

**FISCAL DISCIPLINE:
A STRATEGY FOR THE 21st CENTURY**

January 8, 1998

File -
Administration
Accomplish-
ments

"We have followed a policy of investing in our people, expanding the sales of American goods and services overseas, and practicing fiscal discipline... We have taken a different course, and thanks to the hard work and productivity of the American people, it is working... Now, we have to build on that success: first, with the balanced budget to keep interest rates down and keep the economy growing, and second, with other policies I will be outlining in the State of the Union."

President Bill Clinton
January 5, 1998

In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, job growth was weak, and the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. When President Clinton took office, he put in place a bold three-part economic strategy of **fiscal responsibility, investing in our people, and opening foreign markets to American goods**. Experts agree that this strategy has helped create the strongest American economy in a generation.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE: BALANCING THE BUDGET AND REDUCING THE DEFICIT. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan helped cut the deficit more than 90%, to its lowest level in more than two decades. The resulting drop in long-term interest rates has helped build the strongest economy in a generation. Today, unemployment and crime are at their lowest levels in 24 years. Welfare rolls have dropped by a record 3.8 million people. And nearly 14 million new jobs have been created since 1993.

THE BALANCED BUDGET: BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS. In 1998 the budget deficit is expected to be less than \$22 billion, lower by tens of billions of dollars than previously projected. Building on this success, President Clinton is proposing -- three years earlier than expected -- a balanced budget for fiscal year 1999. The balanced budget is the first proposed in nearly three decades. President Clinton is pushing for a balanced budget, because it is right for America and ends the high deficits that paralyzed our government and many Americans' potential when he came to office.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FUTURE. President Clinton's balanced budget proposal invests in America's families and ensures them the tools and support they need to make the most of their opportunities. This balanced budget will:

- Invest in working families: providing accessible, affordable, quality child care, after-school programs and early learning opportunities;
- Provide health security in the 21st century: by giving Americans ages 55-65 new options to buy-in to Medicare and other medical coverage;
- Increase investment in education: to ensure that every 8 year-old can read; every 12 year-old can access the Internet; every 18 year-old can go to college; and every adult can keep on learning for a life time.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITIES FOR ALL**

January 15, 1998

"Until every child has the opportunity to live up to her God-given potential, free from want, in a world at peace, Dr. King's work -- our work is not yet done."

President Bill Clinton
January 15, 1998

Today, on Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday, President Clinton attends a series of events that build on Dr. King's dream of a stronger, more unified America that offers opportunity to all responsible Americans.

A Call for Active Citizenship. In his first event, President Clinton awards the nation's highest honor, the Presidential medal of Freedom, to 15 Americans who have dedicated their lives to expanding democracy -- by fighting for human rights, by empowering others to achieve, and by extending peace around the world. Like Dr. King, these Americans have risen to America's highest calling -- the calling of active citizenship. They are models of the service President Clinton calls all Americans to demonstrate as we build an even stronger America for the 21st century.

Expanded Economic Opportunity. In his second event, President Clinton visits Wall Street to challenge Americans to recognize that "the best jobs program, the best policy for urban renewal, the best affirmative action program is a growing economy." Already, under President Clinton, America has achieved the strongest economy in a generation: unemployment is at its lowest levels in 24 years; welfare rolls have dropped by a record 3.8 million people; and the deficit has been cut by more than 90 percent. To better expand economic opportunity to all Americans, President Clinton is challenging the private sector to:

- Draw on the talent and diversity of all our people;
- Invest in communities of untapped potential;
- Support education;
- Become active participants and leaders in the President's national dialogue on race.

Stronger, Safer Communities. In his final event of the day, President Clinton highlights the important role strong, safe communities play in expanding opportunity to all responsible Americans. Since coming to office, the President's work has helped achieve the lowest crime rate in 25 years, including a 22% drop in the murder rate and a 16% drop in the rate of violent crime. Today, the President announces that the total number of community police officers funded

across the nation as part of the President's Crime Bill is now more than 70,000 -- moving the nation closer to achieving the President's goal of putting 100,000 new cops on America's streets.

THE STRONGEST ECONOMY IN A GENERATION: 14.3 MILLION NEW JOBS UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

January 9, 1998

TODAY, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE ECONOMY CREATED 370,000 NEW JOBS LAST MONTH ALONE. The economy is as strong as its been in a generation. It is clear that President Clinton's three-part economic strategy -- reducing the deficit, investing in our people, and tearing down foreign barriers to American goods -- is working for America's working families.

- **370,000 NEW JOBS LAST MONTH -- 14.3 MILLION NEW JOBS UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON.** During the Clinton Administration, the economy has added 14.3 million new jobs -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s. The economy has added 3.2 million jobs over the past year. [Source: Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey.]
- **UNEMPLOYMENT AT 4.7 PERCENT -- LOWEST QUARTERLY AVERAGE IN 27 YEARS.** The December unemployment rate was 4.7%. In the fourth quarter, the unemployment rate was the lowest level since 1970. The unemployment rate has been below 6% for 40 consecutive months and at or below 5% for 9 months now with no signs of inflationary pressures. In 1992, the unemployment rate was 7.5%. In 1997, the Hispanic and African American unemployment rates -- while above the overall unemployment rate -- were the lowest in two decades. [Source: BLS.]
- **REAL WAGES RISING AGAIN.** After stagnating or declining for years, real wages are rising again. Over the past 12 months, wages have risen 3.7 percent -- that is far faster than the two percent inflation rate over the past year. [Source: BLS]
- **STRONG PRIVATE-SECTOR JOB GROWTH.** Last month, the economy added 358,000 private-sector jobs. Since President Clinton took office, the private sector of the economy has added 13.3 million new jobs -- with 2.9 million jobs added in the past year. Under President Clinton, 93 percent of the 14.3 million new jobs under President Clinton have been in the private sector -- that's a higher percentage than any Administration since Truman. [Source: Based on data from BLS.]
- **TURNING THE CORNER IN BASIC AMERICAN INDUSTRIES.** After losing 667,000 jobs in construction during the previous four years, more than 1.2 million new construction jobs have been added since January 1993 -- that's a faster annual rate than any other Administration since Harry S Truman was President. After losing manufacturing jobs during the 12 years before President Clinton took office, 575,000 new manufacturing jobs have been created in the last five years. After losing 35,000 jobs in the auto industry

during the Bush years, we have 144,000 new auto jobs since President Clinton took office. [Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey.]

EXPERTS AGREE THAT THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STRONG

- **Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, 7/22/97:** "The recent performance of the economy, characterized by strong growth and low inflation, has been exceptional--and better than most anticipated."
- **Fortune, 6/9/97:** "Business is booming, inflation is falling, jobs are plentiful, an American industry is way out in front. The U.S. economy is stronger than it's ever been before."
- **Business Week, 5/19/97:** "Clinton's 1993 budget cuts, which reduced projected deficit by more than \$400 billion over five years, sparked a major drop in interest rates that helped boost investment in all the equipment and systems that brought forth the New Age economy of technological innovation and rising productivity."

HHS FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

December 31, 1997

Contact: HHS Press Office
(202) 690-6343

1997: HHS CONTINUES PROGRESS TOWARD KEY GOALS

In 1997, HHS made significant strides toward ensuring that Americans have the tools they need to lead healthy and productive lives. Through targeted investments, we helped continue the important progress we've made since 1993 toward creating a stronger and healthier nation. And through better management, we streamlined and strengthened our services.

