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December 13, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRUCE REED
GENE SPERLING
CHRIS JENNINGS

CC: JOHN PODESTA

SUBJ: HEALTH CARE IDEAS FOR STATE OF THE UNION/BUDGET

Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare

1. Plan To Strengthen and Modernize Medicare. Your plan from June will need to be modified since the re-estimate for the prescription drug benefit is considerably higher, savings on the new baseline are lower (as is the appetite for savings in Congress), and the April Trustees' report will likely show an improvement in Medicare solvency absent any actions. Changes to the plan are being considered and will be discussed separately with you.

2. Medicare Preventive Benefit Authority. This proposal would allow HHS to add new preventive benefits to Medicare and is consistent with a recommendation by the Institute of Medicine released this week. (Also under consideration is a limit on all allowable cost expansions). It builds on the preventive initiative in the Medicare plan, which eliminates cost sharing for preventive services, authorizes additional studies and a smoking cessation demonstration. (Cost: not yet estimated).

3. Immunosuppressive Drug Extension Adjustment. Currently, Medicare pays for immunosuppressive drugs that prevent rejection of transplanted organs. This coverage extends for three years after the transplant. The Balanced Budget Refinement Act added a flawed, dollar-limited 8-month extension on coverage of immunosuppressive drugs. This proposal would make the extension one year rather than 8 months, would remove the funding cap, and remove the time limit. (Cost: roughly \$100 million over 5 years).

4. Cancer Clinical Trials. This three-year demonstration would cover the patient care costs associated with certain clinical trials for Medicare beneficiaries. This proposal was in the President's FY 1999 and 2000 budgets, and has been a Vice Presidential priority. (Cost: \$750 million for 2002-04).

Improving Access to Affordable Health Insurance Coverage

5. Family Health Insurance Initiative. Over 85 percent of the parents of uninsured children in families with income below 200 percent of poverty are themselves uninsured. This option, included in the Gore health proposal, would provide states with the same incentives to cover parents as children under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Specifically, a state could receive a higher federal matching rate for expanding coverage to the parents of children currently eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, if that state has expanded to 200 percent of poverty for children. This enhanced matching rate would be drawn from the CHIP allotments that would be increased to help pay for the entire family. States would cover the parents in the same program as their children. Since most uninsured children also have uninsured parents, this is an efficient way to bring down the numbers of the uninsured. It could also increase enrollment of children, since parents are more likely to enroll their children if they, too, can get health coverage. (Cost: from \$5 billion to \$18 billion over 5 years depending on who receives the enhanced match and whether the allotments are raised).

6. Medicaid Option to Cover Poor Adults. Currently, states can cover only adults who are parents through Medicaid. This policy would remove this "categorical" eligibility, replacing it with a straight income-related eligibility. This approach has been taken by several states through Medicaid 1115 waivers, and fully moves Medicaid to an income-related – rather than welfare-related – health insurance program. HHS has developed this as a possible alternative to the parents' initiative. (Cost is unknown, but likely less than the family initiative since there is no higher matching rate and states would prefer to expand to working parents than all poor adults).

7. Tax Credit for Individual Insurance to Address Current Tax Inequity. Unlike employees who work at firms that provide coverage, workers who have no access to employer-based insurance and who buy it for themselves receive absolutely no tax subsidy. To address this inequity, this policy (supported by the Vice President) would give people without access to employer-based insurance a tax credit, equal to 25 percent of the cost of coverage and similar in value to the 100 percent tax deduction employers now receive, for purchasing individual insurance. This credit could only be used for qualified individual insurance plans or Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP buy-in options. Because the credit is relatively small, it likely would not have an adverse incentive impact on employers now offering to drop coverage. But while it would be popular, it would not be expected to increase take-up in coverage for the currently uninsured. (Cost still being estimated but about \$15 over 5 years, \$35 over 10 years).

8. Encouraging Small Businesses To Offer Health Insurance. Workers in small businesses are more likely to be uninsured. This initiative would encourage small businesses to offer health insurance through: (1) a new tax credit for small businesses who join coalitions; (2) tax-exempt status for foundation contributions to create coalitions; and (3) technical assistance. It would be different from last year's proposal because the credit would be increased to 25 percent of the employer contribution, and all firms (not just those that previously did not offer coverage) would be eligible for the credit. (Cost still being estimated, but about \$1 billion over 5 years, \$2.5 billion over 10 years).

9. Medicare Buy-In for Certain 55 to 65 Year Olds. The fastest growing group of uninsured are those ages 55 to 65. Between 1997 and 1998, the proportion of people in this age group who were uninsured increased by 5 percent, from 14.3 to 15.0 percent. All of this increase occurred among people above poverty, with a dramatic jump for those with income between 300 and 400 percent of poverty. This initiative expands the health options available for older Americans by: enabling Americans aged 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare; providing a similar Medicare buy-in for vulnerable displaced workers ages 55 and older; and providing COBRA to Americans ages 55 and older whose companies reneged on their commitment to provide retiree health benefits. This proposal was in the last two budgets. (Cost: \$1.8 billion over 5 years, \$2.9 billion over 10 years).

10. Medicaid Coverage for Certain Women with Breast Cancer. This proposal is the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Act (HR 1070) that has 272 House cosponsors and passed unanimously by the House Commerce Committee (a Senate bill has not yet been marked up). It would give states the option to provide temporary Medicaid coverage to uninsured women who have learned that they have breast or cervical cancer through a CDC screening program. States would get the CHIP match rate for this group. It is important to note that most policy analysts think that covering selected disease categories and/or people participating in a particular program is a troubling precedent. However, if there are no coverage expansions for this group, it would hard not to include this initiative in our budget. (Cost: about \$300 million over 5 years).

11. Ensuring that All Workers Paid by the Federal Government Have Access to Employer-Based Insurance. This policy would allow all types of temporary government employees to access the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program. Currently, FEHBP serves only permanent federal employees. (Cost estimate and more details pending).

12. Tax Credit for COBRA Continuation Coverage. Currently, employers must offer departing employees the option of buying into their health plan at a premium of 102 percent. Intended to ensure coverage during the transition to new jobs, this policy has proven unaffordable to some people and burdensome to employers. To address these concerns, our new proposal would provide a tax credit of 30 percent for this coverage to the employer whose employee takes this option. This subsidy would be split equally between reduced employer cost and lower premiums for participants (87 percent). (Cost estimate pending).

Finishing the Job of Targeting and Enrolling Uninsured Children

13. Enrollment. Sites like schools and child care centers are natural places to reach out to uninsured children. To tap into these resources, this proposal would (1) allow school lunch application information to be shared with Medicaid and CHIP for outreach; (2) let enrollment in the school lunch program serve as a proxy for Medicaid or CHIP eligibility while formal applications are being processed; and (3) more broadly apply the presumptive eligibility option in Medicaid to homeless programs, TANF and CHIP eligibility workers, and others who are in a position to do preliminary assessments of children's eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP. (Cost: estimate pending – likely about \$1 billion over 5 years, nearly \$3 billion over 10 years).

14. Simplifying and Coordinating Enrollment. To ensure that children do not fall through the cracks of different eligibility rules for Medicaid and CHIP, this proposal would require that states conform Medicaid eligibility for children to that of CHIP in the following respects: (1) assets tests; (2) mail-in application; (3) redetermination period; and (4) eligibility to age 21. Thus, a state could not have simpler enrollment and redetermination processes for its CHIP program than it has for its Medicaid program. (Cost: pending – likely less than \$500 million over 5 years).

Long-Term Care

15. Long-Term Care Initiative. An initiative that has already been well received and has already begun to receive bipartisan support is the long-term care proposal. Last year, you proposed a major, seven-part initiative that would: (1) provide a \$1,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their families to offset the costs of care; (2) create a new Family Caregivers Program that offers respite services, information, and other assistance; (3) offer private long-term care insurance to Federal employees; (4) improve nursing home quality; (5) expand Medicaid options for community-based services; (6) encourage assisted living facilities for Medicaid beneficiaries; and (7) conduct a \$10 million education campaign on long-term care for Medicare beneficiaries. (Cost: about \$6 billion over 5 years)

Discretionary Initiatives

16. Preventing Medical Errors. This initiative will develop new avenues for the prevention of medical errors. It will include the IOM's recommendation of \$35 million to establish a Center for Patient Safety at HHS and include new efforts to strengthen FDA's voluntary adverse event reporting system from health professionals and consumers, and implement new requirements for the naming, labeling, and packaging of drugs that are designed to prevent medical errors. FDA estimates that with adequate funding, it could reduce adverse events by 10 percent and save approximately 10,000 lives annually. This initiative could be combined with regulatory actions to ensure patient safety, including requiring hospitals participating in Medicare to implement error reduction programs. (Cost: \$60 million).

17. Internet Drug Sales. We would provide new funds for the investigation, identification, and prosecution of entities selling over the Internet unapproved new drugs, counterfeit drugs, prescription drugs without a valid prescription, expired or illegally diverted pharmaceuticals, and products based on fraudulent health claims. It would establish new certification requirements for all Internet pharmacy sites to ensure that they meet all state and federal requirements. It would create new civil money penalties of up to \$100,000 for dispensing without a valid prescription over the Internet or for selling drugs without federal certification; and provide FDA with new administrative subpoena authority to build a case against offenders. (Cost: \$10 million).

18. Preventing Breast and Prostate Cancer. This initiative will fully fund the National Environmental Health Laboratory, which evaluates the exposure of men, women, and children to toxic substances that cause cancer. Funds will also be used to assist state and local public health officials to ensure thorough investigation of cancer clusters and to rapidly evaluate the local

impact of public health disasters, such as chemical spills and groundwater contamination. (Cost: \$15 million).

19. Improving Nursing Home Quality. This initiative provides mandatory and discretionary funds to HCFA to help States strengthen nursing home enforcement tools and increase federal oversight of nursing home quality and safety standards. Funding will be provided for new enforcement provisions and increased surveys of repeat offenders and improve surveyor training. (Cost: \$31 million).

20. Providing Education Funds to Children's Hospitals. Medicare has invested billions of dollars in graduate medical education to hospitals since 1966. However, because of its current distribution formula, free-standing children's hospitals are forced to shoulder the majority of the cost of training pediatricians, placing them at a severe financial disadvantage. This initiative will augment last year's investment in these critical health care providers. (Cost: \$104 million).

21. Addressing Mental Illness. This proposal will increase funding for treatment for the severely mentally ill and establish a new local mental health enhancement program that would provide new prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for Americans with less severe mental illnesses. (Cost: \$100 million).

22. HIV and AIDS. This initiative would increase our current proposed investment in the Ryan White program and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provide critical services for people with HIV/AIDS. In addition, it would establish a strategic plan designed to reduce new HIV infections by 50 percent in three years. The new prevention initiative would: help 150,000 individuals not aware of their infection learn of their status and find prevention counseling and treatment services; expand community prevention planning, with a special emphasis on racial and ethnic minorities, women, injection drug users and their partners, and young gay men; and build a data infrastructure to assist local public health officials in targeting their prevention efforts. The new investment in Ryan White and ADAP would shorten the waiting time needed to access the comprehensive range of drugs needed to effectively treat this disease. (Cost: \$150 million).

23. Access for Uninsured Americans. This proposal would create a new grant program for community-based providers to develop comprehensive systems of care, develop linked financial and telecommunication systems, and fill the service gaps that exist in many communities, especially primary care, mental health, and substance abuse services. It would: hold providers accountable for health outcomes by helping them develop the systems to appropriately monitor and manage patient needs; preserve access to critical tertiary care services financial support to large public hospitals; and provide new services to the uninsured, including primary care, and mental health services. (Cost: \$75 million).

24. Investment in Biomedical Research. The potential breakthroughs in diagnoses, treatments and cures resulting from the nation's increasing investment in biomedical research are impressive. They include: decoding the complete gene sequence by the spring of 2000, developing new treatments to delay the onset of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and cancer, and new

interventions to prevent paralysis with spinal cord injuries. The Administration's last budget dedicated a \$360 million increase to the NIH, which is far short of the over \$2 billion that was included in the final budget. This has resulted in criticism from the scientific and patient advocacy communities. (Cost: \$500 million to \$1.5 billion).

25. Safeguards Against Scientific and Biomedical Abuses. This package addresses the perils of some of the new scientific breakthroughs of our day. These include inappropriate patenting and licensing of genetic material, the insufficient provision of protections to human subjects in clinical trials, and the continuing threat of bioterrorism. Under consideration are a host of initiatives to address these potential problems, including legislation to prohibit the use of genetic information in all health insurance policies and employment decisions.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 23, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR MARIA ECHAVESTE

FROM: NEAL LANE *Neal*
SUBJECT: State of the Union Messages

I appreciate this opportunity to provide input for the President's Year 2000 State of the Union message. Science and technology should figure prominently in the record of accomplishments that will be featured in the address as well as in the initiatives announced to ensure continued progress toward the Administration's goals.

Accomplishments

When the President remarks on the eight years of record peacetime expansion in the U.S. economy, he should – as Alan Greenspan has – credit science and technology for much of the outstanding performance. Innovations in science and technology had multiple and reinforcing effects on the economy that:

- have resulted in improved productivity, yielding increases in wages or increases in benefits without letting loose higher inflation;
- have led businesses to continue to invest in high-tech capital equipment, making our capital stock more productive and profitable; and
- have provided U.S. businesses with payoffs from technology's efficiencies and from greater education in school and on the job that U.S. workers have acquired to keep pace with the new technology.

I hope the President will also remark on the progress toward a goal he and the Vice President established in 1994 of bringing the total national R&D investment up to 3 percent of GDP. By current projections, total annual R&D expenditures in the United States have outpaced growth in the economy as a whole for three consecutive years, with R&D as a share of GDP reaching 2.79 percent in 1999 – the highest since 1967. In 2000 the U.S. R&D/GDP ratio could exceed the all-time high ratio of 2.87 percent in 1964. The President's policies that spurred economic growth also spurred growth in R&D investment, and those investments will, in turn, ensure continued economic growth.

Initiatives

Most of the growth in R&D investment has occurred in the private sector. Federal investment remains critically important, however, and I hope the President will take every opportunity to

ensure his vision – which has bipartisan support on Capitol Hill – endures. The SOTU address should reemphasize 4 objectives:

- World leadership in science and technology. The most tangible evidence of commitment to this goal would come in the form of a substantial increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. This fund represents the kind of pure investment that characterized the early strategy of this Administration, and might well be renamed the 21st Century Research Investment Fund for this occasion. I hope to see particular emphasis given to all of the peer-reviewed R&D programs.
- A balanced R&D portfolio. As the President stated in the Online Town Meeting, we need to see substantial growth in the physical sciences and engineering disciplines (e.g., chemistry, physics, astronomy and space sciences, mathematics, and geosciences), with particular emphasis on the R&D initiatives identified by my office and OMB. For example, initiatives in the following areas would support advances in a number of disciplines:
 - *Information Technology:* This initiative will deliver to every American in every community the power of instant knowledge and instant communication. It will yield a stronger economy, better jobs, and higher quality health care and education for all citizens.
 - *Nanotechnology:* This initiative will lead to the following potential applications: nanoparticles for improving drug delivery, minute sensors for earlier detection of cancer, computer chips capable of storing trillions of bits of information on a pin-head, advanced materials stronger than steel, and artificial photosynthesis for clean energy.
 - *Climate Change Technology:* This initiative promotes research aimed at technologies that lower carbon emissions, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase the efficiency of energy and materials used in transportation, buildings and manufacturing. One illustration of the potential of this initiative is the Partnership for Advanced Technology in Housing (PATH) site in California where the heating/cooling costs of new homes are less than \$23/month, and construction costs are about \$40/square foot – roughly \$25/square foot cheaper than the average cost for a single family home.
- Research to solve critical national problems. The President has called for research and development to give us tools to address problems that will confront us as we enter the new millennium. We need to develop technologies to fight emerging security threats such as chemical and biological weapons, or attacks on our national information systems and other critical infrastructures.
- Preparation of the 21st century workforce. Substantial growth in university-based basic research, important in civilian and military research but particularly important for DOD (which has decreased its basic research spending by more than ten percent in real terms since the start of the first Clinton Administration), is the best way to ensure that this country is well positioned to prosper from advances in science and technology. It links education with scientific advance, which are both vital to the economy.

