear] [unclear]

Feb. 2, 1994

Bruce Reed

Center for Domestic Policy

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Reed:

In your planning for changes in the U.S. Welfare System, I would suggest you consider a Catch 22 in questions of paternity. It might be that there is a segment of our male population being labeled "dead beat dads" who have been caught in their particular "bind". There is the scenario a man and a woman are sexually intimate. He is informed that she has become pregnant. He learns she has had intercourse with at least one other

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1994

Mr. William E. Osborne  
Community Links  
P.O. Drawer 679  
Fredericktown, Missouri 63645

Dear Mr. Osborne:

Thank you for your letter of February 8 providing information on Community Links. I appreciate your taking the time to write.

I am sharing your letter with staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BR", with a horizontal line underneath.

Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

*Great idea! Good luck to you -*

# Community

# Links

an entrepreneurial transportation service

Feb. 8, 1994

Mr. Bruce Reed  
Domestic Policy Advisor  
C/O White House Executive Offices  
Washington D.C.

RE.: Welfare Reform

Dear Mr. Reed;

Your comments were quite interesting in Ron Suskind's "Wall Street Journal" article. Please consider the following to meet shared goals you described and assist The President in finding common ground for this important initiative.

Community Links is a formalized car/van pooling system offering entrepreneurial opportunities for existing travelers to provide public transportation for rural residents. Women, minorities and the working poor are the targeted participants for this value adding activity.

Community Links provides a win-win situation. The unions can complain little about this new concept especially since many of their members are in the group targeted for business development. The federal budget will be positively impacted through this re-inventing. Environmentalists will recognize the incentive for ride sharing. Owner/operators will see increased disposable income from existing commuting costs. Riders will gain universal access to society's goods, services, education and employment opportunities.

Mr. Reed, (as you can tell I feel Community Links is as neat as pockets on shirts and sliced bread) we will be truly honored if our contribution can in any way assist you and Our Great President in making life better for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Wm. E. Osborne, Int. Dir.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1994

Mr. Christopher Silver  
340 Covered Bridge Road  
King Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Silver:

Thank you for your letter concerning welfare reform. I appreciate your taking the time to write and for sharing your concerns and ideas with us.

I am sending your letter to staff of the Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence at the Department of Health and Human Services for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BR Reed', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Reed

Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy

Christopher Silver  
340 Covered Bridge Rd.  
King Prussia, PA. 19406

Mr. Bruce Reed,  
White House Domestic Policy Aid &  
Co-Chairman Welfare Task Force

Dear Mr. Reed,

I am writing to you to express some thoughts on the current welfare debate. The welfare queen has become the new Willie Horton and I think there are a lot of us who are tired of being fed myths. The whole debate about welfare has taken on a cartoonish nature. The debate has gone something like this: The root causes to our social/cultural ills can be attributed to the decadent, morally relativistic evil hippie revolutions of the sixties that removed all moral standards of decency and created a permissive society that fosters family breakdown, rampant crime, drug abuse, promiscuity, etc.. This has caused young black women to enjoy sex too much and give themselves up to predatory violence prone black men and have children out of wedlock to get more welfare checks. These fatherless sociopaths then run around and kill each other for kicks. We must save our children and get back to the bible and other family values that this great land of opportunity was founded on and get away from failed socialistic policies that create poverty and illegitimacy. This thinking has become almost the accepted view. But I never hear the real statistics. That ADFIC is miniscule in terms of the over all budget, most welfare recipients are two parent families, and that it has not become a generational way of life for millions of people. The most disturbing part is that this catch phrase debate has resulted in catch phrase solutions i.e. (workfare, abstinence, etc.) that are easily understood by the masses. It is not that I don't think that we as a country can do better in serving the poor but it seems that President Clinton's policies are legitimizing right wing propaganda. Murryism and Moynihanism is now considered central in any discussion on welfare. The most disturbing part of this is the almost accepted as fact myth that a lot of welfare abuse is the result of improper sexual behavior. This is nonsense to anyone who has lived in the "inner city". Have you or Clinton? Young black women are having children because they choose to. It gives meaning and purpose to their lives. The problem is not the result of a mistake during a night of heated passion. And even if they do end up getting pregnant and feel that they would not like to carry it to term, they could not afford abortion. Teenage pregnancies are not a result of immorality but of

lack of hope and anger create from the last twelve years of Reagan America. Why should a young black girl avoid getting pregnant when the prospect of marriage is out of the question due to the lack of eligible men and the idea of the American dream closed to her. Is there really something morally reprehensible about having a child to give meaning to ones life? Why should a young girl who cannot see a bright future avoid behavior that might endanger that future. I had the opportunity a couple of years ago to travel through Europe to the Scandinavian countries, France and have lived in Rome. In all of these places young people, especially in Scandinavia, have just as much sex as we do, but their "illegitimate births and teenage pregnancy, and STD rates are well below ours. Why? I believe it is our Christian Puritan ethic that makes sex something hush hush and devious, not natural and normal. Psychologists have long noticed that repression, especially in a free society, often leads to an equal reaction against it. Abstinence, especially government sponsored programs will not work. Every one is lamenting sex and skin on TV. but no one is asking why it sells. Things will never be like it was in the fifties this country has changed structurally too much.