In particular, we took important steps toward improving health care access and quality. Under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, we launched an historic expansion of health care for our nation's children. We also strengthened the Medicare and Medicaid programs, adding important new benefits and extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund without raising premiums.

President Clinton also appointed a new advisory commission to improve health care quality, which proposed a new Consumer Bill of Rights. And we began implementation of the landmark Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, which includes important new protections for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions. We also initiated a new effort to ensure privacy of personal health records, and achieved unprecedented levels of recoveries and prosecutions under our expanded effort to fight health care fraud and abuse.

In addition, HHS again reported significant gains in key indicators of our nation's health. AIDS deaths declined for the first time in the history of the epidemic, and teen birth rates declined for the fifth straight year. Infant mortality rates reached a new record low, and more women than ever before received prenatal care. Childhood immunization rates reached a record high, meeting the goals we set in 1993, and rates of vaccine preventable childhood disease fell to all-time lows.

HHS also announced new signs of progress in combating teen drug use with two comprehensive studies showing the first leveling off of drug use among young teens since 1992. And we achieved the largest decline in welfare caseloads in history.

In the coming year, we will continue to build on these accomplishments and prepare HHS -- and the nation -- for the 21st century. As part of this effort, we will work with Congress to craft bipartisan legislation to enact the Consumer Bill of Rights for health care, protect the privacy of health records, and dramatically reduce youth tobacco use.

Donna E. Shalala

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

New Children's Health Insurance Program. At President Clinton's urging, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, signed into law by the President on August 5, 1997, provides the largest increase in funds available for health insurance for low-income children since the creation of Medicaid in 1965. The \$24 billion set-aside for children, administered by HHS, will allow states to extend health coverage to millions of uninsured children by expanding their current Medicaid programs or by creating new health insurance plans.

Increasing Adoptions. On February 14, 1997, HHS submitted to President Clinton Adoption 2002, a new action plan to help states set and meet urgent new adoption targets. The report, developed under a Presidential directive signed by President Clinton in December 1996, takes its name from the President's goal to at least double by the year 2002 the number of children adopted or permanently placed each year. Specific recommendations contained in the report included changing federal law to clarify reasonable efforts to reunite families, offering financial incentives to states to increase adoptions and permanent placements, and providing technical assistance to states, courts, and communities to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes. In November 1997, President Clinton signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, enacting a key part of the President's plan by changing federal law to require that children in foster care receive permanent placements within 12 months. As part of the President's initiative, HHS also awarded 40 demonstration grants in October 1997 for programs aimed at increasing adoptions and reducing the number of children in foster care. In 1997, HHS also awarded child welfare waivers to six states to allow them to test innovative strategies to improve child welfare systems.

Improving Child Care. On October 23, 1997, President Clinton hosted the first-ever White House Conference on Child Care to focus the nation's attention on the importance of addressing the need for safe, affordable, quality child care. This Conference underscores and builds upon the Clinton Administration's commitment to strengthening the American family by giving parents the tools they need to fulfill their responsibilities and giving children the ability to reach their full potential. At the Conference, HHS proposed a National Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund that will increase child care providers' incentives to complete child care-related course work.

Head Start Expansion Initiative. In March 1997, HHS announced a new Head Start initiative that will expand Head Start services for children while also helping parents on welfare move to work. Under the new initiative, Head Start expansion funds are being used for the first time to build partnerships with child care providers to deliver full-day and full-year Head Start services. Full-day and full-year services, in turn, can help parents attain full-time work. Through the Head Start-child care partnerships, Head Start and child care agencies combine staff and funds to provide high quality services. Children stay in one place all day, rather than attending Head Start for half a day and then moving to child care for the remainder of the day. Since taking office, the Clinton Administration has nearly doubled funding for Head Start, increased the number of children and families served by approximately 35 percent to about 836,000, and expanded the number of children age 0-3 in Head Start to over 37,000.

Record Vaccination Levels. In July 1997, HHS announced that childhood immunization rates reached a new all-time high of 78 percent in 1996 for the complete series of recommended vaccinations. In addition, HHS announced that the nation had exceeded its childhood vaccination goals for 1996, with 90 percent or more of America's toddlers receiving the most critical doses of the most routinely recommended vaccines for children by age two. Also in 1996, reported levels of preventable childhood diseases were at near or record lows, and three diseases reached the elimination targets. The 1996 goals were set in 1993 when President Clinton launched the comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative (CII), led by the CDC, in response to low vaccination rates among preschool children.

Record Progress In Preventing Infant Mortality. In 1997, HHS announced that the nation had again reached a record low infant mortality rate. Driving the overall decline in infant mortality was a 15 percent decline in infant deaths attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) between 1995 and 1996. This decline is largely attributed to the increase in awareness produced by the Department's Back to Sleep campaign, which spreads the message that infant caregivers can reduce the risk of SIDS by placing babies on their backs to sleep. In addition, HHS announced in 1997 that a record number of women are receiving prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy. To help build on this progress, HHS in February 1997 announced the nation's first toll-free referral and information service to help women obtain proper prenatal care throughout their pregnancies. Callers in all 50 states can now call 1-800-311-BABY (2229) for pregnancy and prenatal care information, including referral to local clinics and physicians. A separate phone number is available for Spanish speakers: 1-800-504-7081. The service is supported by HRSA's Healthy Start program.

Increasing Availability of Pediatric Use Information for Prescription Drugs. On August 13, 1997, President Clinton unveiled a new FDA regulation that will protect children by requiring drug manufacturers to study the safety and appropriate dosage levels of medications for pediatric populations. The regulation also requires proper labeling of drugs for use by children. Even though many drugs affect children differently than adults, most drugs have not been tested on pediatric populations. Under this rule, manufacturers of prescription drugs likely to be used by children will be required to complete studies and place information on drug labels to help pediatricians and other health care providers make scientifically-based treatment decisions when prescribing drugs to children.

ENSURING SAFE PASSAGES TO ADULTHOOD FOR ADOLESCENTS

National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. HHS announced in 1997 that the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 has declined five straight years in row, decreasing by 12 percent between 1991 and 1996. To build on this success, the Clinton Administration in January 1997 launched a comprehensive effort to prevent teen pregnancy and encourage adolescents to remain abstinent. The new initiative, led by HHS, builds on the variety of efforts already underway at HHS and in communities across the country. The initiative also responds to a call from the President and Congress for a national strategy to prevent out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies and to a directive, under the new welfare law, to assure that at least 25 percent of communities in this country have teen pregnancy prevention programs in place. To supplement this effort, HRSA in 1997 began awarding \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities, provided for under the new welfare law. And in May 1997, HHS announced the availability of two new \$1 million grant programs for communities to develop innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy -- one targeted to girls and the other to boys.

New Signs of Progress in Combating Youth Drug Use. In 1997, HHS released data showing that illicit drug use among younger teens has leveled off for the first time since 1992. The data, taken from the 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse and the 1997 Monitoring the Future Survey, also shows that after doubling from 1992 to 1995, marijuana use is leveling off among younger teens, and shows signs of beginning to level off among older teens as well. The surveys also found signs of improvement in drug-related attitudes, with disapproval of substance abuse increasing among younger teens. To bolster efforts to prevent youth substance abuse, HHS in October 1997 awarded a total of \$15 million in grants to Governors' offices in five states to support statewide planning for coordinated youth substance abuse prevention services. Another \$5 million was awarded to five regional centers, which will help the states implement well grounded, research-based substance abuse prevention strategies. HHS also released the first research-based guide to preventing young people from using drugs, and approved the first non-prescription test system for drugs of abuse.