I look forward to discussing these ideas with you after Thanksgiving.

Long Term Care

DRAFT: POTENTIAL BUDGET EVENTS OR LEAKS PRIOR TO THE SOTU

- ✓ 1. New health insurance coverage initiatives → Public Health
- ✓ 2. Releasing a new state-by-state study announcing that 2 million children are covered under CHIP and unveiling new outreach proposals
- ✓ 3. Preventing medical errors and improving health care quality
- ✓ 4. Releasing prescription drug cost report
- ✓ 5. Finishing the job for people with disabilities returning to work
- ✓ 6. Preventing the sale of unsafe drug products over the internet
- ✓ 7. Announcing a major increase in the war on emerging infectious diseases
- ✓ 8. Determining the environmental causes of breast cancer
- ✓ 9. Unveiling major new investment to combat HIV and AIDS
- ✓ 10. Highlighting major new investment in food safety
- ✓ 11. Increasing prevention and treatment services for mental illness and substance abuse
- ✓ 12. Eradicating Polio worldwide
- ✓ 13. Preventing genetic discrimination
- ✓ 14. Improving nursing home quality - enhance \$20 million
- ✓ 15. Increasing family planning efforts nationwide
- ✓ 16. Improving health care services for Native Americans + \$230 million

✓ - Asthma - mandatory

✓ Children GME - \$80 million

✓ Biotechnology

✓ Food - medical contractor

- VA Subsidy
- OPM - Family Care



***BACKGROUND ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S
AGENDA FOR THE NATION***

***STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
JANUARY 27, 2000***

Outline of President Clinton's State of the Union Address

January 27, 2000

Fiscal Discipline and Economic Prosperity

- Maintaining Fiscal Discipline
- Paying Down the Debt by 2013
- Protecting and Strengthening Social Security
- Nearing the Longest Economic Expansion

Opportunity and Responsibility in Education

- Proposing Largest Head Start Expansion in History
- Promoting Early Learning
- Fixing Failing Schools and Rewarding Success
- Class Size Reduction
- Small, Safe and Successful High Schools
- Teaching to High Standards
- Charter Schools
- School Construction and Modernization
- Preventing Youth Violence
- College Opportunity Tax Cut
- \$1 Billion to Pell Grants, SEOG, etc.
- \$400 Million to Keep Youth on Track for Success

Rewarding Work and Strengthening Families

- Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Minimum Wage Increase
- Ensuring Equal Pay
- Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families
- Homeless Initiative
- Millions Move from Welfare to Work
- New Initiatives to Collect More Child Support
- New Fathers Work/Families Win Grants
- Helping Long-Term Recipients Move from Welfare to Work
- Second Chance Homes
- Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care
- Assisting 8 Million Families with Child Care Expenses
- Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses
- Supporting High Quality Early Childhood Educators
- Promoting Early Learning
- Campus Based Child Care
- Retirement Security Accounts
- Expand Pension Coverage for Small Businesses
- Tax Relief for Working Families

Health Care

- Patients' Bill of Rights
- Health Insurance Coverage Initiative
- Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare
- Long-Term Care Initiative
- Increasing Federal Mental Health Funding
- Preventing Medical Errors/Improving Care
- Major New Investment to Combat HIV and AIDS

Responsibility and Crime

- 21st Century Policing Initiative
- National Gun Enforcement Initiative
- Funding Innovative Smart Gun Technology
- Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation

Opening New Markets

- New Markets Initiative
- Delta Initiative
- Native American Initiative
- Strengthening the Farm Safety Net
- From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

Global Change and American Leadership

- Benefits of Expanding International Trade
- Forging a New Consensus on Trade
- Trade Agreements Enforcement Initiative
- Child Labor
- African Growth and Opportunity Act
- Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative
- Building Democracy Around the World
- Leading a Global Campaign Against AIDS and Disease
- U.S.-China Trade Agreement
- Building Peace in the Middle East
- Bringing Peace to Northern Ireland
- Reversing Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo
- Protecting Computer Networks Against Cyber Attack
- Combating International Crime
- Aiding Colombia in its Fight Against Drugs
- Debt Relief
- Leading the Way in Global Non-Proliferation
- Maintaining the Strongest Military in the World

Responsibility, Opportunity and the Environment

- Lands Legacy
- Climate Change
- Tax Credits for Energy-Efficiency
- Clean Energy for the 21st Century
- Livable Communities

The Opportunity and Responsibility of Science and Technology

- Major New Investments in Science and Technology
- Protecting Americans' Personal Privacy

Community

Service and Philanthropy

- AmeriCorps and Encouraging Community Service
- Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- Increasing Charitable Giving

One America

- Civil Rights Enforcement
- The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA")
- The Hate Crimes Prevention Act
- English Literacy/Civics Initiative
- Fairness to Immigrants

Governmental and Political Reform

- Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform
- Reinventing Government

FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND NEARING THE LONGEST ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN U.S. HISTORY

Maintaining Fiscal Discipline

When President Clinton was elected seven years ago, America was burdened with a \$290 billion deficit, and our national debt had quadrupled over the previous 12 years. Interest rates were high and growth was low. The President and the Vice President set a new path of fiscal responsibility, opening markets, and investing in our people and new technologies. We passed strong deficit reduction packages in both 1993 and in 1997, and made tough choices in each and every budget. This has put the nation on a course of fiscal discipline, while continuing to invest in our people and our future.

Now we see the results of the last seven years: the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; last year's surplus of \$124 billion was the largest in our history. The latest numbers from the Treasury indicate the surplus for this year will be even larger. In just the last two years, we've already paid down \$140 billion of the national debt. Because we've resisted efforts to push our nation off the path of fiscal discipline with large and irresponsible tax cuts, our debt is \$1.7 trillion less this year than it was projected to be back in 1993.

Last year, the President asked the Congress to use every single dollar of our Social Security surplus to pay down the debt, and to use the interest savings from that debt reduction to lengthen the life of Social Security. This year the President has announced that because of the choices we have made, the budget he will submit for 2001 accelerates the date that we will be able to pay off our debt to 2013 -- two years earlier than we had originally planned. The President will do this by protecting Social Security funds, and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security, allowing us, in addition to paying off the debt, to extend the solvency of the Social Security trust fund to at least 2050. We will also be able to make Medicare secure now, through 2025. And we will be debt-free for the first time since 1835, when our nation just had 24 states and fewer than 15 million people.

Paying Down the Debt by 2013

In the State of the Union address, President Clinton will announce that his budget for 2001 would put America in a position to pay off the \$3.6 trillion debt by 2013 -- 2 years earlier than planned. The President will emphasize that this debt reduction would be accomplished by protecting Social Security funds -- and dedicating the interest savings to Social Security, allowing the Social Security solvency to be extended until at least 2050. In contrast, the Republican lockbox plans in Congress fail to extend the life of Social Security by even one day. The President also will announce that his budget will make Medicare secure through at least 2025 by devoting a substantial fraction of the surplus to Medicare solvency and debt reduction. The President's plan to pay down the debt will result in lower interest rates and stronger investment. For typical families it will mean lower mortgage payments and car payments. By strengthening the economy and eliminating the debt, the President's plan will help prepare the government -- and the Nation -- to meet the challenge of the retiring baby boomers.

Protecting and Strengthening Social Security

As he did in his 1998 and 1999 State of the Union addresses, the President will call on Congress to enact his plan to save Social Security first -- and strengthen it. For almost 65 years, Social Security has been an unshakable covenant among generations, between workers and retirees, between the disabled and the able bodied. For many Americans, Social Security, along with savings and pensions, is the foundation of retirement security. In his 1999 State of the Union Address, the President proposed a plan that would, building on our historic period of prosperity and budget surpluses, use debt reduction to extend the life of Social Security without damaging and unnecessary benefit cuts or tax increases. In the last session of Congress, the President proposed specific legislation that reserves the entire Social Security surplus for Social Security and debt reduction and, in addition, devotes the interest savings from paying down the national debt to extending the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050. If the interest savings were prudently invested in equities, solvency would be extended to 2054.

Nearing the Longest Economic Expansion in U.S. History

The President's leadership on fiscal discipline and economic strategy has helped put the economy on track for the longest expansion in American history. The strong economy has benefited Americans in the form of more jobs, higher wages, lower inflation, greater homeownership, and an increasing sense of optimism about the future:

- America is currently in the longest peacetime expansion in its history. By the end of February, the U.S. will have enjoyed 107 consecutive months of expansion – the longest economic expansion in history.
- Since President Clinton took office in 1993, the economy has created 20.4 million new jobs – the highest number of jobs ever created under a single President. These are overwhelmingly good jobs: according to a study by the Council of Economic Advisers and the U.S. Department of Labor, 81 percent of all new jobs are located in industry/occupation categories that pay above-median wages.
- The vast majority of the new jobs – 18.8 million or 92 percent of the total – were created by the private sector, the highest private sector share of job creation since Harry S. Truman was President.
- The unemployment rate in 1999 fell to 4.2 percent – the lowest rate in 30 years. For African Americans, the unemployment rate fell to 8.0 percent – the lowest on record. For Hispanics, the unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent – the lowest on record.
- The economy has expanded at 3.8 percent annually under President Clinton – the fastest growth rate of any administration since President Johnson.
- As a result of the strong economy and investments in people, 7.7 million people have been lifted out of poverty under President Clinton. The poverty has fallen to 12.7 percent – the lowest rate since 1979. For African Americans and African American children, the poverty rate is the lowest on record. For Hispanics, the poverty rate is the lowest since 1980. For single mothers, the poverty rate has fallen to the lowest level in history.
- In the third quarter of 1999, the homeownership rate rose to 67.0 percent – the highest rate ever recorded. The homeownership rates for African Americans and Hispanics also reached record levels in 1999.
- The underlying core rate of inflation was 1.9 percent in 1999 – the lowest rate since 1965.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History

The President's budget increases funding for Head Start by \$1 billion – the largest funding increase ever proposed for the program – to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children. This funding will bring within reach the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002 and builds the foundation for the long-term goal of universal pre-school. Head Start prepares low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, rigorous and comprehensive child development. Early Head Start, created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, brings these services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women. The President's FY 2001 proposal would increase funding for Early Head Start by \$143 million. Since 1993, this Administration has already increased funding for Head Start by 90 percent.

Promoting Early Learning

The President's budget includes \$3 billion over five years for the Early Learning Fund to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. The Early Learning Fund will provide community grants for activities that foster cognitive development, improve child care quality and promote readiness for school. Resources could be used to help child care providers get training or certification, facilitate licensing or accreditation of child care centers, and reduce child-to-staff ratios.

Fixing Failing Schools and Rewarding Success

- **Universal After-School for Students in the Most Need** - The President and Vice President propose to invest \$1 billion in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to help ensure that every child in every failing school can have a safe place to learn during the after school and summertime hours. This more than doubles the FY 2000 investment. The Administration's budget will maintain the commitment to serving all children, but will dedicate the increase to help those children most in need of academic assistance as part of a comprehensive approach to help low-achieving students meet high academic standards. The budget provides sufficient funding to make after school or summer school programs universally available to all students attending Title I school identified as low-performing, nearly tripling the number of children served by the program to 2.5 million.
- **Accountability Fund** – In November, the Congress appropriated \$134 million for the President's accountability fund. This year, the President will increase funding for this initiative to \$250 million to turn around failing schools. This funding is used by states and localities to turn around low-performing schools by overhauling curriculum, improving staffing, or even closing the school and reopening it as a charter school. The accountability initiative also includes provisions expanding public school choice for students in failing schools.
- **Rewarding High Performance and Closing the Achievement Gap** - The President also proposes a \$50 million initiative to provide high-performance bonuses to states that make exemplary progress in improving student performance and closing the achievement gap between high and low performing groups of students. States would be eligible for bonuses based on substantial overall improvements in student performance and significant narrowing of the achievement gap as indicated by performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Class Size Reduction

The President's class size reduction initiative continues his commitment to reduce class size in the early grades by staying on a path to hiring 100,000 high quality teachers. The Administration's FY2001 budget will boost funding for this initiative to \$1.75 billion, an increase of \$450 million over current levels – enough to fund about 49,000 teachers, nearly half way to our long-term goal. Smaller classes allow teachers to spend more time on instruction and less time on discipline, and provide more individualized attention. Research shows that students attending small classes in the early grades make more rapid educational progress than students in larger classes. New teachers hired under this program must be qualified and know the subjects they are teaching.

Small, Safe and Successful High Schools

Research shows that smaller schools can boost academic achievement and extracurricular involvement and lead to fewer discipline problems. The President's budget will include \$120 million for a Small Schools Initiative to reinvent high schools on a smaller scale and make them more responsive to student needs. School districts could use this money to create small schools or break up existing large schools into smaller learning communities. Districts would be expected to demonstrate increases in student achievement, graduation rates, and the number of students pursuing postsecondary options, and decreases in classroom disruptions and violence.

Teaching to High Standards

This initiative is a new \$1 billion teacher quality plan to recruit, train and reward good teachers. The Teaching to High Standards Initiative will give grants to states and districts to fund high-quality, standards-based professional development for teachers. It also includes several new proposals:

- **Higher Standards-Higher Pay for Teachers** – This \$50 million initiative will award grants to high-poverty school districts to help them attract and retain high-quality teachers through better pay and higher standards. Participating teachers would receive immediate pay increases and additional raises for exceptional work.
- **Teacher Quality Rewards** – This \$50 million program will reward school districts that have made exceptional progress in reducing the number of uncertified teachers and teachers teaching outside their subject area. The President has proposed requiring states to ensure that 95 percent of teachers are certified and 95 percent of secondary teachers are teaching within field by 2004.
- **Hometown Teacher Recruitment** – This \$75 million program would empower high-poverty school districts to develop programs to recruit homegrown teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers. Programs supported by this grant would make students aware, as early as middle school, of the opportunities available in the teaching profession; provide mentoring and teaching experiences as they progress through school; and provide financial assistance for students who enter college and pursue academic degrees with the goal of teaching in high-need communities after graduation.
- **Transition to Teaching** – This \$25 million initiative will build on the success of the Department of Defense's Troops to Teachers program by recruiting and preparing talented mid-career professionals from diverse fields to become teachers in high-need subject areas and high-need schools.
- **School Leaders Initiative** – This \$40 million program will fund non-profit partnerships designed to recruit, prepare and provide professional development for superintendents and principals, and other school leaders.

Charter Schools

The President's budget will increase funding for charter schools by \$30 million dollars from \$145 million to \$175 million. Charter schools are public schools started by parents, teachers, or community groups that are open to all and given a great deal of flexibility in exchange for agreeing to meet defined goals for student performance. Charter schools are one way to increase competition, provide options and choices for parents, and increase accountability in public education. When the President was first elected in 1992, there was only one charter school in the country. Now, according to the Department of Education, there are approximately 1,700 and 36 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing the creation of charter schools. This proposed new funding will ensure that we can meet the President's goal of creating 3,000 public charter schools.

School Construction and Modernization

At least 2,400 new public schools will be needed nationwide by 2003 to accommodate rising enrollments and to relieve overcrowding. Thousands more will be needed in following years. To address this critical need, President Clinton is renewing his commitment to his School Modernization Bond proposal. It provides \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds over two years to modernize up to 6,000 schools. This proposal has an estimated cost

of \$8 billion over ten years. Within this \$24.8 billion program, \$2.4 billion is reserved for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds. In addition, the 2001 budget includes a new \$1.3 billion school urgent/emergency renovation loan and grant proposal. This \$1.3 billion program could support nearly \$7 billion of renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Both loans and grants would be made available, with the smaller grant program directed toward the neediest districts.