*Get  
2/22*  
I would like to know if it is possible for me to get a copy ~~of your health care report~~ and how you plan to reduce teen pregnancies, and more about your training programs for jobs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I am looking forward to hearing from you.,

Sincerely,

*Christopher Silver*  
Christopher Silver

# After welfare goes, what of the poor?

By ELIJAH ANDERSON

Those who have been calling recently for an end to welfare, seeing this as a way of solving poverty and illegitimacy, are wrong. Eliminating the program would only make things much worse. As an ethnographer and sociologist who has worked in poor, inner-city neighborhoods, I welcome the debate and the search for solutions to these problems. But the proposals to abolish welfare outright espoused by such people as Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer and Charles Murray of the American Enterprise Institute are dangerously shortsighted.

Krauthammer, in fact, cited my research in one inner-city neighborhood in support of his thinking in a column that appeared in *The Inquirer* on Nov. 23. Since welfare provides economic support to illegitimate babies and their mothers — a fact of inner-city life my research has indeed shown to be one consideration in the sexual game that leads to illegitimate births — he argues that eliminating welfare will eliminate the interest in having babies. This reasoning is seriously flawed precisely because it ignores all the other considerations bearing down on inner-city adolescents, thereby exaggerating the role played by welfare.

In "Sex Codes and Family Life Among Poor Inner-City Youths," a chapter in my book *Street-Wise*, I describe ethnographically the perspectives and experiences of young black men and women in one community.

I found that the lack of family-sustaining jobs denies many young men the possibility of forming an economically self-reliant family, the traditional American mark of manhood. Partially in response, the young men's peer groups emphasize sexual prowess as a sign of manhood, with babies as evidence. A sexual game emerges as girls are lured by the (usually older) boys' vague but convincing promises of love and marriage. When the girls submit, they often end up pregnant and abandoned.

I also noted that these new mothers

low them to establish their own households and at times attract other men who need money. But it is simplistic and wrongheaded to suggest that if you stop welfare you will stop this behavior. A fundamental question is: Why do people behave in the ways I have described? A significant part of the answer is: because of the unraveling of the economy in their communities, which results in hopelessness.

The lack of responsibility shown by the men, the "wantonness," is exacerbated by the very bad economic conditions — the exodus of jobs and the inability of people to get the jobs still available because of a lack of education, skills and training. Illegitimacy is not caused by welfare, but it is, in part, an outgrowth of the failure of the welfare system to achieve its purpose — to alleviate the human problems inherent in the vicissitudes of capitalism, enabling people temporarily (according to theory) displaced by changes in the economic marketplace to survive.

Yet I see that what so many people in the inner city are up against are, in fact, the vicissitudes of the economy now global in scope that has left them behind.

The situation I describe in the "Sex Codes" chapter springs from alienation and despair — which then creates nihilism. This is born of a lack of hope and the inability to form a positive view of the future. So many of the young men I got to know don't get married because they don't feel they can "play house." What they mean is they can't play the roles of men in families in the way they would like.

Their assumption is that men in middle and upper-class families that they see as models control their households. To be that upstanding husband and father, you need resources, you need money. Facing persistent discrimination, a lot of the men I interviewed believe they can't get the money, can't get the family-sustaining jobs. This has a profound impact on how they see their future.

As we move from a manufacturing to a service and high-tech economy, great numbers of inner-city poor people are not making an effective adjustment to the change. The serv-



INX. / ERIC DROOKER

live, and so some of the most enterprising young people have opted for the underground economy of drugs and crime.

One of the results is the social disorganization that contributes not only to increasing violence and alienation but also to a syndrome of abuse, in which people are bent on getting what they can out of other people — including sex and money — without any real concern for those they victimize.

Buffered by the global economy, communities such as this one find themselves with fewer and fewer dependable sources of capital. Welfare is one relatively small but reliable source. To eliminate welfare is to destroy an important source of capital in the community. If welfare suddenly ceased to exist, many people would be forced to look elsewhere for resources. Some would seek the low-paying jobs available, but the hard reality is that others would be driven to more desperate measures. The nihilism that you now see among inner-city people would only increase and spread further beyond the bounds of ghetto communities. Cities

Blacks would continue to be the primary victims, though; illegitimacy rates would rise, not diminish.

The welfare system is in need of an overhaul, but it does not follow that we should throw meager income supports overboard. We need to maintain the support at the same time that we create opportunity for independent income. The way to make real headway is to create jobs and job opportunities and build hope through education and job training.

When a sense of the future exists, we will see more responsible behavior, sexual and otherwise. To take welfare away without replacing it with such opportunities would effectively remove a lifeline for the very poor but also what has become a safety valve protecting both inner-city communities and the rest of society from the consequences of steadily escalating frustration.

Elijah Anderson is the Charles and William Day professor of the social sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. This piece originally

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