First Provisions of the President's Plan to Reduce Youth Tobacco Use Become Effective. On February 27, 1997, the first provisions of the FDA's comprehensive rule to prevent the sale of tobacco products to children went into effect. In February, the FDA launched a nationwide outreach effort to educate retailers, parents and community leaders about the provisions of the FDA rule to protect children from tobacco products, and on August 1, 1997, the FDA joined with 20 national retailer, consumer and health professional organizations to launch a major poster campaign to assist retailers in enforcing age and photo ID provisions. In September 1997, President Clinton called for comprehensive national legislation to build on the FDA rule and significantly reduce children's use of tobacco products.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

HHS Takes First Steps Toward Implementing Landmark Health Insurance Legislation. On April 1, 1997, HHS announced new regulations as the first step in implementing key provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), signed into law by President Clinton on August 21, 1996. The regulations focus on limiting exclusions for pre-existing medical conditions, prohibiting discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status, guaranteeing availability of health insurance to small employers, and guaranteeing renewability of insurance to all employers regardless of size. In addition, Secretary Shalala on September 11, 1997 submitted to Congress recommendations for Federal health record confidentiality legislation as called for in the Act. The recommended legislation would guarantee rights for patients and define responsibilities for record keepers, so that there will be clear guidance and real incentives for confidential, fair, and respectful treatment of personal health information, and penalties for its misuse. Using these recommendations as a guide, HHS will work with Congress to enact bipartisan legislation to guarantee these protections.

Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. In March 1997, President Clinton announced the members of the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, created through an Executive Order signed by President Clinton to build on his Administration's commitment to improving the quality of the nation's health care system. The 32-member Commission will review rapid changes in the health care financing and delivery systems and make recommendations, where appropriate, on how best

to preserve and improve the quality of the nation's health care system. Co-chaired by the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Labor, the Advisory Commission has broad-based representation from consumers, businesses, labor, health care providers, insurers, and quality and financing experts.

Consumer Bill of Rights. In November 1997, the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry announced their recommendation for a "Consumer Bill of Rights" to promote and assure patient protections and health care quality. The three goals of the Consumer Bill of Rights are: (1) to strengthen consumer confidence that the health care system is fair and responsive to consumer needs; (2) to reaffirm the importance of a strong relationship between patients and their health care providers; and (3) to reaffirm the critical role consumers play in safeguarding their own health. The President has asked all federal agencies to develop plans for applying the "Consumer Bill of Rights" to their workforce, and challenged private health care plans to adopt the standards. The Clinton Administration will work with Congress in the coming year to craft bipartisan legislation to enact the Commission's recommendations. The full text of the Consumer Bill of Rights is available on the Internet at www.hcqualitycommission.gov.

Ban on Time Limits for Breast Cancer Surgery. In February 1997, HHS announced steps to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries are protected from any requirements by health plans that would place time limits on hospital stays for mastectomies. In letters to 350 managed care plans contracting with Medicare, HHS said outpatient surgery or limitation on hospital stays may not be required by plans for beneficiaries undergoing surgery for the treatment of breast cancer. Medicare paid for more than 84,000 mastectomies last year, or about a third of all mastectomies in the U.S. This action coincides with a call by President Clinton for bipartisan legislation to guarantee that a woman can stay in the hospital for 48 hours following a mastectomy.

New Patient Appeals Rights. Response within 72 hours to appeals of care denials is required for Medicare beneficiaries under regulations enacted by HHS in April 1997. This regulation covers decisions that could jeopardize life, health or ability to regain maximum function, and terminations of care, such as skilled nursing facility discharge.

Physician Incentive Rules. As of January 1997, health plans are required to disclose financial incentives and pay for stop-loss insurance for physicians so they can lose no more than 25 percent of their income if the cost of care for their patients exceeds what they are paid by the plan. The regulations also ban any incentive arrangements that include payments to doctors to limit or reduce medically necessary services. These rules are designed to make sure incentives to discourage unnecessary services do not jeopardize quality patient care.

Standardizing Health Plan Performance Measurement. In January 1997, HCFA formally launched the Medicare Health Plan Employer Data Information Set (HEDIS), a partnership with the Kaiser Family Foundation to establish a performance measurement system that will minimize reporting burdens on managed care plans serving Medicare beneficiaries. The new measures will help plans to improve the quality of their care and support efforts to improve the health status of beneficiaries.

Medicare Managed Care Marketing Guidelines Released. On September 8, 1997, HHS issued marketing guidelines to help Medicare beneficiaries make informed choices about managed care plans. The guidelines will inform health plans serving Medicare what is, and is not, allowed under Medicare managed care regulations on advertising, enrollment, and required notifications to Medicare beneficiaries. The guidelines will also help expedite review of marketing materials by the Health Care Financing Administration, which runs the Medicare program.

FIGHTING HEALTH CARE FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

Record Recoveries and Prosecutions. On September 29, 1997, HHS announced that the Department's expanded efforts to fight fraud and abuse in health care are paying off, with unprecedented levels of recoveries and prosecutions. In FY 1997, HHS identified \$1.2 billion for collection in total fines, restitutions, settlements, and recoveries -- the most ever identified in one year. The FY 1997 total was six times higher than recoveries for FY 1996, and over three times higher than the previous best year for recoveries. In addition, criminal and civil prosecutions totaled 1,340 cases in FY 1997 -- double the number for FY 1996, and more than five times the total number in FY 1995. Over 2,700 health care providers and entities were excluded from doing business with Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal and state health care programs for engaging in fraud or abuse of the programs -- an 86 percent increase from the 1,400 exclusions in FY 1996. Since 1993, actions affecting HHS programs alone have saved taxpayers more than \$20 billion and increased health care fraud convictions by 240 percent.

Expanding Operation Restore Trust. In May 1997, Secretary Shalala announced a new, nationwide expansion of Operation Restore Trust (ORT), the Department's comprehensive anti-fraud initiative. ORT was started in 1995 as a two-year, five state pilot program to test the success of several innovations in fighting fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. During the demonstration, ORT identified \$23 in overpayments for every \$1 spent looking at the fast-growing areas of Medicare, including home health care, skilled nursing facilities, and providers of durable medical equipment.

Tightening Standards for Health Care Providers Participating in Medicare and Medicaid. On September 15, 1997, President Clinton announced three new weapons to fight fraud and abuse in the home health care industry, the fastest growing part of the Medicare program. The President announced: (1) an immediate moratorium on all new home health providers coming into the Medicare program while HHS implements new regulations to prevent risky providers from entering the program; (2) a new renewal process for home health agencies currently in the program to help weed out fraudulent providers; and (3) a doubling of audits to help increase detection of fraud and abuse. In addition, the Clinton Administration in March 1997 proposed a new regulation that would revise the federal standards, called Conditions of Participation, that health care providers must meet in order to participate in the Medicare program. The new rule, included at the President's urging in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, requires applicants to provide their social security numbers and employer identification numbers so HCFA can check for past fraudulent activity, and to conduct criminal background investigations on the staff they hire. The Balanced Budget Act will further reduce fraud and abuse in home health care by establishing a prospective payment system for home health services, tightening eligibility, and developing guidelines for use of home health services.