Preventing Youth Violence

Over the past year, the country has been traumatized by a spate of school shootings. The President has taken leadership to address the issue of preventing youth violence by establishing a National Campaign Against Youth Violence. The National Campaign is beginning a public engagement campaign on how best to prevent youth violence and is working with the best minds in the field of youth violence to identify and replicate best practices of prevention in local communities. The President's budget includes over \$8.8 billion, \$875 million above FY 2000, for programs throughout the government that work to target youth violence and programs that support the healthy development of young people including developing smaller high schools; promoting safe after-school opportunities; cracking down on illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to youth; and, helping communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school and youth violence through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. The Safe Schools program joins principals, parents, police and others in the community to collaborate on comprehensive strategies to address violence problems confronting children in and out of school. The President's new budget will provide a \$100 million increase for his safe schools initiative, investing a total of nearly \$250 million in this signature program.

College Opportunity Tax Cut

Since 1993, the President has taken numerous steps to make college more affordable and accessible, including direct student loans, Pell Grant increases, as well as the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credits, producing the biggest expansion in college opportunity since the GI Bill. This year the President goes one step further and calls on Congress to pass his College Opportunity Tax Cut to expand on previous educational tax cuts and make college, graduate school, and job training more affordable for millions of families. The President's proposal would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or a 28 percent tax credit on tuition and fees to pay for college and other higher education. The proposal would cover up to \$5,000 of educational expenses in 2001 and 2002 and rise to \$10,000 of educational expenses from 2003 forward. When fully phased in, this proposal would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief annually to help American families pay for college, graduate work, or courses taken to improve job skills.

Nearly \$1 Billion In Increases To Pell Grants, SEOG, Work Study, And Other Programs:

- **Pell Grants.** The Pell Grant program provides grants to economically disadvantaged young people to help pay the cost of a postsecondary education. The maximum Pell Grant in FY2000 is \$3,300. The President's FY2001 budget increases the maximum to \$3,500, more than 50 percent larger than the maximum grant in 1993, to make a college education more affordable for the nearly 4 million Pell Grant recipients. Funding for the Pell Grant program is increased by over \$716 million, bringing the total Pell Grant appropriation to \$8.356 billion.
- **SEOG.** SEOG, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, provides campus-based grant assistance to needy undergraduate students. Generally, this program supplements the aid students receive from other sources, and leverages institutional aid by at least one dollar for every three federal dollars. The FY2001 budget provides \$691 million for SEOG, a \$60 million increase, the largest increase in 10 years. An estimated 1.2 million students (over 60,000 more than in 2000) will receive awards in 2001.
- **Work Study.** Work Study provides students the opportunity to work their way through college. The FY 2000 budget achieved the goal of giving one million students the opportunity to participate in Work Study. The FY2001 budget includes \$1.011 billion for Work Study, an increase of \$77 million to continue this commitment to serve one million students.

- **College Completion Challenge Grants.** The FY2001 budget creates a new initiative within the TRIO program called College Completion Challenge Grants (CCCG). Although college enrollment rates have risen, 37 percent of students that go on to post-secondary school drop out before they get a certificate or a degree. The problem is especially acute for minorities: 29 percent of African Americans and 31 percent of Hispanics drop out of college after less than one year, compared to 18 percent of whites. The CCCG program is designed to address this problem with a comprehensive approach including pre-freshman summer programs, support services and increased grant aid to students. This \$35 million initiative will improve the chances of success for nearly 18,000 students.
- **Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions.** The FY 2001 budget proposes a new program to increase opportunities for students at minority-serving institutions that offer four-year degrees. Students would receive two degrees within five years: one from a minority-serving institution, and one from a partner institution in a field in which minorities are underrepresented. This new \$40 million program will serve an estimated 3,000 students.

Over \$400 Million In Increases To Keep Young People On The Track To Success:

- **GEAR UP.** GEAR UP is a nationwide initiative to encourage more disadvantaged young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to and succeed in college. GEAR UP is funded at \$200 million in FY 2000, enough to provide services to over 750,000 students. The FY 2001 budget provides a 62.5% increase to \$325 million, enough to provide services to 1.4 million students.
- **TRIO.** The TRIO programs seek to motivate and prepare students to go to and stay in college. The FY 2001 budget provides \$725 million for TRIO, an increase of \$80 million to help provide assistance to over 760,000 students, 37,000 more than in 2000.
- **Youth Opportunity Grants and Youth Training Formula Grants.** Youth Opportunity Grants are an initiative to provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The program was passed as part of the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act. Funded at \$250 million in FY 2000, this program would serve up to 50,000 of the most disadvantaged young people in central cities and rural communities across America. The President's FY2001 budget provides a 50 percent increase in funding to \$375 million, enough to serve an additional 25,000 youth in high poverty areas. In addition, the FY2001 budget provides a \$25 million increase (from \$1.001 billion to \$1.022), to the Youth Training Formula Grants, enough to provide job training and summer job opportunities to nearly 600,000 disadvantaged young people.
- **Youthbuild.** The Youthbuild program, is targeted to 16-24 year old high school dropouts, and provides disadvantaged young adults with education and employment skills through rehabilitating and building housing for low-income and homeless people. The program also helps to expand the supply of housing in these categories. Funded at \$42.5 million, the Youthbuild programs will provides opportunities for approximately 2,000 trainees in 2000. The FY2001 increases funding by 76% to \$75 million, enough to serve approximately 3,330 trainees.
- **Job Corps.** Job Corps is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential education and job training program targeted at impoverished young people. The FY2001 budget increases Job Corps funding by \$33 million, bringing the total Job Corps budget to \$1.392 billion.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

President Clinton will call on Congress to pass his \$21 billion plan to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit – a key part of his opportunity, responsibility, and community agenda to reward work and family. According to estimates by the Department of the Treasury, the President's proposed EITC expansion would deliver tax relief for 6.8 million families, providing up to \$1,200 in additional tax relief for some of these hard-pressed, working families. The President's proposal would build on the EITC expansion that he signed into law in 1993 and which provided a tax cut for 15 million families. That expansion made the EITC even more effective at encouraging work and reducing poverty: In 1998, 4.3 million people were directly lifted out of poverty by the EITC – more than double the number in 1993. The President's proposal would further increase the reward to work and family by: (1) increasing benefits for families with three children; (2) expanding the credit for married, two-earner couples; (3) rewarding families that are working hard to move into the middle class by lowering the phaseout rate; and (4) encouraging savings through simplification. To illustrate the effects of the President's proposed expansion: under current law, a married couple earning \$23,000 and with three kids qualify for a \$1,892 EITC; the President's proposed expansion would boost that amount to \$2,867 – an increase of \$975.

Minimum Wage Increase

The President will call on Congress to pass a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and make ends meet. The President believes that parents who work hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. A working parent with two children earning the minimum wage in 1993 made \$10,559 with the EITC (in 1998 inflation-adjusted dollars) – well below the poverty line. As a result of the expanded EITC and higher minimum wage, a similarly situated family in 1998 was above the poverty line – making \$13,268 – a 26 percent inflation-adjusted increase in their standard of living. The President's challenge to build on the success of these policies by raising the minimum wage by \$1 would help 11.4 million Americans – 70 percent of whom are adults and 59 percent of whom are women. For a full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage, the President's proposal would mean an additional \$2,000 per year, enough to buy 7 months of groceries or pay 5 months of rent.

Ensuring Equal Pay

According to the Department of Labor, the average woman who works full-time earns approximately 75 cents for each dollar that an average man earns. For women of the color, the gap is even wider. This gap is attributable, in part, to differing levels of experience, education, and skill. However, even after accounting for these factors, a significant pay gap still remains between men and women in similar jobs. The President will announce a \$27 million Equal Pay Initiative in his Fiscal Year 2001 budget, an increase of \$12 million over Fiscal Year 2000. The Initiative requests \$10 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to provide training and technical assistance to about 3,000 employers on how to comply with equal pay requirements and to launch a public service announcement campaign on wage issues. The Initiative also dedicates \$10 million for the Department of Labor (DOL) to train women in nontraditional jobs, including high-tech jobs and other skill shortage occupations. Lastly, the Initiative provides \$7 million for DOL to help employers assess and improve their pay policies, support public education efforts, provide for projects in non-traditional apprenticeships, and implement industry partnerships. The President also will call on Congress again to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen wage discrimination laws, provide for new collection of data on wage issues, and provide for additional research, training, and public education efforts on this important subject.

New Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families

The President's budget will include \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These housing vouchers subsidize the rents of low-income Americans, enabling them to move closer to job opportunities – many of which are being created far from where these families live. Of the

120,000 new housing vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new housing vouchers secured through the President's leadership over the past two years.

Homeless Initiative

Homeless persons do not participate fully in important health and other programs for which they are eligible. The President's budget proposes legislation for a new \$10 million initiative that would improve homeless individuals' access to mainstream programs that will help them move toward self-sufficiency. Demonstration grants would be awarded to several states to improve access to and provide coordination among mainstream programs such as Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, the Workforce Investment Act, and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants. The budget also proposes \$1.2 billion for homeless assistance programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including \$105 million for 18,000 homeless vouchers.

Millions Move from Welfare to Work

In 1992, President Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it, and now more than three years after the enactment of the welfare reform law, we've seen revolutionary changes to promote work and responsibility: the number of Americans on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 -- 30 years ago -- as millions of people move from welfare to work. Since January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by more than half, from 14.1 million to 6.9 million. More than 1.3 million welfare recipients went to work in 1998 alone. The 12,000 business participating in the Welfare to Work Partnership launched by the President in 1997 have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. The federal government is also doing its share: in 1997, the President asked the Vice President to lead the federal hiring initiative to hire 10,000 welfare recipients over four years. Today, we've far exceeded that goal, hiring more than 16,000 people. At a time when the federal workforce is the smallest it has been in thirty years, the Vice President has shown that you can both create a leaner government and one that leads by example.

New Initiatives to Collect More Child Support

Since the President took office, child support collections have nearly doubled. Today, parents who owe child support have their wages garnished, their bank accounts seized, and their tax refunds withheld. To build on this success, the budget contains several new initiatives to further increase child support collections and crack down on parents who owe child support. Parents who owe past-due child support will have their gambling winnings intercepted and their vehicles booted. They will have a harder time obtaining or renewing a passport, and they can be prohibited from enrolling as a Medicare provider. Finally, the budget will require that child support orders be updated more frequently and increase the amount of child support paid directly to families.

New Fathers Work/Families Win Grants

The President's budget will contain \$255 million in new competitive grants in FY 2001 to promote responsible fatherhood and support working families, critical next steps in reforming welfare and reducing child poverty. The Clinton-Gore Administration's budget will encourage responsible fatherhood through \$125 million in "Fathers Work" grants to put approximately 40,000 non-custodial parents (mainly fathers) who owe child support to work and help them connect with their children. As part of this effort, states will need to put in place procedures allowing them to require more parents who owe child support to pay or go to work. The President's budget will also contain \$130 million in "Families Win" grants to help about 40,000 low-income parents stay in their jobs, move up the career ladder, and remain off cash assistance. An important part of these grants will be to improve families' access to food stamps, health care, child care, and other critical support for working families. \$10 million will be set aside for Indian and Native American grantees. Fathers Work/Families Win competitive grants will be run by one-stop career centers, community groups, and faith-based organizations under contract to local and state workforce investment boards.

Helping More Long-Term Recipients Move from Welfare to Work

Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act contained \$3 billion for Welfare-to-Work grants to help long-term welfare recipients and certain non-custodial parents go to work and support their children. To fully implement these important efforts, the President's budget allows grantees an additional two years to spend these existing funds.

Second Chance Homes

The budget includes \$25 million in new funds to support "second chance homes," adult-supervised and supportive living arrangements, for unmarried teen parents and their children who cannot live at home or with other relatives. States will be able to use these funds, as they can other Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds, to support services provided by faith-based and community-based organizations. (Overall, the budget increases SSBG funds by \$75 million.) This new initiative will be latest of the Administration's efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, which have resulted in the lowest teen pregnancy rates on record and an 18 percent decline in teen births from 1991 to 1998.

Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care

The President's budget expands the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to afford child care. The President's budget request will increase funding for child care subsidies by \$817 million in FY 2001, enabling the program to serve nearly 150,000 more children next year. These new funds, combined with the child care funds provided in welfare reform, will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly one million since 1997. The block grant is part of the Child Care and Development Fund, the primary federal subsidy program that helps families pay for child care, thereby enabling low-income parents to work. Today, millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs do not receive any help; in 1999, only about 12 percent of the 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law, received subsidies.

Tax Relief for Over 8 Million Families with Child Care Expenses

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) provides tax relief to those who, in order to work, pay for the care of a child under 13 or for a disabled dependent or spouse. The President's proposals, which cost \$30 billion over 10 years, broaden this tax relief and will help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses:

- **Making the Credit Refundable for Nearly Two Million Working Parents.** Under current law, a typical family of four with an income under \$25,000 is ineligible for credits for child care expenses because it has no income tax liability. Many such families earn too little to claim the credit, but too much to get the full benefit of child care subsidies. To help these families, the President proposes to make the CDCTC refundable for the first time -- so that families with no tax liability can receive up to \$2,400 to help offset the cost of child care. This proposal will assist nearly two million families.
- **Increasing the Child Care Tax Credit.** For families earning up to \$60,000, the President proposes to increase the maximum level of the CDCTC from 30 percent to 50 percent. This will provide an average additional tax cut of \$249 for these families and eliminating tax liability for nearly all families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. Under this proposal, a family of four with an annual salary of \$35,000, and child care expenses of \$3,100, would receive a tax credit of \$1,395 -- an increase of \$775 over current law. This expansion proposal will help over four million working families pay for child care.
- **Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home.** The President will also propose enabling parents who stay at home with children under age one to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. This proposal will provide an average tax cut of \$154, benefiting almost two million parents.

Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses

In his budget, President Clinton will also propose a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. These services could include: building or expanding child care facilities, operating

existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resource and referral services. The credit covers 25 percent of qualified costs (and 10 percent of resource and referral service expenses), but may not exceed \$150,000 per year per business. The President's budget includes \$539 million over five years for this tax credit.

Supporting High-Quality Early Childhood Educators

The President's budget includes \$30 million to ensure that well-trained professionals are teaching our young children. The Early Childhood Professional Development initiative will provide competitive grants to local partnerships that can pull together universities, local school districts and child care providers. The initiative would focus on equipping early childhood educators with the tools they need to help children develop vital language and literacy skills.

Encouraging the Pursuit of Higher Education by Offering College Campus Based Child Care

To encourage low-income parents to pursue higher education, the President's budget includes \$15 million – a \$10 million increase over last year's funding level -- to provide an additional 150 college campuses with grants to support the establishment or expansion of child care services. States may also use a share of the Child Care and Development Block Grant for this purpose.

Retirement Savings Accounts To Help Families Save and Invest

The President's Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) proposal will give 76 million Americans the opportunity to build wealth and save for their retirement through a progressive tax cut. The President's proposal builds on the successful model of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), extending generous matches to all low- and moderate-income families to encourage them to develop savings and assets. A person who participated for 40 years in this savings program could accumulate over \$266,000 – enough to produce \$24,000 a year of income in retirement. This proposal would cost \$54 billion over 10 years.

Expand Pension Coverage for Small Businesses

In an effort to encourage more small businesses to offer pensions for their employees, the President will also announce a proposal to provide a 50 percent tax credit for qualified contributions to employees' pensions. This provision would cost \$17 billion over 10 years.

Tax Relief for Working Families: Simplifying Taxes and Rewarding Marriage and Work

Today as part of his State of the Union Address, President Clinton will announce his plan to reduce the marriage penalty for married, two-earner couples by increasing the standard deduction by nearly \$2,000. The President will propose to increase the standard deduction for two-earner married couples to twice that of single filers, providing substantial tax relief for 9.1 million families. The President would provide an additional \$500 increase in the standard deduction for single-earner married couples that do not face a marriage penalty. He would also increase the standard deduction for single filers by \$250. The President's plan would cost \$45 billion over 10 years and benefit 42.1 million families.

HEALTH CARE

Patients' Bill of Rights

The President and Vice President continue to challenge the Congress to finally finish the overdue job of passing patients' rights legislation that includes critical protections such as: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections so that patients will not have an abrupt transition in care if their providers are dropped; access to a fair, unbiased and timely internal and independent external appeals process to address health plan grievances; and an enforcement mechanism that ensures recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of a health plan's actions. Last fall, over 60 Republicans joined virtually every Democrat in the House in voting for the Norwood-Dingell Patients Bill of Rights. This strong, enforceable, patient protections bill should not be watered down in a manner that makes it ineffective and unworthy of signing. It should also not include provisions that do little more than further segment healthy from unhealthy populations without significantly expanding coverage for the currently uninsured.

Health Insurance Coverage Initiative

The President and Vice President strongly believe we should expand access to affordable health care coverage to more Americans. The budget proposes a 10-year, \$110 billion initiative that would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more. It addresses the nation's coverage challenges by building on and complementing current private and public programs. Specifically, the initiative: (1) provides a new, affordable health insurance option for families called "FamilyCare," which builds on the State Children's Health Insurance Program to provide higher Federal matching payments to parents of children eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or S-CHIP; (2) accelerates enrollment of uninsured children eligible for Medicaid and S-CHIP; (3) expands health insurance options for Americans facing unique barriers to coverage, including a Medicare buy-in with a new 25 percent tax credit; a new 25 percent tax credit for COBRA continuation coverage; an initiative to help small businesses afford insurance, and new Medicaid options for vulnerable groups of Americans (people ages 19 and 20; people leaving welfare for work; legal immigrants); and (4) strengthens programs that provide health care directly to the uninsured. If enacted, this would be the largest investment in coverage since Medicare was created in 1965.

Strengthening and Modernizing Medicare

The President's budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform and modernize Medicare. This plan will: (1) make the program more efficient and competitive; (2) extend the solvency of the Health Insurance (HI) trust fund to at least 2025; (3) modernize benefits including adding a long-overdue, voluntary prescription drug benefit; and (4) create a reserve fund to be used for debt relief or to create bipartisan consensus to further strengthen the proposed drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. Building on the President's successful fight against fraud and waste, the plan would dedicate over \$300 billion in savings and surplus over 10 years to the HI trust fund, helping to meet the inevitable financing and health challenges that result from the aging of the baby boom. The proposed prescription drug benefit would be voluntary, available and affordable to all beneficiaries, including low-income beneficiaries who would pay low to no costs for coverage. It would be administered by private organizations like pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs) and would give financial incentives to employers who currently offer retiree prescription drug benefits to maintain coverage. Finally, a reserve fund would be created for debt reduction or, if there is bipartisan consensus, to strengthen the Administration's drug benefit by adding protections against the cost of catastrophic drug expenses.

Long-Term Care Initiative

The budget proposes a 10-year, \$28 billion initiative that helps address the nation's multifaceted long-term care challenge. It includes: (1) a \$3,000 tax credit to compensate people with long-term care needs or their caregivers for the cost of care; (2) a major new investment in the Older Americans Act for information and referral as well as direct support services for family caregivers; (3) a new Medicaid option to increase income eligibility levels for home and community based services to the same levels as nursing home residents; (4) a Housing and Urban Development program to encourage assisted living facilities for low-income elderly; and (5) a new option for Federal employees to purchase quality private long-term care insurance. The FY 2001 budget

also includes an additional \$16.8 million to help states strengthen nursing home enforcement tools and increase Federal oversight of nursing home quality and safety standards.

Increasing Federal Support for Improving the Mental Health of All Americans

According to the December 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, one in five Americans is living with a mental health disorder. This report states that the fundamental components of effective service delivery are broadly agreed upon, but in short supply. The President will highlight his new investment of \$100 million for mental health services, an increase of 16 percent over last year's funding level and a 90 percent increase since 1993.

Major New Investment to Combat HIV and AIDS in the United States

The President has proposed to invest an additional \$125 million in the Ryan White Program, an increase of almost 8 percent over last year's funding level, to provide primary medical care, pharmaceuticals critical to treatment, and other critical support services for people living with HIV and AIDS. The budget also includes an additional \$50 million for HIV prevention, the largest increase ever in funding for these activities, to encourage individuals at risk to avoid behaviors that can result in the transmission of the disease.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

21st Century Policing Initiative

In order to keep crime rates down to record low levels, and officers on the beat at all time highs, the President is committed to continuing the second year of his 21st Century Policing Initiative. The 21st Policing Initiative, builds on his successful COPS program that has funded 100,000 more community police for our streets, by: (1) providing resources for communities to hire and redeploy up to 50,000 more police for our streets by FY 2005 with an effort to target new police officers to crime "hot spots"; (2) giving law enforcement access to the latest crime-fighting and crime-solving technologies, such as improved police communications, crime mapping software, laptop computers, and crime lab improvements; and (3) funding new state and local prosecutors to work with local law enforcement and the community to combat local crime problems; and (4) engaging all sectors of the community to prevent and fight crime by funding partnerships with probation parole officers, schools, and faith-based organizations.

Fighting Gun Crime with New National Gun Enforcement Initiative

Building on his successful strategy of combating gun violence that has helped lead to a 35 percent decline in gun crime, the President proposed \$280 million to fund the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history that specifically includes:

- **500 New ATF Agents and Inspectors** - The President's initiative includes the largest increase ever in ATF agents and inspectors, with new agents to crack down on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers at guns shows, gun stores and on the streets, and more firearms inspectors to target unscrupulous gun dealers who supply firearms to criminals and juveniles.
- **Over 1,000 New Federal, State and Local Gun Prosecutors** - The proposal will fund 1,000 new state and local prosecutors to combat gun crime and violence, 100 new federal gun prosecutors, and new gun enforcement teams to coordinate efforts with local law enforcement to remove gun criminals from our communities and put them behind bars.
- **Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing** - To move toward tracing every crime gun in America, 250 local law enforcement agencies will receive training and tracing equipment to facilitate comprehensive tracing, and the Administration's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) will be expanded from 38 to 50 cities across the country.
- **New National Integrated Ballistics Information Network** - The President's initiative will triple current funding for ballistics testing programs to launch the first-ever national ballistics network -- to support the deployment of 150 ballistics imaging units to law enforcement, helping to link bullets and shell casings to the criminal guns they were fired from.
- **Local Anti-Gun Violence Media Campaigns** - To help communities send a strong message to combat gun crime and violence, the initiative funds matching grants to support local media campaigns highlighting penalties for breaking gun laws, proper storage of firearms and preventing child access.

Funding Innovative Smart Gun Technology

The accidental gun death rate for children under 15 in the U.S. is nine times higher than 25 other industrialized nations combined. To help prevent accidental gun death and injuries of children who obtain access to guns, gun theft, and other unauthorized uses, the President committed to fund the expansion, testing and replication of "smart" gun technologies. These state-of-the-art gun safety precautions can limit a gun's use to its adult owner or other authorized users.

Passing Common Sense Gun Legislation

In addition to pressing the Congress to pass his aggressive gun enforcement budget to give communities more and better tools to fight gun crime, President Clinton urged the Congress to make passage of pending common sense gun safety measures the first order of legislative business. Among the reforms he called on the Congress to enact include: closing the gun show loophole by requiring background checks and records at gun shows; requiring child safety locks for handguns sold; banning the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; and banning violent juveniles from owning guns for life.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

The New Markets Initiative

The United States is currently in the midst of the longest peacetime expansion in its history. The strength and duration of this expansion has helped bring economic opportunity to millions of people once cut off from the economic mainstream. But too many urban and rural areas have not participated in this growth. These areas have tremendous potential as New Markets. The President's expanded New Markets initiative will spur \$22 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these economically distressed areas through a package of tax credits and loan guarantees. The package includes the following components:

- **More Than Doubling the New Markets Tax Credit** – The President proposes to more than double the New Markets tax credit to spur \$15 billion dollars in new investment in community development in economically distressed areas. An entity making new equity investments in a selected community development project would be eligible for a tax credit worth 25 percent of the cost of the investment. A variety of vehicles providing equity and credit to businesses in underserved areas would be eligible. The total cost of the tax credits amounts to about \$5 billion over 10 years.
- **Expanded Empowerment Zone Tax Incentives** - These tax credits will extend and improve economic growth in the 31 existing urban and rural Empowerment Zones, administered by HUD and USDA, and support a third round of 10 new empowerment zones to be designated in 2001. The total cost of these proposals will be \$4.4 billion over 10 years.
- **America's Private Investment Companies (APICs)** - Modeled after the Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) successful investment fund program, APICs would provide guaranteed debt to private investment companies, licensed by HUD, to help leverage private equity capital and lower the cost of capital for investments in low- and moderate-income communities. For every dollar that private investors provide, the government will guarantee two dollars in debt to expand the APIC's pool of capital available for making investments and enhance the return on those investments to the private investors. APICs will make equity investments in larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner cities and rural areas.
- **New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs)** – The President is asking for \$51.7 million in his 2001 budget to allow SBA to match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20 new investment partnerships – New Markets Venture Capital Firms -- selected to provide both long-term growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.
- **Other Elements of New Markets** - Other elements include: increasing the funding for SBA's microenterprise lending program; creating PRIME-- a program providing technical assistance to low-income entrepreneurs; boosting CDFI funding; expanding support for BusinessLINC to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets; and establishing a New Markets University Partnerships pilot project which, under the auspices of HUD, would provide Universities with funding to develop local community partnerships, assistance to intermediaries, and technical and business development assistance to new and existing firms. In addition, to better serve Native American communities, the President will provide additional funding to expand the New Markets initiative to Indian Country.

Delta Initiative

In the Mississippi Delta, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average. The President has proposed the creation of a new Delta Regional Authority, modeled after the successful Appalachian Regional Commission, to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help bring the infrastructure and job training needed to make the Nation's prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Native American Initiative

In order to better serve Native American communities in this millennium and to honor the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes, the President's budget includes an increase of \$1.2 billion over Fiscal Year 2000 for key new and existing programs assisting Native Americans and Indian reservations. This initiative brings together several agencies in order to address the needs of Native American communities comprehensively. Some of the highlights of this initiative include: \$300 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction and repair; \$349 million through the Department of Transportation for roads in Indian Country; \$650 million to provide rental and homeownership assistance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and \$2.6 billion for the Indian Health Service. Other key components of the Native American initiative include: "New Markets" economic development initiatives such as funding to create Native American Small Business Development Centers at the Small Business Administration; funding to create a Native American Economic Development Access Center at HUD; addressing the "digital divide" by creating a new program, in conjunction with the tribal colleges, to encourage Native Americans to enter information technology fields; funding 500 new Native American school administrators; increased funding for tribal colleges; \$49 million to fund technology, infrastructure, planning, and public works projects at the Economic Development Administration; and increased funding of \$103 million for the third year of the joint Department of Justice/Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement initiative.

Strengthening the Farm Safety Net

As the President has noted on numerous occasions since its passage, the 1996 Farm Bill fails to provide America's farmers with an adequate safety net. As prices have remained depressed for the past two years, the Federal government has provided over \$15 billion in emergency assistance. In order to provide American farmers and ranchers with the critical assistance that they need and deserve, the President's budget includes \$11 billion to strengthen the farm safety net until the next farm bill in 2002, with three key components: conservation, supplemental income assistance, and crop insurance. The budget includes for FY 2001:

- \$1.3 billion to help family farmers take steps to protect water quality and the environment and to preserve farmland, including \$600 million for a new conservation security program that will assist farmers who voluntarily adopt comprehensive plans to curb erosion and protect water supplies from pesticide and nutrient runoff.
- \$3.1 billion for a new targeted supplemental income assistance program that will provide payments to producers whose farm revenue falls more than 92 percent below its 5-year average.
- \$640 million to subsidize the cost of crop insurance premiums; to allow farmers to purchase higher levels of coverage than are included in the basic catastrophic coverage.

From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, social and political life. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" – unequal access to technology by income, education level, race, and geography. In 1998, those with a college degree were more than *eight times* more likely to have a computer at home and nearly *sixteen times* as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education. And the gap is widening. This growing divide also cleaves our community along income, ethnic, and geographic lines, with affluent, white, and urban/suburban households enjoying better computer and Internet access than their African-American, Hispanic, less affluent and more rural counterparts. To address this troubling trend, the President will shortly unveil a comprehensive program that relies on all levels of government working in partnership with the private sector and non-profit organizations and also will lead high-tech executives and others on a New Markets tour focused on closing the Digital Divide.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Benefits of Expanding International Trade

Trade has been crucial to American prosperity. Since World War II, as the U.S. has led eight separate rounds of multilateral trade negotiations and signed hundreds of trade agreements, global trade has increased 15-fold, contributing to the most rapid, sustained economic growth ever recorded. Real production in the United States is up 5-fold and real average American per capita income is up 3-fold over this period. Still, there remains much work to be done. Ninety-six percent of the world's consumers live outside the US, many in countries that are only now achieving the means to become significant purchasers of American products.

Forging a New Consensus on Trade

American leadership over the last 50 years has helped develop a world trading system in which the United States is now the world's largest exporter and importer with over \$2 trillion worth of goods and services in trade each year. Since the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1948, Democratic and Republican Administrations, working in partnership with Congress, have concluded eight negotiating Rounds, opening markets for American goods, and helping advance basic principles of rule of law, transparency, and fair play in the world economy. Most recently, since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994, a more open world economy has helped American exports to rise by well over \$200 billion. This has contributed significantly to the rapid economic growth we have enjoyed over the past five years, and the continuation of the longest peacetime expansion in America's history. At the same time, it has helped us to gain high-skill, high-wage jobs, reverse a 20-year period of decline in wages, and in fact increase wages by 6% in real terms. Nevertheless, as President Clinton has said, we need to build a new consensus on trade by putting a human face on the global economy. The five years since the WTO was founded as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have revealed areas where the institution can be further strengthened in this regard -- including greater transparency, a greater role in addressing workers' concerns about globalization through the establishment of a Working Group on Trade and Labor, and a commitment to sustainable development, including protection of the environment, as enshrined in the WTO's Preamble.

Trade Agreements Enforcement Initiative

The President is committed to ensuring that trade is free and fair and that American companies and workers benefit fully from our bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. He is proposing in FY 2001 that the Department of Commerce and related agencies have the resources necessary to monitor and enforce international trade agreements.

Child Labor

In his 1999 State of the Union address, President Clinton pledged: "[W]e will lead the international community to conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world." In June, he spoke to the ILO before it adopted the new convention and in December, with Senate advice and consent, he signed the convention on behalf of the United States. Now we must do more to help countries around the world make the convention's aspirations a reality, bringing education -- not hard labor -- to millions of children and preventing the loss of future generations of youth to abusive work. In the last two budgets, the United States became the world's largest contributor to the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). This year, the President proposes to expand support for international efforts to eliminate child labor.

African Growth and Opportunity Act

In the State of the Union, President Clinton called upon Congress to pass the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), an important and groundbreaking piece of legislation, which recognizes African countries' efforts to institute sound economic policies and reform. The House and Senate passed different versions of the legislation last year. The philosophy of the legislation is simple: America stands ready to help those African countries that undertake difficult reforms to build a better future. Effective aid, combined with strong reform and increased trade and investment, will help bring Africa into the global economy and create new markets for

U.S. exports. American businesses, farmers, and workers all stand to benefit from expanding our trade with one of the largest underdeveloped markets in the world.

Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative

The President will work with Congress toward swift passage of legislation expanding our Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) trading relationship with Caribbean and Central American countries. As part of a package including the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, the Senate passed legislation last fall similar to that which the Administration has proposed. The President's CBI enhancement legislation will create opportunities for American companies and workers as it provides enhanced market access and economic stimulus for countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The Administration is strongly committed to conclude, by 2005, negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will expand U.S. export opportunities throughout Latin America, and views CBI enhancement as a useful bridge to this initiative.

Promoting Democracy and Advancing Human Rights

Promoting democracy and advancing human rights has been a central priority of the Clinton-Gore Administration's foreign policy, one that he will again stress in his State of the Union address. Over the past seven years, the Clinton Administration has succeeded in ending bloodshed and reducing tensions in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, East Timor, Bosnia, Kosovo, Haiti, Sierra Leone and elsewhere has offered new hope for peace, democracy and prosperity. This year the President will reaffirm his commitment to advance this cause by calling for continued support for his efforts to broker peace, promote democracy, protect human rights, defend religious freedom, and fully fund our diplomacy.