New Resources for Fraud and Abuse Control. In FY 1997, the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received \$70 million from the new Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account created under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The landmark Act, signed into law by President Clinton in August 1996, created a stable source of funding for health care fraud control efforts for the first time. The new funding has enabled the OIG to open six new field offices to facilitate enforcement actions, increasing from 26 to 31 the number of states in which the OIG is present. In addition, HHS in August 1997 awarded more than \$2.25 million in grants funded by HIPAA through HCFA and the Administration on Aging for new programs to aid in the fight against health care fraud and abuse. Provisions under HIPAA will also establish a fraud and abuse database to identify health care providers who have been the subject of adverse actions as a result of illegal or abusive practices, and award grants to partner agencies engaged in investigations, prosecutions, and audits of health care fraud and abuse.

Medicare Fraud Hotline Improved and Expanded. In July 1997, HHS expanded the Medicare fraud hotline started in 1995 to report fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid programs. Over 32,000 complaints that warranted follow-up action have been received since it began service. The hotline is staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, and assistance is available in both English and Spanish. The toll-free Hotline number is 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). The TTY number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-377-4950 and the fax number is 1-800-223-8164.

Medicare Secondary Payer Initiatives Produce Significant Savings. In 1997, HCFA saved more than \$1.1 billion because of new initiatives that help Medicare avoid paying bills that should be paid by other insurers. The Initial Enrollment Questionnaire and Prospective Data Sharing initiatives are both identifying Medicare beneficiaries who have other health insurance coverage. Under Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) laws, other insurers covering Medicare beneficiaries often must pay claims before Medicare. This applies, for example, to beneficiaries with coverage through current employment.

PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

First Ever Decline in AIDS Deaths. In September 1997, HHS reported that, for the first time in the history of the epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined, falling six percent for Americans over age 12 between 1995 and 1996. In addition, HHS reported that HIV/AIDS mortality declined 26 percent between 1995 and 1996, falling from the leading cause of death among 25-44 year olds to the second leading cause of death in that age group. The CDC also reported a slowing in the epidemic overall and a 43 percent decline in perinatally acquired AIDS cases between 1995 and 1996.

AIDS Vaccine Initiative. On May 18, 1997, President Clinton challenged the nation to commit itself to the goal of developing an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. The President also announced a number of important initiatives to help fulfill this commitment, including high-level international collaboration, a dedicated research center for AIDS vaccine research at NIH, and outreach to scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and patient advocates to maximize the involvement of both private and public sectors in the development of an AIDS vaccine. As part of this effort, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH in September 1997 announced the first grant recipients in its new program to foster innovative research on AIDS vaccines.

New Treatment Guidelines. In 1997, HHS released draft guidelines for treating HIV with antiretroviral drugs. The guidelines, developed by panels of AIDS clinicians and researchers, reflect the current state of knowledge about HIV disease and antiretroviral drugs, and will help standardize and improve the quality of care for HIV-infected persons in the United States.

Increased Access to AIDS Drugs. In 1997, HHS dramatically increased funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, significantly increasing access to promising treatments for HIV and AIDS. ADAP funding increased by 70 percent, and nearly 80,000 people benefited from the program in 1997. In addition, the FDA approved four new AIDS drugs and two drugs for AIDS related conditions in 1997. In March 1997, the FDA approved the first protease inhibitor with labeling for use in children.

IMPROVING DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

Increasing On-Line Access to Health Information. In April 1997, HHS launched Healthfinder, a new government gateway site on the Internet that brings together under one umbrella the broad range of consumer health information resources produced by the federal government and its many partners. Its current resources include hyperlinks to more than 1,000 Web sites and nearly 1,200 selected online documents. The address for Healthfinder is <http://www.healthfinder.gov>. To provide better access to research information, the National Library of Medicine at the NIH in June 1997 launched a new service to provide all Americans free access to MEDLINE -- the world's most extensive collection of published medical information -- over the World Wide Web. Prior to this announcement, users have had to register and pay to search MEDLINE and other NLM databases. MEDLINE can be accessed at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>. Also in June 1997, HHS announced a new "Computers for Seniors" program designed to help give older Americans access to the Internet and help them make better use of Medicare, Medicaid and other HHS programs.

Streamlining and Modernizing the FDA. In 1997, the FDA made significant progress in streamlining operations to improve consumer access to drug information, cut red tape, and speed approval of new medical products and devices. To date, the agency has cut new drug approval times nearly in half, while the number of new drugs approved in a year has doubled. In recognition of its innovations of the U.S. drug approval process, the FDA was named a 1997 winner of the prestigious Innovations in American Government Awards Program, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. To build on this progress, President Clinton signed into law the FDA Modernization Act of 1997 on November 21, 1997, improving the regulation of food, medical products and cosmetics. In 1997, the FDA also proposed a "new use initiative" to speed up the development of new and supplemental uses of medications; announced new, easier to understand labels for over-the-counter drugs; and launched an initiative to provide consumers with better, easier to understand information about prescription drugs. In addition, the FDA announced a plan to reinvent the regulation of human tissue, the FDA's sixth reinvention effort as part of the Clinton Administration's Reinventing Government Initiative.

MOVING FORWARD ON THE PROMISE OF WELFARE REFORM

Largest Caseload Decline in History. In 1997, HHS announced that the welfare caseload fell by 3.4 million recipients, from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 10.7 million in May 1997, a drop of 24 percent since the Clinton Administration took office. Forty-eight out of fifty states have seen their caseloads decline, with ten states reducing their rolls by 40 percent or more in the last four years. This is the largest welfare caseload decline in history and represents the lowest percentage of the population on welfare since 1970. According to an analysis released in 1997 by the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), the reduction in the welfare rolls can be attributed to the strong economic growth during the Clinton Administration, the waivers granted to states to test innovative strategies to move people from welfare to work, and other factors, such as the Administration's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Overhauling the Welfare System Nationwide. On July 1, 1997, the historic welfare law that the President signed last August went in to effect in every state, making work and responsibility the law of the land. HHS has certified welfare plans for each state. In accordance with the welfare law, all plans require and reward work, impose time limits, and demand personal responsibility. The balanced budget that the President signed on August 5, 1997 delivered on the President's pledge to fulfill the promise of welfare reform by investing in moving people from welfare to work and fixing the provisions in the law that had nothing to do with welfare reform, including restoring disability and health benefits to legal immigrants who are currently receiving benefits or become disabled in the future, and continuing Medicaid coverage for currently disabled children receiving SSI. On November 17, 1997, HHS proposed regulations under the new law which are intended to help all welfare recipients who can work go to work, and to encourage states to work with all families.

Record Child Support Enforcement. Due to the President's unprecedented and sustained campaign to make noncustodial parents pay the child support they owe, HHS announced in 1997 that it had collected a record \$12 billion in child support in 1996, an increase of 50 percent since 1992. In addition, HHS announced that paternity establishment almost doubled to nearly 1 million cases in FY 1996, from 516,000 in 1992. And the number of families actually receiving child support rose to 4 million cases with collections, an increase of 43 percent over 1992. To build on this progress, the new welfare law includes tough child support measures long-supported by the President, including: a national new hire reporting system; streamlined paternity establishment; uniform interstate child support laws; computerized state-wide collections; and tough new penalties. These measures are projected to increase child support collections to more than \$24 billion in the next ten years.