Leading the Global Campaign Against AIDS and Other Deadly Diseases

Although much progress has been made in the fight against AIDS and other deadly diseases, much more still needs to be done. To that end, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have stepped up the international battle to prevent, treat, and search for a cure for AIDS, which has disproportionately afflicted our poorest nations. The FY2001 budget that the President will send to Congress next month calls for an additional \$100 million investment in AIDS prevention, care, public health infrastructure, and education in the African and Asian countries that have been hit the hardest by the disease. Vice President Gore announced this additional funding during an address to the UN Security Council in early January. The President has also called for a new tax credit for sales of vaccines for malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS to accelerate the development of these vaccines, creating an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to invest in the development of vaccines for poor countries, which often cannot afford to buy the vaccines they need. This would build upon a proposed \$50 million investment in the vaccine purchase fund of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. Finally, the President will call upon the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to dedicate an additional \$400 million to \$900 million annually of their low-interest-rate loans to expand immunization, prevent and treat common diseases, and build sound delivery systems for other basic health services.

U.S.-China Trade Agreement

Under the terms of the agreement, China has agreed to grant the United States *significant new access* to its rapidly growing market of over one billion people, while we have agreed simply to maintain the market access policies we *already* apply to China by granting it permanent Normal Trade Relations (NTR). The agreement slashes Chinese tariffs on our goods, opens China's markets to our services, and contains safeguards against unfair trading practices. The agreement also advances critical national security goals. WTO membership will spur China's economy, adding impetus to reforms there; introduce China to global economic competition and accelerate a process that is removing the government from vast areas of the country's economic life; open China's telecommunications market, including to Internet and satellite services, and thus expose China to information, ideas and debate from around the world; and oblige the government to publish laws and regulations and subject pertinent decisions to review of an international body, all of which will strengthen the rule of law in China and increase the likelihood that it will play by global rules as well. While WTO membership will not by itself or overnight transform China's human rights record, it will move the country in the right direction. The United States must grant China permanent NTR or risk ceding the full benefits of the agreement we negotiated to our Asian and European competitors. For all these reasons, the President will make passage of this historic legislation a high priority in the coming year.

Building Peace in the Middle East

After days of intense negotiations at Wye Plantation in November 1998, President Clinton brokered an historic agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that strengthens Israel's security, expands the area of Palestinian control in the West Bank, and enhances economic opportunities for the Israeli and Palestinian people. And in December of last year, President Clinton ended years of stalemate between Syria and Israel by achieving a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks and hosting the highest level meeting ever between Israel and Syria after months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The United States has helped broker agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Jordan, and led the efforts toward a resumption of the Israeli-Syrian talks. The United States has stood firmly by those who have taken risks for peace, providing them with strong political, economic and material support; and demonstrated to the enemies of peace that violence and terror will not succeed in disrupting the peace process. At the same time, the United States has maintained its long-standing commitment to the security of Israel, strengthened its ties with Egypt and Jordan, and built a new relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people.

Bringing Peace to Northern Ireland

President Clinton's intensive diplomatic efforts helped achieve the landmark Good Friday Accord in April 1998, bringing new governing structures and a new era of cooperation to Northern Ireland. And in December of last year, both sides made historic progress towards implementation of the Accord, forming of an inclusive government in Northern Ireland, accepting the principle of consent with respect to any change in the territorial status of Northern Ireland, launching new institutions for North/South cooperation on the island, and taking the first steps to address the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his support for full implementation of the agreement, so Northern Ireland can pursue a prosperous, democratic course, free of violence and terror. The United States will also continue to support the International Fund for Ireland, which promotes reconciliation through economic regeneration projects targeting disadvantaged Irish border counties and Northern Ireland.

Reversing Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo

This past year, President Clinton led the NATO Alliance in a 79-day air war that expelled Serb forces from Kosovo and restored self-government to the province, ending a decade of repression and reversing Slobodan Milosovic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the face of Allied unity, American military superiority, and strong Presidential leadership, the Serb dictator capitulated, withdrawing his troops and permitting international peacekeepers to secure the peace for returning refugees. The President is now committed to winning the peace, joining European leaders in strengthening democracy and civil society in Kosovo, enhancing economic development and regional integration through the Stability Pact, and supporting opposition within Serbia to complete the democratization of the Balkans.

Protecting Our Computer Networks from Cyber Attack

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to strengthen America's defense against the emerging threats cyber terrorists pose to our critical infrastructure, computer systems, and networks. Earlier this month, he launched the National Plan for Information Systems Protection and announced new budget proposals to protect our computer networks from cyber attack, including \$621 million to enhance federal research and development in computer security; \$50 million to create a new Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection; \$25 million to recruit, train and retain federal information technology experts; and \$10 million to design a Federal Intrusion Detection Network (FIDNET) which alerts the federal government to cyber attacks. President Clinton has increased funding on critical infrastructure substantially over the past three years, including a 16% increase in the FY2001 budget proposal to \$2.03 billion. He has also developed and funded new initiatives to defend the nation's computer systems from cyber attack. To jumpstart the FY01 program initiatives, the President will also propose a \$9 million supplemental this spring.

Combating International Crime

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton highlighted new measures to combat international money laundering, which facilitates illegal money flows, fosters corruption, and undermines democracy. Combating international money laundering has become an increasingly important issue for the United States. The last

decade has seen an explosive proliferation of offshore banking centers that facilitate international criminal money flows. This proliferation also works against U.S. developmental goals by allowing easy placement of funds obtained from official corruption. There is also a growing concern that these offshore centers can contribute to significant financial destabilization, by providing new avenues for unregulated capital flight and new opportunities for financial management entities incorporated in these jurisdictions to take advantage of the absence of supervisory authorities to engage in activities that would be prohibited in the United States.

Aiding Colombia to Fight Drugs and Strengthen Democracy

Eighty percent of the cocaine entering the U.S. is either processed, transported, or grown in Colombia. For the first time in years, a new administration, led by President Andres Pastrana, is taking the tough steps necessary to crack down both on narcotics traffickers and human rights violators. The President recently announced his support for a bold new plan developed by President Pastrana to both stem the tide of drugs entering the United States and to strengthen the Colombian economy and democracy. To assist the Colombians in this effort, the President has proposed a total of \$1.6 billion in funding over two years to help fight narcotics trafficking, provide economic alternatives for Colombian farmers who now grow coca and poppy plants, improve the judicial system, increase the protection of human rights, and crack down on money laundering. A portion of the investment will go to help train and equip special counter-narcotics battalions and to improve the Colombian capability to interdict traffickers by improving radar, aircraft, airfields, and intelligence-gathering equipment. The Administration will also propose \$95 million to purchase equipment to enable the Colombian National Police to eradicate more coca and poppy fields, and \$93 million for new programs to help the judicial system and promote the peace process. Most of the effort will be financed from the Colombian government's own resources. The aid from the United States is expected to be supplemented by multilateral agencies and our allies.

International Debt Relief

At their Summit last June, G-7 leaders endorsed a new initiative spearheaded by the President to enable Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC's) to receive deeper, broader and faster debt relief. Under the so-called Cologne Initiative, international financial institutions are developing a new framework for linking debt relief with poverty reduction. The goal is to boost resources for priority social expenditures, including health, child survival, AIDS prevention and education, as well as improve transparency in government budgeting and consultation with civil society in the development and implementation of economic programs. Together with earlier debt relief commitments, the Cologne Initiative provides for reduction of up to 70 percent of the total debts for these countries, decreasing the stock of debt from about \$127 billion today to as low as \$37 billion with the cancellation of official development assistance (ODA) debt by G-7 and other bilateral creditors. As part of the initiative, the President announced in September that the U.S. would seek to write off all of the \$5.7 billion it is owed by as many as 36 heavily indebted poor countries. Last fall, Congress passed part of the funding and authority necessary for the United State's full participation in the initiative, and the President is seeking approval of the remainder this year.

Leading the Way in Global Non-Proliferation

The Clinton-Gore Administration has led the effort to reduce the international threat of weapons of mass destruction. Over the past six years, the Administration has made unprecedented progress in curbing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the missiles that deliver them, in reducing the dangerous legacy of Cold War weapons' stockpiles and in promoting responsible conventional arms transfer policies. President Clinton was the first world leader to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and has proposed a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus that will lead to its eventual ratification. The United States has also ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention and is working to strengthen the 1972 treaty outlawing biological weapons and to achieve a positive Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Strengthening Military Readiness

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have remained committed to ensuring that America's military remains the best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world, ready to face the continuing challenges posed by the post-Cold War world and the challenges of a new century. He has matched new commitments with new resources, requesting and receiving from Congress billions in additional defense

spending in 1999, reversing declines that began a decade ago. The FY2000 budget proposed a six-year increase of \$112B for military readiness and modernization through a combination of new spending and budgetary savings, assuring the first sustained real (after inflation) increase for defense spending in over a decade. This plan increased military pay by the largest percentage since the early 1980s, and increased the 20-year retirement benefit from 40% to 50% of average base pay over the last three years of service. The President's 2001 Defense budget builds on this plan, ensuring military readiness remains first-rate for years to come. Moreover, significant increases are proposed for weapons modernization to guarantee the continued technological superiority of U.S. forces.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Lands Legacy

To meet the conservation challenges of a new century, President Clinton is proposing a new category of dedicated, discretionary funding to protect America's land, coastal and wildlife resources. In FY 2000, the President secured \$652 million for Lands Legacy, a 42 percent increase. For FY 2001, the President is proposing another substantial increase and creation of a new budget category to preserve this higher level of funding in future years. The proposed FY 2001 funding would dramatically increase support for state, local and tribal efforts to protect farmland, forests, urban parks and other local green spaces. It also would provide significant increases for federal, state, local and tribal efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources. In addition, Lands Legacy would supported federal protection of natural and historic lands across the country, with priorities including Civil War battlefields, the Florida Everglades, the Mojave Desert, and New England forests and wildlife refuges.

Climate Change

Against a backdrop of growing scientific consensus that the Earth is warming – and that human activity is at least partly to blame – the President is proposing a series of new initiatives to address global climate change. The President's FY 2001 budget will propose a new effort to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies in developing countries; increased funding for the research and development of bio-based technologies that use crops, trees and agricultural waste to make fuels and products; and start-up funding for a Clean Air Partnership Fund to support state and local efforts that achieve early reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level air pollutants. Other elements of the Administration's climate change strategy include continued increases in both investments and tax incentives to spur the development and deployment of clean energy technologies and energy-efficient cars, homes, and appliances; cutting energy use by the Federal government; working with Congress to reward companies taking early, voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; restructuring the electricity industry; and continued diplomatic efforts to fill in key details of the Kyoto Protocol and secure more meaningful participation by key developing countries in the fight against global warming.

Tax credits for energy-efficient cars, homes and appliances

Cars and light trucks (including minivans, sport utilities, and pickups) currently account for 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The President's FY 2001 budget will propose tax incentives to help curb these emissions by moving advanced technologies for electric, fuel cell, and hybrid vehicles from the laboratory to the highway. Tax credits would be offered for the purchase of qualifying hybrid vehicles from 2003 through 2006; and the current tax credit for electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles would be extended through 2006. The President also is proposing a tax credits for the purchase of energy-efficient homes; for solar energy systems; for the purchase of energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment; and for wind and biomass power.

Clean Energy for the 21st Century

Energy technology markets in developing countries are projected to total \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion over the next 20 years. To accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies around the world, President Clinton is proposing the Clean Energy for the 21st Century: International Initiative – a multi-agency effort to encourage remove market barriers to clean energy technologies in developing and transition countries and to provide new incentives for clean energy technology innovation and export. This initiative, which builds on a set of recommendations by the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), will create as much as \$5 billion in new export revenues for U.S. companies and up to 100,000 new U.S. jobs, and will assist developing countries in powering their economic development while fighting air pollution and climate change.

Livable Communities

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to strengthen the Livable Communities initiative, which expands the choices available to communities to help them grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. The Administration's FY 2001 budget will propose record funding for public transit and other programs to ease traffic congestion while reducing air pollution; matching grants to help neighboring communities develop collaborative "smart growth" strategies; and funding to provide communities with new information tools, and improve public safety by sharing crime data. The Administration also will propose tax credits for Better America Bonds, a new financing tool generating billions in bond authority for investments by state, local and tribal governments to preserve green space, create or restore urban parks, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields (abandoned industrial sites). By delivering tools and resources to the local level, where issues of growth management are most appropriately addressed, this initiative helps empower citizens to build more "livable communities" for the 21st century.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Major New Investments in Science and Technology Research

President Clinton has announced that he will include a nearly \$3 billion increase in the "Twenty-First Century Research Fund" in his FY2001 budget, including a \$1 billion increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health and double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50 year history. These investments will ensure that science and technology will continue to fuel economic growth and allow Americans to lead longer, healthier lives. The funding includes increased support in all scientific and engineering disciplines, including biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. The President's budget includes:

- **\$1 billion increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.** The President's FY 2001 budget includes almost \$19 billion, an increase of \$1 billion over last year's funding level, for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health. In addition, the President will eliminate the delays in releasing \$4 billion in research funds as required in last year's appropriations bill. This increase will support research in areas such as diabetes, brain disorders, cancer, genetic medicine, disease prevention strategies, and development of an AIDS vaccine. It will also help researchers complete in the near future a first draft of the entire human genome – the very blueprint of life. This and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease. If Congress passes the President's proposal, funding for NIH will increase by over 80 percent – nearly twice what the NIH budget was when President Clinton came into office.
- **A new \$495 million National Nanotechnology Initiative.** Nanotechnology - the ability to manipulate individual atoms and molecules - could revolutionize the 21st century in the same way that the transistor did the 20th. Increased investments in nanotechnology could lead to breakthroughs such as molecular computers that can store the contents of the Library of Congress in a device the size of a sugar cube, and new materials ten times stronger than steel and a fraction of the weight.
- **A \$675 million increase in the National Science Foundation -- double the largest dollar increase in NSF's history.** This increase will boost university-based research and ensure balanced support for all science and engineering disciplines. NSF accounts for half of all non-health, university-based research.
- **An almost \$600 million increase in information technology research.** This increase in information technology research could lead to advances such as high-speed wireless networks that can bring distance learning and telemedicine to isolated rural areas; and supercomputers that can more accurately predict tornadoes and hurricanes and more rapidly develop life-saving drugs.

Protecting Americans' Personal Privacy

As information technology transforms our government and our economy, a growing challenge is how to gain the benefits from the new technology while preserving one of our oldest values – privacy – in a variety of different settings:

- **Medical Records:** This year the Clinton-Gore Administration will issue historic, final rules that will legally guarantee the key privacy protections: notice of data uses; consent before records are used for non-medical purposes; patient access to records; proper security; and effective enforcement. President Clinton also will support legislation to expand the scope and enforcement of those rules
- **Financial Information:** Financial modernization legislation signed by President Clinton last year included important privacy protections, but more needs to be done. This year, the President will seek further protections, including consumer choice before financial firms can share their information within a corporate family.

- Genetic Information: As the human genome project nears completion, genetic testing and information will be increasingly common to help predict, prevent, and treat diseases. However, there are real concerns that as this information becomes increasingly common that it will be used not to promote health in a protected manner, but will be used as a basis for discrimination. There are already examples of employers using this type of information as a basis not to hire or promote individuals and studies are showing that Americans fear that this information will be misused. The President will stress the need for strong action on this issue.
- On-line: In the on-line world, the Clinton-Gore Administration has encouraged self-regulatory efforts by industry to address privacy issues posed by emerging technologies and will work with consumers, industry, and interested public officials to explore how best to address the growing practice of building detailed profiles of every action consumers take online.

COMMUNITY

Service And Philanthropy

AmeriCorps and Encouraging Community Service

Since the start of his Administration, the President has encouraged and facilitated community service. Over 150,000 young people have participated in AmeriCorps – they have helped to immunize more than a million people; taught, tutored or mentored 4.4 million children; helped build some 11,000 homes; and truly sparked a new spirit of public engagement across the land. The President's budget includes over \$850 million for the Corporation for National Service. This increase of nearly \$120 million keeps AmeriCorps on track for the President's goal of 100,000 members each year by the year 2004. The budget will also include a new "AmeriCorps Reserves" program, modeled after the military reserves, and designed to engage former Corps members in times of need. The budget also includes \$15.5 million in new initiatives that reward innovations in youth service, as well as additional resources to encourage service by senior citizens, and to engage students in service through a new "Community Coaches" program.

Increasing Involvement of Interfaith Partnerships and Community Organizations

Already many faith and community-based organizations partner with government to help our nation's families, but the President and Vice President believe we should do more, and their budget proposes to increase the involvement of interfaith and community-based organizations in after school, housing, community development, criminal justice, welfare reform, teen pregnancy prevention, and juvenile justice programs, consistent with the constitutional line between church and state.

Increasing Charitable Giving

In his State of the Union address and his new budget, President Clinton today will unveil a package of new tax proposals to encourage philanthropy. First, he will propose allowing nonitemizers to take a tax deduction for charitable giving. Second, he will propose new rules to make it easier for charitable foundations to make gifts in times of need. And third, he will propose making it easier for individuals to donate appreciated assets like securities and real property. Last October, the President and First Lady convened the first-ever White House Conference on Philanthropy. The conference highlighted the unique American tradition of charitable giving, and emphasized that at a moment of great prosperity, we must preserve and expand this tradition. These proposals will help do just that

One America

Civil Rights Enforcement

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget proposes a significant increase for civil rights enforcement to help ensure equal opportunity for all Americans. These funds will help to ensure that no American is discriminated against at work, a home, or in school. The President's budget request of \$698 million for civil rights enforcement agencies represents a \$81 million, or 13 percent increase, over last year's funding levels of \$617 million. Highlights of the President's package include: (1) \$98 million Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice -- a 20 percent increase over the 2000 enacted level -- to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct), promote compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and review redistricting plans; (2) \$322 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- an increase of 15 percent over the 2000 enacted level --to support the agency's effort to reduce the backlog of private sector cases to 28,000 by the end of 2001; (3) \$76 million for Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) -- an increase of 4 percent over the 2000 enacted level --to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance, including providing contractors with the necessary tools to evaluate their equal employment practices; (4) \$50 million for Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) fair housing efforts -- an increase of 14 percent over the 2000 enacted level -- to reduce housing discrimination, including funding for the final year of a three-year

audit-based enforcement initiative and training for housing providers to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to housing.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (“ENDA”)

This bill would outlaw discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotions based on sexual orientation. It is designed to protect the rights of all Americans to participate in the job market without fear of unfair discrimination. The Act provides an exemption for small businesses, the Armed Forces, and religious organizations, including schools and other educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. The bill specifically prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation, including quotas. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are the first President and Vice President ever to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians. President Clinton originally announced his support for the legislation in October 1995.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

The President has urged Congress to pass, as one of its first orders of business, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would strengthen the existing federal hate crimes law by expanding the situations in which the Department of Justice can prosecute defendants for violent crimes based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Further, it would expand existing law to cover cases of hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. The President’s budget includes \$20 million for training for federal, state, and local law enforcement to prevent and respond to hate crimes, and to promote police integrity.

English Literacy/Civics Initiative

Like generations of immigrants past, today’s immigrants are driven by a dream – and to achieve that dream, they seek to learn the ways of this land and become full participants in American society. To this end, President Clinton is proposing an increase for the English Language/Civics Initiative an innovative program to help states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction linked to civics and life skills instruction, including understanding and navigating the U.S. government system, the public education system, the workplace, and other key institutions of American life. This important initiative is a powerful tool in building a stronger American community. For FY 2001, the Administration’s budget request \$75 million for this initiative, a nearly \$50 million increase from FY 2000 enacted level.

GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL REFORM

Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

The President and the Vice President remain committed to the enactment of bipartisan campaign finance reform. Last year, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan reform. Tonight the President is challenging the Senate to follow suit and enact real reform early this year. Acceptable campaign finance reform legislation must meet five criteria: 1) it must be bipartisan; 2) it must be comprehensive; 3) it must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections; 4) it must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents; and 5) it cannot favor one party over the other.

Reinventing Government

Three months into our Administration, the Vice President took charge of our reinventing government initiative. Seven years later, the government is the smallest it's been in nearly 40 years – over 350,000 fewer employees. And it's focused on giving Americans customer service equal to the best in business by getting results they care about. We're tossing aside outdated bureaucratic binders and red tape that too often kept us from making a real difference in people's lives. But this is not just another exercise in "good government" -- our goal is nothing short of restoring the American people's trust in their government. When we started, only 21% of the American people trusted government to do the right thing all or most of the time -- down from 76% under President Kennedy. Today, that figure is back up to 40% -- a dramatic turnaround. But it's not nearly good enough. And we won't rest until "change" and "customer service" become a permanent part of the landscape and a majority of Americans trust their government again.

Background on President Clinton's Agenda for the Nation
State of the Union Address
January 19, 1999

21st Century Schools

Education

- Accountability for Results
- Accountability for Results: End Social Promotion
- Accountability for Results: Turn Around Low Performing Schools
- Accountability for Results: Put Qualified Teachers in the Classroom
- Accountability for Results: Issue School Report Cards
- Accountability for Results: Adopt Discipline Policies
- A National Effort to Reduce Class Size in the Early Grades
- Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning
- Recruiting Outstanding New Teachers for Our Nation's Public Schools

21st Century Support for American Families

Labor

- Minimum Wage Increase
- Ensuring Equal Pay

Child Care

- Expanding the Child Care Block Grant
- Expanding After-School Opportunities
- Giving Greater Tax Relief for Child Care to Three Million Working Families
- Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home
- FMLA Expansion
- Prohibiting Discrimination Against Parents

Health Care

- Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs
- The Potential of New Biomedical Research
- Protecting Patients through a Strong, Enforceable Patients Bill of Rights
- Protecting Privacy of Medical Records
- Encouraging Small Businesses to Purchase Health Insurance
- Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 to Obtain Health Insurance
- Improving Economic Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities
- Improving Health Care Access for Uninsured Workers
- Providing Critical Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Services
- Protecting Our Children From Tobacco

21st Century Economy

21st Century Economy

- Re-employment Initiative
- Helping Adults Who Lack Basic Skills
- Welfare Rolls Decline as More Recipients go to Work
- Additional Welfare-to-Work Assistance
- New Markets Investments Initiative

- Empowerment Zones
- Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI)
- Crop Insurance Program
- Information Technology Research
- Y2K
- Financial Architecture
- A Firm Commitment to Free and Fair Trade
- "Fast Track" Traditional Trade Negotiating Authority
- Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement
- Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
- New WTO Round of Global Trade Negotiations
- International Labor Rights
- Child Labor
- U. S. Manufacturing Exports

A Strong America in a New World(NSC)

21st Century Communities

Crime/Drugs

- 21st Century Policing Initiative
- Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision
- Making the Brady Waiting Period Permanent
- Preventing Violent Juveniles from Buying Guns
- Child Safety Locks for Handguns
- helping Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free

Environment

- Climate Change
- Livability Agenda: Community Planning and Collaboration
- Livability Agenda: Better America Bonds
- Lands Legacy Initiative
- Clean Air Partnership Fund

Service

- AmeriCorps

Political Reform

- Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

One America

- English Literacy/Civics Initiative
- Civil Rights Enforcement
- The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA")
- The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

Peroration: the Millennium

- Millennium Communities Program
- Save America's Treasures Program

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

EDUCATION

Accountability for Results

In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton will announce a package of accountability measures designed to hold students, teachers, and schools to high standards, and to ensure that school districts and states provide students with a high quality education. These proposals will help to lift student achievement in every public school and close the opportunity gap by giving special attention to disadvantaged students in low-performing schools.

The President's plan marks a sea change in national education policy -- for the first time holding states and school districts accountable for progress and rewarding them for results. While insisting that states and local governments retain primary responsibility for education, President Clinton will call on Congress to make sure federal dollars support what works and not what doesn't. His proposal emphasizes reforms that a growing number of states, cities, and schools across the nation are implementing and that are producing clear results.

Specifically, the President will announce that he will send Congress legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure that schools end social promotion; teachers are qualified to teach the subjects they are assigned; states turn around their lowest-performing schools; parents get annual report cards on school performance; and schools institute effective discipline policies.

Accountability for Results: End Social Promotion

The President's proposal will require states and school districts to end social promotion -- the practice of promoting students from grade to grade regardless of whether they have mastered the appropriate material and are academically prepared to do the work at the next level. Students who are promoted without regard to their achievement fall even further behind their classmates, and are more likely to lack basic skills upon graduating from high school.

To ensure that this requirement helps more students succeed, rather than simply increasing the number held back, states and school districts would have to show how they will help students meet promotion standards on time by (1) strengthening learning opportunities in the classroom with clear standards, small classes with well-prepared teachers, high quality professional development, and use of proven instructional practices; (2) identifying students who need help at the earliest possible moment; (3) providing extended learning time, including after-school and summer school for students who need extra help; and (4) developing an effective remedial plan, with intensive intervention, for students who still do not meet the standards, so they can get back on track in their schooling.

In 1996 President Clinton challenged every state and school district to adopt policies to end social promotion and require students to pass high school graduation exams. Twenty six states now have high school exit exams, and last year four states adopted policies to stop promoting unprepared students from grade to grade. A growing number of urban school districts, including Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington D.C. are adopting similar policies. In Chicago, which three years ago ended the practice of social promotion in a way that gives students who need it substantial extended learning time, citywide math and reading scores have gone up every year, with the largest gains among the most disadvantaged students. President Clinton's FY 2000 budget proposes to triple federal funding for after-school and summer school programs (from \$200 million to \$600 million) to help schools ending social promotion give students the extra help they need to succeed.

Accountability for Results: Turn Around Low Performing Schools

The President's proposal will require states to identify the schools with the lowest achievement levels and least improvement and take corrective action to turn them around. These corrective actions, based on a careful assessment of each school's needs, would include steps such as intensive teacher training, support to improve school discipline, and the implementation of proven approaches to school reform. If these actions do not result in improved student achievement within two years, the proposal would require states to take additional corrective actions, such as permitting students to attend other public schools; reconstituting the school, by fairly evaluating the staff and making staff changes as appropriate; or closing the school and reopening it as a charter school or with an entirely new staff. Nineteen states currently take similar actions to help improve low-performing schools, and experience demonstrates that when these interventions carefully implemented and accompanied by the resources to support change, schools improve and student achievement increases. The President's FY 2000 budget contains \$200 million to help states begin taking these steps immediately.

Accountability for Results: Put Qualified Teachers in the Classroom

According to the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, one of the most important factors in improving student achievement is the knowledge and skills teachers bring to the classroom. Yet every year, approximately 50,000 individuals teach on "emergency" certificates, which means they do not meet the standards the state has set for certification. In addition, numerous teachers teach subjects for which they lack adequate preparation, with fully one quarter of secondary school teachers lacking even a minor in their main teaching field. Students in schools with the highest concentrations of poverty -- those who often need the most help from the best teachers -- are most likely to be in classrooms with teachers who are not fully qualified: for example, in schools with the highest minority enrollment, students have a less than 50 percent chance of having a math or science teacher with a license and degree in the field.

The President's proposal will require states to adopt performance examinations for all new teachers, requiring them to demonstrate both subject-matter knowledge and teaching expertise. The proposal also will require states and school districts to phase out, over five years, the use of teachers with emergency certificates and the practice of assigning teachers to subjects for which they lack adequate preparation. To support these new teacher quality standards, the proposal will provide resources to help states strengthen teacher certification standards, test new teachers, provide training to current teachers, and give incentives to recruit more highly qualified teachers.

Accountability for Results: Issue School Report Cards

The President's proposal will require states to distribute to all parents annual report cards for each school and school district, as well as the state as a whole. The report cards will include information on student achievement, teacher professional qualifications, class size, school safety, and other factors that will help parents to judge the performance of the schools. Where appropriate, the report cards also will show the academic achievement of ethnic and racial subgroups, to ensure accountability for helping all students achieve. Thirty-six states currently publish or require local school districts to publish school report cards, and five additional states will begin the practice in the next two years. A recent report by Public Agenda, however, shows that only 31 percent of parents had seen these report cards. The President's proposal will help ensure that all parents in all states have access to the information they need to evaluate the quality of their schools and identify the areas in which improvement is needed.

Accountability for Results: Adopt Discipline Policies

Schools must be a place of learning. President Clinton already has challenged states, communities, and schools to take a number of steps to restore order and safety, such as adopting school uniforms, enforcing truancy laws, and imposing curfews. But in some schools, the breakdown of classroom discipline remains one of the biggest obstacles to learning and one of the greatest concerns for teachers, students, and parents alike. The President's proposal will require states and school districts to adopt discipline policies to make sure students have the chance

to learn and teachers have the chance to teach.

A National Effort to Reduce Class Size in the Early Grades

In his 1998 State of the Union address, President Clinton proposed to help local school schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Studies show that smaller classes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; this helps students to learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In these studies, minority and disadvantaged students showed the largest achievement gains. Last year, Congress provided a down payment on the President's seven year, \$12.4 billion proposal by appropriating \$1.2 billion to help local communities hire nearly 30,000 teachers. Now Congress must finish the job by providing the remaining funds for local schools to hire 100,000 new teachers over seven years.

Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning

For students to learn, schools must be well-equipped and be able to accommodate smaller class sizes. In 1998, the American Society of Civil Engineers said that school buildings represent the nation's most pressing infrastructure need. To address this critical need, President Clinton is proposing federal tax credits to pay the interest on bonds to build and renovate public schools. Half of the bond authority will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income children, and the other half will be allocated to the states.

Recruiting Outstanding New Teachers for Our Nation's Public Schools

With more than 2 million teachers to be hired in the next ten years to accommodate record student enrollments and an aging teaching force, the nation must not only recruit an adequate *number* of teachers, but ensure a *quality* teaching force through effective teacher recruitment and preparation. The President's budget will contain a series of new initiatives and funding increases to help recruit well prepared individuals to teach where they are needed the most, in high poverty urban and rural communities. In particular, the President's FY 2000 budget will increase funding for his teacher recruitment effort enacted in last year's Higher Education Act — to \$35 million from \$7.5 million — to recruit 7,000 outstanding new teachers into high need public schools by giving them scholarships in exchange for a commitment to teach. The President will announce other initiatives to improve teacher quality at an event later in the week.

21ST CENTURY SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

LABOR

Minimum Wage Increase

The President called on Congress to pass an increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and struggling to make ends meet. The President believes that parents who work hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. The President's proposal would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15 over two years -- through a 50-cent increase on September 1, 1999 and a 50-cent increase on September 1, 2000 -- helping to restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was when President Reagan took office in 1981. This increase will help ensure that -- as costs continue to increase -- parents who work hard and play by the rules can bring up their children out of poverty. For someone who works full-time, this minimum wage increase will mean an additional \$2,000 per year. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 12 million hourly paid workers would benefit directly from this pay raise.

Ensuring Equal Pay

According to the Department of Labor, the average woman who works full-time earns just 74 cents for each dollar that an average man earns. For women of color, the gap is even wider. This gap is, in part, attributable to differing levels of experience, education, and skill. However, even after accounting for these factors, a significant pay gap still remains between men and women in similar jobs. Recognizing this wage disparity, the President is proposing a \$14 million equal pay initiative for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Labor. Additional details of this initiative will be announced at a later date. The President also will continue to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which improves the enforcement of wage discrimination laws and provides for research, education, training of EEOC staff, and outreach on this important subject.