New Proposal to Improve State Child Support State Incentive Payments. On March 13, 1997, Secretary Shalala submitted to Congress a proposal designed to further improve the performance of state child support enforcement programs by linking federal incentive payments to states to their performance in five key areas: establishment of paternity, establishment of child support orders, collections on current child support owed, collections on previously or past due child support owed, and cost-effectiveness. The five areas are intended to better measure the performance of states in fostering parental support for children and family self-sufficiency. Current law provides for HHS to make incentive payments to states for their child support enforcement systems, but these payments are based only on cost-effectiveness. Under the new welfare reform law, HHS was authorized to prepare an

alternative plan. On September 16, 1997, Secretary Shalala joined Reps. Clay Shaw and Sandy Levin in announcing bipartisan legislation drawn from the HHS proposal. The legislation would provide incentive funds to states which deliver real results for children who need child support payments from non-custodial parents. To reinforce the goal of achieving self-sufficiency, states will be rewarded for collection in all child support cases, but with a stronger emphasis on welfare and former welfare cases. The House passed this legislation in 1997, and action on the bill is pending in the Senate.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ensuring Food Safety. In 1997, HHS dramatically increased attention on food safety. In January, President Clinton announced a comprehensive new food safety initiative to help detect and respond to outbreaks of foodborne illness earlier, and to give us the data we need to prevent future outbreaks. The CDC and the FDA play a key role in this new initiative. Key components of the new initiative include: building a national Early Warning System to identify infectious agents and their sources and rapidly communicate these findings nationwide; developing new methods for monitoring the food supply; strengthening intergovernmental coordination to reduce and improve responses to outbreaks of foodborne illnesses; and improving awareness of food safety practices. Building on the President's initiative, the FDA in August 1997 announced new measures to reduce the risk of illness from disease-causing microbes in unpasteurized fruit and vegetable juices, and in October announced an initiative to upgrade domestic food safety standards and to ensure that fruits and vegetables coming from overseas are as safe as those produced in the United States. In addition, the FDA in December 1997 approved the irradiation of meat products to control disease-causing micro-organisms.

Improving Guidance on Mammography. In March 1997, NIH issued a recommendation that women age 40 and over be screened with mammography every one to two years. In addition, NIH recommended that women at higher risk of breast cancer get expert medical advice even before the age of 40 about when to begin screening and about the frequency of their screening. To support this new recommendation, President Clinton proposed and Congress adopted an expansion of Medicare coverage which will help pay for annual mammograms for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over. The new benefit will be available starting January 1, 1998. In addition, the FDA in October 1997 announced final regulations that significantly improve the quality and performance of equipment and personnel at all U.S. mammography facilities. The regulations implement the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) passed by Congress in 1992. The MQSA requires that all mammography facilities meet stringent quality standards, be accredited by an FDA-approved accreditation body, and be inspected annually.

First Biotechnology Product to Treat Cancer. On November 26, FDA approved Rituxan, the first biotechnology product to treat cancer. The drug is used to treat a type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Rituxan targets and destroys white blood cells involved in the disease. Because specific cells are targeted, rather than all fast-growing cells, as is the case for most chemotherapy, tumor shrinkage is accomplished with fewer toxic side effects than other cancer treatments.

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Increasing Organ Donation. In December 1997, HHS launched a National Organ and Tissue Donation Initiative aimed at increasing the number of organ donations and reducing the number of Americans who die each year while waiting for organ transplantation. The initiative builds on more than a decade of experience gained from government, private, and volunteer efforts. Focusing on known barriers to donation, it will: (1) create a broad partnership of public, private, and volunteer organizations to encourage Americans to agree to organ and tissue donation; (2) emphasize the need to share personal decisions on organ donation with one's family; (3) work with health care providers, consumers, and physicians to ensure that deaths are reported to organ procurement organizations whenever there is potential for donation; and (4) learn more about what works to bring about donation, through research and evaluation, including an HHS conference on best practices next spring.

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**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ECONOMIC RECORD:
INCOMES ARE UP AND TAXES ARE DOWN**

February 10, 1998

File -
Administration
Accomplishments

"For five years, our nation has pursued a new economic strategy for the Information Age. We have reduced the deficit to slash interest rates and spur private sector growth; opened markets to create high wage jobs; and invested in the skills and education of our people so that every American can reap the rewards of growth. All around us, we see the results: revitalized basic industries... thriving new industries... an investment boom... and a vibrant American economy."

President Bill Clinton
February 10, 1998

Today, President Clinton transmits to the Congress the annual Economic Report of the President. The Report makes clear: America's economy is strong. Incomes are up and taxes are down. To keep the economy growing and widen the circle of opportunity, President Clinton is: calling for continued fiscal responsibility, working to save Social Security first, preparing the American people for a brighter future.

THE STRONGEST ECONOMY IN A GENERATION. President Clinton's three-part economic strategy --cutting the deficit, investing in our people, opening foreign markets to American goods -- is working for America's families. Since 1993 it has helped bring about: nearly 15 million new jobs; the lowest unemployment rate in a quarter century; the highest homeownership rate on record; the lowest core inflation rate in three decades; an increase in family income of nearly \$2,200; and, this year, the lowest Federal tax burden on typical middle-income families in more than 20 years.

HIGHER INCOMES FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES. Under the President's plan, the incomes of America's working families are up:

- Typical family income is up \$2,169 since 1993, when adjusted for inflation;
- In 1997, real average hourly earnings increased 2.3% -- the fastest real wage growth since 1976;
- Since 1993, every income group -- from the most well-off to the poorest -- experienced a real increase in their income, with the poorest 20% of American households experiencing the biggest percentage increase (6.8%);
- The President signed a 90-cent increase in the minimum wage, benefiting nearly 10 million Americans -- for someone working full-time, this increase meant an additional \$1,800 per year in income.

LOWER FEDERAL TAX BURDEN FOR MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES. Because of the President's 1993 Economic Plan and the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, the typical middle-income family -- with an income of about \$50,000 -- will have the lowest Federal tax burden in 20 years (1976); for a family with an income of about \$25,000, the average federal tax burden will be the lowest in more than three decades (1966).

THE BALANCED BUDGET: BUILDING ON SUCCESS. The President's new budget builds on this record and provides targeted tax relief for child care, education, and the environment --all fully paid for. These targeted tax relief efforts would:

- **Make Child Care More Affordable**, increasing the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for 3 million working families;
- **Increase Energy Efficiency and Improve the Environment**, investing \$3.6 billion over the next 5 years in tax cuts for energy efficient purchases and renewable energy;
- **Promote Expanded Retirement Savings**, making contributions of up to \$2,000 to an IRA through a payroll deduction excluded from the employee's income for tax purposes
- **Expand Education Incentives**, helping modernize and build over 5,000 public schools.
- **Help Develop More Affordable Housing**, expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 percent, helping lead to an additional 150,000 to 180,000 units of affordable housing over five years.



Cynthia A. Rice

11/06/97 04:45:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP, Robin J. Bachman/WHO/EOP
cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
bcc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: Briefing for the First Lady

Add something like below re: child support enforcement and teen pregnancy prevention (they revisions of the attached "welsum3" document). Also, to prepare her for any broader criticisms, I think you should give her a few overall statistics -- see child poverty one below -- which are from the NEC fact sheet on Census data (see attached "acc0929.wpd").