CHILD CARE

Expanding the Child Care Block Grant

The President is proposing to expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care. The President's proposal will: (1) increase funding for child care subsidies by \$7.5 billion over five years, enabling the program to serve an additional 1.15 million children by FY 2004; (2) provide \$3 billion over five years to promote early learning; and (3) provide \$173 million to improve child care quality. Additional funds for subsidies are necessary because millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs currently do not receive any help: in FY 1997, states provided child care assistance to only 1.25 million of the 10 million low-income children eligible. Additional funding to improve early learning through challenge grants to communities for children ages zero to five responds to research showing that children's experiences in the earliest years are critical to their development and ability to reach school ready to learn. Finally, increased investment in improving child care is needed to support quality enhancement efforts such as performing inspections of child care facilities, providing resource and referral services for parents, assisting providers with training and scholarships, and creating networks for family day care providers.

Expanding After-School Opportunities

The President is committed to triple funding for the 21st Century Learning Center Program, which supports the

creation and expansion of after-school and summer school programs throughout the country. Experts agree that school-age children who are unsupervised during the hours after school are far more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, commit crimes, receive poor grades, and drop out of school than those who are involved in supervised, constructive activities. The program increases the supply of after-school care in a cost-effective manner, primarily by funding programs that use public school facilities and existing resources. In awarding these new funds, the Education Department will give priority to school districts that are ending social promotion by requiring that students meet academic standards in order to move to the next grade. The President's budget will include \$600 million in FY 2000 to help roughly 1.1 million children each year participate in after-school and summer school programs.

Giving Greater Tax Relief for Child Care to Three Million Working Families

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides tax relief to taxpayers who pay for the care of a child under 13 or a disabled dependent or spouse in order to work. The credit is equal to a percentage of the taxpayer's employment-related expenditures for child or dependent care, with the amount of the credit depending on the taxpayer's income. The President's proposal increases the credit for families earning under \$60,000, providing an additional average tax cut of \$354 for these families and eliminating income tax liability for almost all families with incomes below 200% of poverty (\$35,000 for a family of four) that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. The President's budget will include \$5 billion over five years to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for nearly three million working families paying for child care. The President's plan also includes a new tax credit to businesses that provide child care services for their employees.

Providing Tax Relief to Parents Who Stay at Home

The President believes that we should support parents in whatever choice they make for the care of their children. He therefore is proposing to enable parents who stay at home with children under one year old to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of \$500. The President's budget proposal will provide an average tax credit of \$178, at a cost of \$1.3 billion over five years, which will benefit 1.7 million families.

FMLA Expansion

The President is proposing again to extend the benefits of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law -- to ten million more American workers. Today, workers are eligible for up to 12 weeks of FMLA-protected leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse -- if they work at a business with 50 or more employees. By covering workers in businesses with 25 or more workers, 10 million more American workers will be covered by the FMLA. The President is also calling for expanding the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers to take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations. Leave could be taken to: (1) participate in school activities, such as parent-teacher conferences; (2) accompany one's child to routine dental or medical appointments; and (3) accompany an elderly relative to routine medical appointments or other professional services.

Prohibiting Discrimination Against Parents

The President proposed new federal legislation to protect parents from discrimination in the workplace. Building on laws in Alaska, Michigan, New Jersey and other states, this legislation would protect workers from unfair assumptions about their commitment to their job that can affect hiring, advancement, and other employment decisions. This law would not prohibit employers from making hiring and promotion decisions on the basis of job performance, but would ensure that workers are not unfairly discriminated against simply because they are parents.

HEALTH CARE

Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs

Over five million Americans, most of whom are elderly, have significant limitations due to illness or disability and thus require long-term care. The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options: by 2030, the number of elderly Americans will have doubled, so that one in five Americans will be elderly. President Clinton has proposed an historic new \$6.2 billion initiative to support elderly and disabled Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of family members who care for them. This initiative includes a \$5.5 billion investment in a \$1,000 tax credit to compensate for the cost of long-term care services; a new \$250 million National Family Caregiver Program; a \$10 million national campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about long-term care options; and \$15 million to allow the Federal government to offer long-term care insurance to its employees at group rates.

The Potential of New Biomedical Research

Advances in biomedical research have captured the imagination of all Americans, with scientists now poised to make advances that could revolutionize the way we treat diseases. The President's new \$320 million investment in NIH will allow us to make progress in preventing the complications of diabetes, combating diseases associated with aging, like Alzheimers and Parkinson's, and developing vaccines for tuberculosis, malaria, and AIDS.

Protecting Patients through a Strong, Enforceable Patients Bill of Rights

Once again, the President is calling on Congress to pass a strong federally enforceable patients' bill of rights. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed specialists, access to emergency room services when and where the need arises, access to a meaningful independent and external appeals process for consumers to resolve differences with their health plans, and the right to be compensated when a health plan's decision causes a patient to be harmed or die. The President is already doing everything he can to implement these protections, by extending them to the 85 million Americans covered by Federal health plans.

Protecting Privacy of Medical Records

The President is challenging the Congress to pass strong bipartisan legislation to protect the privacy of medical records. The President also pledged that if Congress does not pass this legislation this summer, he will take action to implement protections for electronic medical records under the authority given to him by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Encouraging Small Businesses to Purchase Health Insurance

Many small businesses cannot offer health insurance because of their higher administrative costs and premiums relative to large businesses. As a result, workers in small firms are less likely to have access to affordable, job-based health insurance. Nearly half of uninsured workers are in firms with fewer than 25 employees (relative to 30 percent of all workers). The President is proposing a new \$44 million initiative to encourage small businesses to offer health insurance to their workers by developing and/or joining coalitions for purchasing health insurance. This three-part initiative would provide a tax credit to small businesses that decide to offer coverage by joining coalitions; encourage private foundations to support coalitions by allowing their contributions towards these organizations to be tax exempt; and offering technical assistance to new small business coalitions.

Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 to Obtain Health Insurance

Americans ages 55 to 65 are one of the fastest growing groups of uninsured Americans. They are also extremely difficult to insure: they have less access to and a greater risk of losing employer-based health insurance; and they are twice as likely to have health problems as the population generally. The President's \$1.4 billion proposal gives this vulnerable population three new ways to gain access to health insurance by: (1) allowing Americans

ages 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare, through a mechanism that preserves the Medicare trust fund; (2) assisting vulnerable displaced workers 55 and over by offering those who have involuntarily lost their jobs and health care coverage a similar Medicare buy-in option; and (3) giving Americans 55 and over who have lost their retiree benefits access to their former employers' health insurance.

Improving Economic Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities

Since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office, the American economy has added 17.7 million new jobs. However, the unemployment rate among working-age adults with disabilities is still nearly 75 percent. People with disabilities can bring tremendous energy and talent to the American workforce, yet institutional barriers often limit their ability to work. The President's budget proposes a historic new \$2 billion initiative that removes significant barriers to work for people with disabilities. It includes the Work Incentives Improvement Act, which invests \$1.2 billion in providing options for workers with disabilities to buy into Medicaid and Medicare; a new \$700 million investment in a \$1,000 tax credit for workers with disabilities; and more than double the government's current investment, an increase of \$35 million, in assistive technologies that make it possible for individuals with disabilities to work.

Improving Health Care Access for Uninsured Workers

This new initiative invests \$1 billion over 5 years in local communities to integrate providers that traditionally provide services to the uninsured, such as public hospitals and clinics, into networks that provide a comprehensive range of services to uninsured people. Providers will receive funds to develop the financial, information, and telecommunication systems necessary to monitor and manage patient needs, as well as funds to expand the range of services they deliver.

Providing Critical Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Services

Approximately 44 million adults and 14 million children suffer from a mental disorder each year. The Clinton/Gore Administration's new FY2000 budget includes a \$70 million increase -- the largest ever -- in the mental health block grant. This 24 percent increase, totaling \$358 million, will enable states to enhance and expand their efforts to assist people with mental illnesses, by targeting particularly-hard-to-reach adults and children with severe mental illnesses, improving school violence abatement programs, helping states provide new effective medications for people of mental illnesses, and providing services to older Americans who are reluctant to reach mental health services in traditional mental health settings. This spring, the Administration will also hold the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health.

Protecting Our Children From Tobacco

Every day, 3000 children become regular smokers and 1000 have their lives shortened because of it. Almost 90 percent of adult smokers began smoking by age 18 and today 4.5 million children -- 37 percent of all high school students -- smoke cigarettes. The state tobacco settlement is an important step in the right direction, but the President believes additional measures must be taken at the national level to reduce youth smoking and hold the tobacco industry accountable: 1) raise the price of cigarettes, so fewer young people start to smoke; 2) reaffirm the Food and Drug Administration's full authority to keep cigarettes out of the hands of children; 3) fund critical public health efforts to prevent youth smoking and enact measures to hold the tobacco industry accountable for reducing youth smoking; and 4) protect farmers and farming communities. The President's budget will use all the funds resulting from this plan to help reimburse the federal government for its annual tobacco-related health costs.

Largest Increase in Family Planning Grants in 15 Years

The President's FY 2000 budget proposal will call for a substantial increase in Title X Family Planning grants, which helps provide women with vital services, including contraception, pregnancy testing, STD screening and treatment. Further details of this increase will be announced later this week.

21ST CENTURY ECONOMY

21ST CENTURY ECONOMY

Re-employment Initiative

In 1995, President Clinton proposed a G.I. Bill for America's Workers to reform our employment and training system for the 21st-century economy by empowering individuals, streamlining services, enhancing accountability, and increasing flexibility. For over three years, President Clinton repeatedly pressed Congress to pass job-training reform based on his original proposal. Last year, the Congress finally passed and the President signed comprehensive job training reform. This year, the President proposes a long-term commitment to ensuring that Americans who are displaced from their jobs can get the training they need to get new jobs.

Helping Adults Who Lack Basic Skills

President Clinton will soon announce a major effort to help the more than 44 million adults who perform at the lowest level of literacy to obtain the skills they need to succeed in today's economy and to help immigrants more fully integrate into our civic and social life. This effort includes the 10% tax credit for employers who provide workplace education programs for their employees and a new award to recognize "High Skills" communities for their outstanding achievement in promoting adult education as announced by the Vice President on January 12. Later this month, the President will announce the other parts of this initiative.

Welfare Rolls Decline as More Recipients go to Work

The President announced that the percentage of the U.S. population on welfare is at its lowest level in 30 years and the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since the President took office. The percent of welfare recipients working has tripled since 1992, and all states met the first work participation rates required under the welfare reform law. Two years ago the President challenged the business community to create jobs so that people can move from welfare to work. Today, 10,000 companies of all sizes, industries, and from all regions have joined the Welfare to Work Partnership and are successfully hiring and retaining former welfare recipients.

Additional Welfare-to-Work Assistance

The President announced that he will propose additional funding for his Welfare-to-Work program to ensure that those remaining on the welfare rolls who face the greatest challenges can succeed in the workforce and to increase the employment of low-income fathers so they can better support their children. This funding will help 200,000 people move from welfare to work and will help increase child support collections, which have gone up 80 percent since 1992. The President will announce further details of this proposal next week.

New Markets Investments Initiative

One of the great still unmet challenges for the start of the 21st century is building economically vibrant communities in those places that our prosperity has not yet reached -- inner cities and distressed rural areas. These new markets here at home have great potential. We must build a bridge between Wall Street and our great untapped markets. The President's new markets initiative will spur \$15 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these underserved areas through a package of tax credits and guarantees.

Specifically:

- ***New Markets Tax Credit:*** A billion dollars of tax credits over five years worth up to 25% of the amount of equity invested in a variety of vehicles for providing equity and credit to businesses in underserved areas.

- **America's Private Investment Companies (APICs):** Each year, five new private investment partnerships of up to \$300 million could be created. For each new APIC, HUD and the SBA would provide up to \$200 million in loan guarantees to match \$100 million in private investment, creating a fund of \$300 million for investment in mid-sized firms expanding or relocating into underserved areas.
- **New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs):** SBA will match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20 new investment partnerships selected to provide both patient growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.
- **SBICs targeted to new markets:** Over 40 years, the SBIC program has helped more than 85,000 small companies grow, some from start-ups to household names like AOL; but the program has not done enough to help spur growth in underserved areas. SBA will provide more flexibility and new financing terms, along with aggressive outreach, to promote investment in low- and moderate-income areas by SBICs.
- **New Market Lending Companies (NMLCs):** SBA will approve approximately 10 new non-bank lenders who have a strategy to target their lending to underserved areas.
- **Continued Growth for Community Development Financial Institutions:** In 1994, the President proposed and Congress established the CDFI Fund. This fund further expands the availability of credit, investment capital, financial services, and other development services in distressed communities. The President is proposing to expand funding for the CDFI program to \$125 million -- a \$30 million increase from FY 1999.
- **Other:** Other elements include seed money to expand BusinessLINC partnerships to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets and reforms to the Specialized Small Business Investment Company (SSBIC) tax credit to make it easier to use.

Empowerment Zones

Last week Vice President Gore named 20 economically distressed communities as Round Two Empowerment Zones (EZs). Tonight, the President is reaffirming his Administration's commitment to securing full funding for round two EZs. If Congress approves full funding for the EZs, federal investment is expected to help create and retain about 90,000 jobs and stimulate \$20.3 billion in private and public investment in the next 10 years.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI)

In 1994, the President proposed and Congress established the CDFI Fund. This Fund further expands the availability of credit, investment capital, financial services, and other development services in distressed communities. The President is proposing to expand funding for the Fund to \$125 million, including \$15 million for a new microenterprise initiative.

Crop Insurance Program

In the midst of the strongest economy we have enjoyed in decades, many farmers are suffering and others are at risk through no fault of their own. Natural disasters, coupled with declining demand abroad (exports have accounted for roughly a third of our farm products) brought historic losses last year. The President fought for and got an additional \$6 billion in emergency aid for farmers in 1998. But this is not an unexpected or one-time-only problem. When the President signed the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, he called for additional work to be done to create an adequate safety net for farmers. In his State of the Union, he pledged to work with Members of both parties to achieve the needed reforms -- both in the crop insurance program and in farm income assistance -- this

year.

Information Technology Research

President Clinton and Vice President Gore will propose a more than 30-percent increase of at least \$366 million in the government's investment in information technology research. The Vice President will announce the specifics of this initiative later this week.

Y2K

The year 2000 problem results from a computer programming practice that for over 30 years designated a year by its last two digits, such as "99" for "1999." When the program has to deal with the year 2000, or "00," malfunctions may occur in software applications or operating processes because the program stops, reads the year as "1900," or otherwise produces erroneous information. The President and Vice President have been leading the attack on this problem by establishing a goal for all Federal programs to be year 2000 compliant by March 31, 1999 and by establishing the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. The December quarterly report from the Office of Management and Budget indicated that 61% of the Federal Government's mission critical systems, such as those for issuing Social Security checks, were already year 2000 compliant and 90% of the work to repair such systems had been completed with testing of the fixes underway. The Council's mandate is to coordinate the work of Federal agencies as they correct their own systems and to reach out to governments at all levels as well as the private sector to help facilitate their efforts to meet the challenge of crossing into the next century without noticeable difficulty.

Financial Architecture

As the world's strongest economy and largest exporter, America alone can and must lead the world in addressing the global financial crisis and in designing a global financial architecture for the 21st century. Starting last year, the President laid out a strategy working with key emerging and industrial economies to address the current crisis and restore recovery, by providing the IMF expanded resources and new tools, by strengthening social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable, systemic approaches to rebuilding financial and banking sectors, and establishing "precautionary" means for assisting countries with strong policies ward off contagion. Longer term, we must prevent the disruptive cycle of boom and bust by strengthening openness and accountability, strengthening national financial systems and international surveillance, providing more orderly mechanisms for crisis response, and ensuring the participation of the private sector in crisis prevention and mitigation. This work will culminate in the meeting of G-7 leaders in Cologne Germany in June.

A Firm Commitment to Free and Fair Trade

The global financial crisis has touched the lives of many Americans. The steel industry has experienced a surge in low-priced imports into the United States that has adversely impacted our companies, workers and communities. This Administration is taking forceful steps to vigorously enforce our trade laws, to engage major exporting and importing nations to trade fairly and to bear their fair share of the import burden, to help crisis-stricken countries achieve recovery, and to provide American communities, workers and companies with the resources they need to adjust to the forces of globalization. We have informed Japan, which accounts for almost half of the surge in steel imports into the United States, and whose exports in hot rolled sheet steel have risen by over 400 percent from 1997 to 1998, that it must trade fairly, and that we expect its exports to fall to appropriate pre-crisis levels. We are prepared to take appropriate WTO-consistent actions under our trade laws to ensure that happens. The President has made clear that open, rules-based trade is essential for both global economic recovery and continued U.S. prosperity.

"Fast Track" Traditional Trade Negotiating Authority

The President called for a new consensus granting him "fast track" trade authority to expand America's opportunities in the global economy while ensuring that increased competition does not become a race to the

bottom. With a global round of trade negotiations just around the corner and with the global financial crisis threatening hard won gains, it is more important than ever to give the President traditional trade authority to break down trade barriers that put American products made by American workers at a disadvantage. This authority has been given to every president since 1974 in order to pursue America's national interest in the global economy. Without trade authority, America's role as the largest exporter in the world could be put in jeopardy and America's ability to continue creating higher-paying jobs for more Americans could be undermined.

Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement

The President will work with Congress toward swift passage of legislation expanding Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) trade ties with Caribbean and Central American countries. This trade legislation will create opportunities for American companies and workers even as it provides enhanced market access and economic stimulus for countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

Africa Growth and Opportunity Act

The President is committed to working with Congress on passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This trade initiative would expand trade and investment ties with African strongest reformers by providing greater market access for selected products. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is a core element of the President's Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity in Africa, which aims to raise living standards and create jobs. American companies, farmers, and workers all stand to benefit from expanding our trade with the largest underdeveloped market in the world.

New WTO Round of Global Trade Negotiations

The President is calling for the launch of an ambitious new WTO Round to shape the world trading system in the 21st century when world trade ministers meet in the United States this December. The United States must play a leadership role: as the world's largest exporter, we have the most at stake. A successful Round will mean dramatic market liberalization for America's world class farmers and ranchers, critical market opening for competitive American service providers, such as express delivery, environmental, energy, audiovisual, and professional services, who are competing in markets where the preponderance of global trade is still not subject to WTO rules, removal of tariffs on industrial goods where many trading partners in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere still maintain far higher rates than the United States, and further opening in government procurement markets. The President is calling for a new type of Round for the new century, which could yield concrete early results in key areas, ensure that labor and environmental standards are fully protected so that trade opening does not lead to a race to the bottom and result in a more open and accountable WTO system.

International Labor Rights

The global economy holds the promise of a higher standard of living for more people in more countries, but we must ensure that spirited competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom on labor standards. President Clinton's FY 2000 budget will provide almost \$40 million for the first time ever to help developing countries implement and enforce core labor and workplace safety standards and build social safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and pensions. Specifically, the United States will provide: \$25 million to establish a new multilateral program at the International Labor Organization (ILO) to provide technical assistance to labor rights efforts; \$9.5 million to the Department of Labor to help our trading partners strengthen their enforcement and implementation mechanisms; and \$5 million to the Department of State to encourage cooperative efforts to eliminate international sweatshops.

Child Labor

Last year the President fought for and obtained a ten-fold increase in the U.S. contribution to the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor -- a \$30 million contribution making the U.S. the world's leader in the fight to reduce the most intolerable forms of child labor. This year, we will insist on maintaining that level

of IPEC funding while adding a new \$10 million program -- "School Works" -- through U.S. AID to improve access to education to make it easier to get kids out of hazardous workplaces. In addition, the proposal calls for additional agents for the U.S. Customs Service to enforce the ban on the importation of goods made with forced or indentured child labor (almost doubling the enforcement budget from \$3 million to \$5 billion) and an increase of \$4 million (above last year's \$3 million) for domestic enforcement of labor laws in industries vulnerable to child labor -- garment and "salad bowl" farms.

U. S. Manufacturing Exports

Manufacturing exports have been a key engine of America's sustained economic expansion. However, the global financial crisis has put that progress at risk. To help American manufacturers safeguard their hard-won gains in foreign markets and expand into new growth areas, the Administration is launching a \$108 million initiative to spur nearly \$2 billion in additional U.S. exports, which will sustain or create 16,000 high-wage American manufacturing jobs. First, the initiative boosts funding for the Export-Import Bank by 10 percent (\$81 million) to keep U.S. products -- from aircraft parts to capital equipment to environmental technology -- flowing to emerging markets where commercial banks have withdrawn. Second, the Trade Development Agency will receive an additional \$4 million for feasibility studies to enable U.S. companies to participate in major export-generating infrastructure projects overseas. Third, the initiative provides \$14 million for the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) to increase resources for export advocacy and service delivery to small manufacturers. Finally, the initiative provides \$9 million for ITA and Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology to help developing countries establish a legal and regulatory infrastructure to make it easier for U.S. firms to export.

A STRONG AMERICA IN A NEW WORLD (NSC)

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITIES

CRIME/DRUGS

21st Century Policing Initiative

In order to keep crime coming down to record low levels and the number of officers walking the beat at an all-time high, the President is committing nearly \$1.3 billion for a new 21st Century Policing Initiative. The new 21st Century Policing Initiative builds on the President's successful COPS program by: (1) helping communities to hire and redeploy between 30,000 and 50,000 more law enforcement officers over five years, with an effort to target new police officers to crime "hot spots" and to help retain those officers recently hired; (2) giving law enforcement access to the latest crime-fighting technologies, such as improved police communications, crime mapping software, laptop computers, and crime lab improvements; and (3) making an unprecedented commitment to engage entire communities in the hard work of preventing and fighting crime -- by funding new community-based prosecutors, and partnerships with probation and parole officers, school officials, and faith-based organizations.

Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision

Numerous studies confirm that the vast majority of prisoners report drug use and that many prisoners commit their crimes to buy drugs or while high. To help break this iron link between crime and drugs, the President will propose \$215 million for Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision that works to keep offenders drug- and crime-free. This initiative will provide new funds to help states and localities implement tough new systems to drug test, treat, and punish prisoners, parolees, and probationers. In addition, this initiative provides increased funds for innovative drug courts throughout the country and intensive drug treatment for state prisoners with the most serious drug problems.

Making the Brady Waiting Period Permanent

The Brady Law, which requires background checks of all prospective firearms purchasers, has stopped well over a quarter of a million illegal handgun sales since its enactment in 1993 -- proving itself to be one of the most effective law enforcement tools ever. But the Brady Law's "cooling off" or waiting period recently expired, and handguns can now be purchased on the spot in some states. To make sure that local law enforcement officers have enough time to conduct the best background check possible, the President will call for a new national waiting period of up to five days before the purchase of a handgun.

Preventing Violent Juveniles from Buying Guns

Violent juveniles should be treated as adults for their adult crimes, and stopped from getting weapons to hurt again. The President will propose legislation to ban violent juveniles from buying guns for life. The President's proposal would extend the Brady Law to violent juveniles, closing the loophole under current law which permits youths convicted in juvenile court for certain violent and drug offenses to buy handguns on their 21st birthday.

Child Safety Locks for Handguns

Child safety locking devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. And many youths have to look no further than their own home to get access to a gun: a third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. To address this problem, the President's proposal would require federally-licensed firearms dealers to sell a child safety lock with every handgun -- to help prevent youths from hurting themselves or each other.

Helping Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free

President Clinton is proposing a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program to provide more effective prevention programs for the reduction of drugs and violence in schools, more accountability for results, and better targeting to those schools that need the most assistance.. Under the President's proposal, schools would be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

On the heels of the announcement that 1998 surpassed 1997 as the warmest year on record, the President's FY 2000 budget will propose a package of investments and tax cuts to help address global climate change. It includes start-up funding for a new Clean Air Partnership Fund (discussed below) and tax incentives to promote the purchase of energy-efficient cars, homes, and appliances, spurring the swift movement of innovative technologies into the market. Proposed increases in Federal spending would help foster a new generation of clean, energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy, as well as support research to identify and quantify carbon sinks in forests and farmlands. This package complements the other elements of the Administration's climate change plan, which include working cooperatively with industry sectors on initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening efforts to incorporate energy efficiency goals into Federal procurement and energy use, working with Congress to reward companies taking early, voluntary action to reduce their emissions, and restructuring the electricity industry. In addition, the Administration will continue its vigorous diplomatic efforts to fill in key details of the Kyoto Protocol in areas such as international emissions trading, as well as to encourage the meaningful participation of developing countries in efforts to address global warming.

Livability Agenda: Community Planning and Collaboration

To help communities across America grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing a comprehensive Livability Agenda providing new tools and resources for state and local governments. The initiative includes: a record \$6.1 billion for public transit, plus \$2.2 billion for other innovative programs to promote improved transportation planning and ease traffic congestion so commuters can spend less time in traffic and more with their families; \$50 million in matching grants to help neighboring communities develop collaborative "smart growth" strategies; and \$100 million to encourage citizen participation in the design of schools as centers of their communities, provide communities with new information tools so they can grow according to their values, and improve public safety by sharing crime data among communities. By delivering tools and resources to the local level, where issues of growth are most appropriately addressed, this initiative helps empower citizens to build more "livable communities" for the 21st century.

Livability Agenda: Better America Bonds

To help communities reconnect with their land and water, preserve green space for future generations, and provide attractive settings for economic development, the Administration is proposing a new financing tool generating \$9.5 billion in bond authority for investments by state, local and tribal governments. The President's budget will propose tax credits totaling approximately \$700 million over five years -- to support Better America Bonds, which can be used to preserve green space, create or restore urban parks, protect water quality, and clean up brownfields (abandoned industrial sites). The program will be coordinated through an interagency process.

Lands Legacy Initiative

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

Clean Air Partnership Fund

To help protect public health and ease the threat of global warming, President Clinton is proposing a new Clean Air Partnership Fund supporting state, local and private efforts that achieve early reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level air pollutants. The Fund, to be included in the President's FY 2000 budget proposal, will direct new resources to state and local governments to provide financing for public and private sector projects that accelerate pollution reductions. This new financing will support projects that go beyond legal requirements and enable communities to achieve clean air goals sooner. Targeting the financing to projects that reduce both carbon emissions and health-threatening pollutants -- such as smog, soot or air toxics -- will stimulate integrated, cost-effective pollution control strategies. In addition, the Fund will spur technological innovation, encourage public-private partnerships, and leverage substantial non-federal investment in improved air quality. The Fund will be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency under existing authority.

SERVICE

AmeriCorps

President Clinton called on Congress to increase support for AmeriCorps. When he came into office, the President outlined a vision for a national service program which would allow young people to serve our nation while earning funds for college. Since 1994, more than 100,000 Americans have served their country and community through AmeriCorps. Serving in more than 4,000 communities, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored or mentored more than 2.6 million children, operated after-school programs for more than 500,000 at-risk youth, recruited or organized more than 1.7 million volunteers, and operated more than 40,000 neighborhood safety patrols. In the FY 2000 budget, the President is proposing a \$133 million dollar increase over FY 1999 for the Corporation for National Service in order to expand AmeriCorps and support other national service programs.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

The President remains committed to the enactment of bipartisan campaign finance reform. Tonight he is challenging the Congress to pass bipartisan reform early this year. Acceptable campaign finance reform legislation must meet five criteria: 1) it must be bipartisan; 2) it must be comprehensive; 3) it must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections; 4) it must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents; and 5) it cannot favor one party over the other.

Reinventing Government

We have already cut the size of the Federal civilian work force by more than 345,000 people, creating the

smallest work force in 35 years and, as a share of total civilian employment, the smallest since 1931. But can be done. As part of its reinvention effort to create a government that works better and costs less, the administration will propose legislation creating new buyout authorities for agencies to reduce the further the size of government. To improve customer satisfaction, the 32 agencies that serve over 90% of the government's customers will participate in a government-wide customer satisfaction survey that will compare the quality of their services to the private sector's. To produce better results for children, the federal government will enter into ten partnerships with state and local governments that will increase their flexibility in using federal program dollars using key indicators that reliably chart measurable improvements in the lives of children. Finally, to assist Federal agencies to provide better customer service and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent to produce results, President Clinton is proposing significant civil service improvement initiatives. These improvements, which will result in the most dramatic change in the Federal workplace in 20 years, will increase the link between pay and good performance, and provide agencies with flexibilities to hire, reward, and retain the high-quality, diverse workforce they need to meet their mission and respond to increasing customer and workplace demands.

ONE AMERICA

English Literacy/Civics Initiative

President Clinton is proposing an initiative to help states and communities provide expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction, linked to practical instruction in civics and life skills including how to navigate the workplace and public education system. This initiative is designed both to help meet the extraordinary demand for English and civics instruction in immigrant communities and to demonstrate our shared commitment to fully integrating new Americans into our social and civic life. The initiative is part of a broader effort to reduce adult literacy. Further details of this initiative will be provided at a later date.

Civil Rights Enforcement

The Clinton Administration's Fiscal Year 2000 budget contains \$663 million for civil rights enforcement agencies and offices -- an increase of \$84 million, or 15 percent, over last year's funding. This budget maintains the President's commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans: that no one should be denied such essentials as a job, a home, or a chance at an education because of the color of their skin, a disability, their gender, or their religion. Highlights of the President's package include: (1) a \$13 million increase for the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice -- the largest increase in nine years -- to permit the Division to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes), fair housing and lending cases, and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act; (2) a \$14 million Equal Pay Initiative at the EEOC and the Department of Labor; (3) a \$33 million overall increase for the EEOC -- from \$279 to \$312 million; (4) an \$11 million overall increase for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP) at the Department of Labor to expand the compliance assistance strategy to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance; and (5) \$5 million to the Department of Justice for the creation of a Civil Rights Enforcement Partnership that will provide competitive grants to help build the capacity of States to address specific enforcement issues within their jurisdictions by hiring additional staff.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA")

This bill would outlaw discrimination in hiring, firing, and promotions based on sexual orientation. It is designed to protect the rights of all Americans to participate in the job market without fear of unfair discrimination. The Act provides an exemption for small businesses, the Armed Forces, and religious organizations, including schools and other educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. The bill specifically prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation, including quotas. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are the first President and Vice President ever to back civil rights legislation for

gays and lesbians. President Clinton originally announced his support for the legislation in October 1995.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

This measure expands the principal federal hate crimes statute. The current statute prohibits any use of force that is based on a person's race, color, religion, or national origin and that is intended to interfere with certain specified federally protected activities. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department to prosecute hate crimes by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes. Further, it would give Federal prosecutors the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. President Clinton originally announced his support for the bill on November 10, 1997 at the first-ever White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

PERORATION: THE MILLENNIUM

Millennium Communities Program

The President invites community leaders and all Americans to be part of our national Millennium program, using the millennium as an opportunity to engage in meaningful activities that mark this milestone in human history. Millennium Communities is a new program of the White House Millennium Council in partnership with major intergovernmental associations which represent local elected officials and Native American leaders. The special designation of "Millennium Community" will be awarded to those communities which propose plans to carry out the national theme, "Honor the Past -- Imagine the Future." Elected officials will submit plans that preserve their history and prepare citizens for the 21st century, and their respective associations will recommend the official designation. Millennium Communities will receive the use of the national millennium logo and motto, register their projects on a new web site and be honored in other ways.

Save America's Treasures Program

Save America's Treasures is a national millennium program, designed as a public-private partnership, to preserve our deteriorating historic sites, art, artifacts, documents and monuments, so that they may inform future generations of the American story. President Clinton requested, and Congress appropriated \$30 million to Save America's Treasures in FY99. The private sector partner, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, created the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures, with Hillary Rodham Clinton as the Honorary Chair. That group has sparked attention and raised contributions which already surpass the federal commitment. Mrs. Clinton has visited over twenty historic sites and collections since last July, bringing recognition and support to the places and objects that embody our heritage and culture. Some of the preservation projects underway are the conservation of the Star-Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian Institution, the re-encasement of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution at the National Archives, and the new exhibition space at the Thomas Edison National Historic Site. The Administration's forthcoming budget will propose additional funding for Save America's Treasures.