Signed into Law Tough New Child Support Enforcement Rules: As part of welfare reform, the President signed into law tough child support measures that are projected to increase collections for children by \$24 billion over the next ten years. These measures include: a national new hire reporting system; streamlined paternity establishment; uniform interstate child support laws; computerized state-wide collections; and tough new penalties. Under President Clinton's leadership, child support collections have increased 50 percent since 1992 to a record \$12 billion in 1996. Paternity establishment, often the first crucial step in child support cases, rose to nearly 1 million, almost double, from 516,000 in 1992.

Supported New Efforts to Prevent Teen Pregnancy: The welfare reform law signed by the President contained significant new efforts to reduce teen pregnancy. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homes" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Because of the President's efforts since taking office, teen pregnancy prevention programs now reach about 30 percent or 1,410 communities in the United States.

Under President Clinton, Largest Three-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s. In 1996, the child poverty rate declined from 20.8 percent to 20.5 percent. Since President Clinton signed his Economic Plan into law, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 20.5 percent -- that's the biggest three-year drop in nearly 30 years (1966-1969).



welsum3.wpd



acc0929.wpd

HHS FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

August 22, 1997

Contact: HHS Press Office
(202) 690-6343

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION MOVING FORWARD ON THE PROMISE OF WELFARE REFORM

***Overview:** On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed into law "The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996," a comprehensive bipartisan welfare reform plan that has dramatically changed the nation's welfare system into one that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance. The law contains strong work requirements, a performance bonus to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs, state maintenance of effort requirements, comprehensive child support enforcement, and supports for families moving from welfare to work -- including increased funding for child care and guaranteed medical coverage.*

The Clinton Administration has taken numerous steps to ensure the success of the law. In the past year, the Clinton Administration has provided assistance to states and communities in implementing the law; created partnerships with the business, religious and non-profit communities to hire and train welfare recipients; and delivered on the President's pledge to invest in moving people from welfare to work and fix provisions in the law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. As a result of the Clinton Administration's focused efforts this year -- and throughout the last four years -- the welfare caseload fell by 3.4 million recipients, from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 10.7 million in May 1997, the largest welfare caseload decline in history.

TRANSFORMING THE BROKEN WELFARE SYSTEM:

Overhauling the Welfare System Nationwide: On July 1, the historic welfare law that the President signed last August went in to effect in every state, making work and responsibility the law of the land. The Department of Health and Human Services has certified welfare plans for each state. In accordance with the welfare law, all plans require and reward work, impose time limits, and demand personal responsibility.

Building on the Administration's Welfare Reform Strategy: Even before welfare reform, many states were well on their way to changing their welfare programs to jobs programs. By waiving certain provisions in federal statutes, the Clinton Administration allowed 43 states -- more than all previous Administrations combined -- to require work, time-limit assistance, make work pay, improve child support enforcement, and encourage parental responsibility. A vast majority of states have chosen to continue or build on their welfare demonstration projects approved by the Clinton Administration.

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Largest Caseload Decline in History: The welfare caseload fell by 3.4 million recipients, from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 10.7 million in May 1997, a drop of 24 percent since President Clinton took office. Forty-eight out of fifty states have seen their caseloads decline, with ten states reducing their rolls by 40 percent or more in the last four years. This is the largest welfare caseload decline in history and the lowest percentage of the population on welfare since 1970. According to the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) analysis, the reduction in the welfare rolls can be attributed to the strong economic growth during the Clinton Administration, the waivers granted to states to test innovative strategies to move people from welfare to work, and other factors, which may include the Administration's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, strengthened child support enforcement, and increased funding for child care.

Mobilizing the Business Community: To make welfare reform a success and help move a million people from welfare into the workforce by the year 2000, President Clinton has enlisted the business community's leadership. At the President's urging, the Welfare to Work Partnership, chaired by United Airlines CEO Gerald Greenwald, was launched in May 1997, to lead the national business effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. So far 800 companies, large and small, have accepted the President's challenge to forge a national effort to help move those on public assistance into jobs in the private sector. In August 1997, the Welfare to Work Partnership launched: a toll-free hotline (1-888-USAJOB1), a web page (www.welfaretowork.org), a "Blueprint for Business" manual to help companies across the nation hire people off welfare; and a city to city challenge to help promote innovative and effective welfare to work initiatives in 12 cities with high levels of poverty during the next year.

Helping Welfare Recipients Get Off and Stay Off Welfare: The Vice President created the Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success, a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed. Tailoring their services to meet welfare recipients' needs and the organizations' strengths, the Coalition will focus on providing mentoring and other support services. Charter members of the Coalition include: the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Baptist Joint Committee, the United Way, the YMCA, and fourteen other civic groups.

Federal Government's Hiring Initiative: As the nation's largest employer, the federal government is also doing its fair share to hire people from the welfare rolls. In March 1997, the President directed each head of a Federal agency or department to develop a plan to hire and retain welfare recipients in jobs in the government. The President asked the Vice President to oversee this initiative, in which the federal agencies have agreed to directly hire at least 10,000 welfare recipients in the next four years without displacing current employees.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO MOVING FROM WELFARE TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Increasing Funding for and Improving Quality of Child Care: The welfare law increased child care funding by nearly \$4 billion over 6 years, providing child care assistance to low-income working families and parents moving from welfare to work. In October 1996, HHS released the child care block grant funds for FY 1997 providing up to \$1.92 billion to states, a significant increase over the estimated FY 1996 level of \$1.35 billion. The Clinton Administration also has taken steps to ensure the health and safety of child care. In July 1997, President Clinton proposed new child care regulations, which include a new approach to help more children in child care receive the immunizations they need on time.

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Developing Strategies to Address Transportation Issues: In May 1997, President Clinton announced Department of Transportation grants to 24 states to develop welfare to work transportation strategies. The President also urged Congress to adopt a six-year, \$600 million grant program in his NEXTEA transportation bill that would support flexible, innovative transportation systems in rural, urban and suburban areas to get people to jobs.

Continuing to Strengthen Child Support Enforcement: Due to the President's unprecedented and sustained campaign to make noncustodial parents pay the child support they owe, the Clinton Administration collected a record \$12 billion in child support in 1996, an increase of 50% since 1992. Paternity establishment almost doubled to nearly 1 million cases in FY 1996, from 516,000 in 1992. And the number of families actually receiving child support rose to 4 million cases with collections, an increase of 43 percent, over 2.8 million in 1992.

- **Implementing the Provisions in the Welfare Law:** The welfare law included tough child support measures long-supported by the President, including: a national new hire reporting system; streamlined paternity establishment; uniform interstate child support laws; computerized state-wide collections; and tough new penalties. So far over half the states have enacted these provisions. The President has urged all states to put these enforcement tools in place to ensure that children and families get the support they need. These measures are projected to increase child support collections by an additional \$24 billion over the next ten years.
- **Executive Actions:** While working toward comprehensive improvement of child support enforcement, President Clinton used his executive authority to increase child support collections. Since taking office, President Clinton has: directed the Treasury Department to collect past-due child support from Federal payments including Federal income tax refunds and employee salaries; taken steps to deny Federal loans to any delinquent parents; and made the Federal government a model employer in the area of child support enforcement.

Preventing Teen Pregnancy: As a result of the Administration's focused effort since President Clinton took office, the national birth rate for teens aged 15-19 has continued to decline four straight years in row, decreasing by eight percent between 1991 and 1995. Significant components of the President's comprehensive effort to reduce teen pregnancy were included in the welfare law. The welfare law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home, or in an adult-supervised setting; supports the creation of Second Chance Homes, which will provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities, beginning in FY 1998.

- **Launching a National Strategy:** In January 1997, the Clinton Administration launched a new comprehensive effort to prevent teen pregnancy and encourage adolescents to remain abstinent. The initiative, led by the Department of Health and Human Services, responded to a call from the President and Congress for a national strategy to prevent out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies and to a directive, under the new welfare law, to assure that at least 25 percent of communities in this country have teen pregnancy prevention programs in place. The strategy sends the strongest possible message to all teens that postponing sexual activity, staying in school, and preparing for work are the right things to do. It strengthens ongoing efforts across the nation by increasing opportunities

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through welfare reform; supporting promising approaches; building partnerships; improving data collection, research, and evaluation; and disseminating information on innovative and effective practices. The national strategy places a special emphasis on encouraging abstinence, especially among 9- to 14-year-old girls, through HHS' new Girl Power! campaign, which was launched in November 1996.

- Providing Resources to Promote Abstinence: The welfare law included \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. In July, 1997 every state applied for this money to build on their state efforts to prevent teen pregnancy.

BALANCED BUDGET HELPS MOVE MORE PEOPLE FROM WELFARE TO WORK

The balanced budget that the President signed on August 5, 1997 delivered on the President's pledge to fulfill the promise of welfare reform by investing in moving people from welfare to work and fixing the provisions in the law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. Specifically:

\$3 Billion to Help Move 1 Million People from Welfare to Work. As a result of the President's leadership, the balanced budget includes the total funding he requested to create a \$3 billion Welfare to Work Jobs Challenge fund. This program will help states and local communities move long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and job retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers, and other critical post-employment support services. The Labor Department will provide oversight but the dollars will be placed in the hands of the localities who are on the front lines of the welfare reform effort.

A Welfare to Work Tax Credit. This provision will give employers an added incentive to hire long-term welfare recipients by providing a credit equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment, and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in the second year, paid for new hires who have received welfare for an extended period. The credit, administered by the Treasury Department, is for two years per worker to encourage not only hiring but retention.

Focusing the Welfare Law on Work. The budget includes \$12 billion to restore both disability and health benefits to legal immigrants who are currently receiving benefits or become disabled in the future, and to continue Medicaid coverage for currently disabled children receiving SSI. The budget bill will help 350,000 legal immigrants (in FY 2002) who would otherwise have been denied assistance. It also extended the SSI and Medicaid eligibility period for refugees and asylees from 5 years after entry in the country to 7 years to give these residents more time to naturalize. In addition, the budget bill improves the food stamp provisions in the welfare law by creating work slots and preserving food stamp benefits for those who are willing to work, but through no fault of their own, have not found employment.

###

CLINTON-GORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

REFORMING WELFARE

On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, fulfilling his longtime commitment to 'end welfare as we know it.' As the President said upon signing, "... this legislation provides an historic opportunity to end welfare as we know it and transform our broken welfare system by promoting the fundamental values of work, responsibility, and family."

TRANSFORMING THE BROKEN WELFARE SYSTEM

- **Overhauling the Welfare System with the Personal Responsibility Act:** Last year the President signed a bipartisan welfare plan that is dramatically changing the nation's welfare system into one that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance. The law contains strong work requirements, a performance bonus to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs, state maintenance of effort requirements, comprehensive child support enforcement, and supports for families moving from welfare to work -- including increased funding for child care and guaranteed medical coverage. State strategies are making a real difference in the success of welfare reform, specifically in job placement, child care and transportation (*see attached for state examples*).
- **Law Builds on the Administration's Welfare Reform Strategy:** Even before the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act became law, many states were well on their way to changing their welfare programs to jobs programs. By granting Federal waivers, the Clinton Administration allowed 43 states -- more than all previous Administrations combined -- to require work, time-limit assistance, make work pay, improve child support enforcement, and encourage parental responsibility. The vast majority of states have chosen to continue or build on their welfare demonstration projects approved by the Clinton Administration.
- **Largest Decline in the Welfare Rolls in History:** From January 1993 to May 1997, the number of people receiving welfare benefits fell by 24 percent, or 3.4 million recipients -- the largest decline in the welfare rolls in history and the lowest percentage of the population on welfare since 1970. This historic decline occurred in response to the Administration's grants of Federal waivers to 43 states, the provisions of the new welfare reform law, and the strong economy.
- **Mobilizing the Business Community:** To make welfare reform a success and help move a million people from welfare into the workforce by the year 2000, President Clinton has enlisted the business community's leadership. At the President's urging, the Welfare to Work Partnership was launched in May 1997 to lead the national business effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. Founded with 100 participating businesses, the Partnership pledged to reach 1000 business within six months. In August 1997, in St. Louis, Missouri, the Partnership launched a city by city effort to work with employers, service providers and state and local governments to expand welfare to work opportunities. The Partnership provides technical assistance and support to businesses around the country,

including: a toll-free number (1-888-USAJOB1), the Partnership's Web site (www.welfaretowork.org) and a "Blueprint for Business" manual that contains information on finding, recruiting, training, hiring, and retaining former welfare recipients.

... and **Civic, Religious and Non-profit Groups**: The Vice President created the Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success, a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed. Tailoring their services to meet welfare recipients needs and the organizations' strengths, the Coalition will focus on providing mentoring and other support services. Charter members of the Coalition include: the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Baptist Joint Committee, the United Way, the YMCA, and fourteen other civic groups.

- **Doing Our Fair Share with the Federal Government's Hiring Initiative**: Under the Clinton Administration, the Federal workforce has been reduced by more than 300,000 positions, the smallest the Federal government has been in thirty years. Yet, this Administration also believes that the Federal government, as the nation's largest employer, must lead by example. The President asked the Vice President to oversee the Federal government's hiring initiative in which Federal agencies have committed to directly hire at least 10,000 welfare recipients in the next four years. As a part of this effort, the White House pledged, and has already hired, six welfare recipients.
- **Enforcing Child Support -- 50% Increase in Collections**: The Clinton Administration collected a record \$12 billion in child support in 1996 through tougher enforcement, an increase of \$4 billion, or nearly 50 percent, since 1992. Not only are collections up, but the number of families that are actually receiving child support has also increased. In 1996, the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million in 1992. And paternity establishment, often the first crucial step in child support cases, has dramatically increased. In 1996, the number of paternities established rose to nearly 1 million, almost double, from 516,000 in 1992.

Making Deadbeat Parents Pay: The President's unprecedented and sustained campaign to make deadbeat parents pay is working. In addition to tougher enforcement including a strong partnership with states, President Clinton has taken executive action including: directing the Treasury Department to collect past-due child support from Federal payments including Federal income tax refunds and employee salaries; taking steps to Federal deny loans to any delinquent parents; issuing an executive order making the Federal government a model employer in the area of child support enforcement. The President also directed the Attorney General to submit legislation that strengthens the Child Support Recovery Act by prosecuting more parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. And most significantly, the welfare reform law contains tough child support measures that President Clinton has long supported including: a national new hire reporting system; streamlined paternity establishment; uniform interstate child support laws; computerized state-wide collections; and tough new penalties. These five measures are projected to increase child support collections by an additional \$24 billion over the next ten years, but first, all states must enact the state laws to implement these tough new rules.

- **Breaking the Cycle of Dependency -- Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** Significant components of the President's comprehensive effort to reduce teen pregnancy became law when the President signed the 1996 Personal Responsibility Act. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homes" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has supported innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies; HHS-supported programs already reach about 30 percent or 1,410 communities in the United States. As part of this effort, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private nonprofit organization, was formed in response to the President's 1995 State of the Union. Notably, data shows we are making progress in reducing teen pregnancy -- teen births have fallen four years in a row, by 8 percent from 1991 to 1995.

BALANCED BUDGET HELPS MOVE PEOPLE FROM WELFARE TO WORK

- **\$3 Billion to Help Move 1 Million People from Welfare to Work:** Because of the President's leadership, the balanced budget includes the total funding requested by the President for the creation of his \$3 billion Welfare to Work Jobs Challenge fund. This program will help states and local communities move long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and job retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers and other critical post-employment support services. The Department of Labor will provide oversight but most of the dollars will be placed, through the Private Industry Councils, in the hands of the localities who are on the front lines of the welfare reform effort. In addition, 25 percent of the funds will be awarded by the Department of Labor on a competitive basis to support innovative welfare to work projects.
- **A Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit for Employers:** This tax credit will give employers an added incentive to hire long-term welfare recipients by providing a credit equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment, and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the second year, paid to new hires who have received welfare for an extended period. The credit is for two years per worker to encourage not only hiring, but also retention.

RESTORING FAIRNESS AND PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

The President made a commitment last year to fix several provisions in the welfare reform law that had nothing to do with moving people from welfare to work. After months of continuous refusals by the Congressional leadership to consider these changes, the President fought for and ultimately was successful in ensuring that the balanced budget protects the most vulnerable.

- **Protects Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits:** The balanced budget restores \$1.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. The new law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the balanced budget does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996 but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits.
- **Helps People Who Want to Work but Can't Find a Job:** The balanced budget restores \$1.5 billion in food stamp cuts. Last year's welfare reform bill restricted food stamps for able-bodied childless adults to only 3 out of every 36 months, unless they were working. This move ignored the fact that finding a job often takes time. The budget bill provides funds for an estimated 235,000 work slots over 5 years and food stamp benefits to those who are willing to work but, through no fault of their own, have not yet found employment. The balanced budget allows states to exempt up to 15 percent of the food stamp recipients (70,000 individuals monthly) who would otherwise be denied benefits as a result of the "3 in 36" limit.
- **Protects Children by Keeping the Medicaid Guarantee:** The balanced budget preserves the Federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for the vulnerable populations who depend on it, and contains additional investments to extend coverage to uninsured children. It also ensures that 30,000 disabled children losing SSI because of the new tighter eligibility criteria keep their Medicaid coverage.

STATES ARE SUCCEEDING IN REFORMING WELFARE

Many states have accepted the significant responsibilities in the welfare reform law and are using the greater flexibility to reform welfare. State strategies are making a real difference in the success of welfare reform, specifically in moving recipients from welfare to work, child care and transportation. Here are a few examples:

WELFARE TO WORK

- **Massachusetts and Pennsylvania Have Welfare-to-Work Tax Credits for Employers:** According to a report from the National Governors' Association, Pennsylvania rewards employers for participating in their Employment Incentive Program (EIP) by providing up to \$5,100 in state tax credits for each welfare recipient an employer hires. The employer can earn \$1,500 of the possible tax credit by paying for or providing child care to the welfare recipients hired. The welfare recipient must be employed for at least one year for the employer to receive the financial incentives. Under Massachusetts' Full Employment Program, employers are entitled to an excise tax credit of \$100 per month for each FEP employee hired; they can also receive wage subsidies of \$2.50 per hour for up to nine months.
- **Thirty-six States Are Using Welfare Checks to Subsidize Paychecks:** 36 of the 50 states are using welfare checks to subsidize private employment. All states except Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Utah subsidize employment.

CHILD CARE

- **24 States Are Increasing Their Spending Beyond What Is Needed to Match New Federal Child Care Funds:** According to a survey by the American Public Welfare Association (the state welfare directors), 24 states plan to spend more of their own dollars than they need to in order to match the new federal child care funds. These 24 states are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington State and Wyoming.
- **Several States Have Seamless Child Care Systems:** Illinois, Michigan, and Washington are examples of states that provide child care subsidies based on income, not whether a parent used to be on welfare or not.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Michigan, Kentucky and Wisconsin Are Addressing the Transportation Challenges of Welfare Reform:** Michigan and Wisconsin are tackling the transportation barriers many welfare recipients face. Because few families receiving public assistance own automobiles, it is often challenging getting workers to jobs in the outlying suburban areas. Michigan's Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation provides bus patrons with a ride from their stop to their work site. Wisconsin developed "Job Ride" in 1989 creating an innovative van pool system. Kentucky's "Empower Kentucky" initiative is integrating the transportation programs of four cabinet departments to improve transportation for underserved areas of the state.
- **Connecticut is Using Welfare Block Grant Dollars to Fund Transportation:** In Connecticut, the Governor has committed to using \$2.2 million of the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars for transportation services for public transit operators across the state to provide new transportation services to move welfare recipients to work.

File

The Economy Remains On The Right Track: Low Unemployment and Strong Job Growth

July 3, 1997

TODAY'S DATA SHOWS CONTINUED JOB GROWTH WITH LOW UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOW INFLATION. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER WAS THE LOWEST SINCE 1973. AND THE ECONOMY HAS CREATED 12.5 MILLION JOBS SINCE JANUARY 1993.

- **Unemployment during the second quarter was the lowest since 1973.**
 - The June unemployment rate was 5.0% -- its 34th consecutive month below 6%. The unemployment rate for the second quarter as a whole was just 4.9% -- the lowest for any quarter since 1973. In 1992, the unemployment rate was 7.5%. [Source: BLS.]
 - The combined rate of unemployment and inflation has been lower under President Clinton than any other Administration since Lyndon Johnson was President. [Source: Based on data from BLS.]
- **12.5 Million New Jobs.**
 - During the Clinton Administration, the economy has added 12.5 million new jobs -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s. [Source: Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey.]
 - The economy has added 2.5 million jobs over the past year.
- **Strong Private-Sector Job Growth.**
 - Over the past year, the private sector has added 2.3 million jobs -- much more than during the entire four-year period before President Clinton took office. [Source: Based on data from BLS.]
 - 93 percent of the 12.5 million new jobs under President Clinton have been in the private sector. [Source: Based on data from BLS.]
- **Turning The Corner In Basic American Industries.**
 - After losing 667,000 jobs in construction during the previous four years, 1.1 million new construction jobs have been added since January 1993 -- that's a faster annual rate than any other Administration since Harry S Truman was President.
 - After losing 35,000 jobs in the auto industry during the Bush years, we have 123,000 new auto jobs since President Clinton took office. [Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey.]

LAST WEEK, WE LEARNED THAT THE ECONOMY GREW BY 5.9 PERCENT AT AN ANNUAL RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER -- THE FASTEST IN A DECADE -- WHILE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES REMAIN LOW.

EXPERTS AGREE THAT THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STRONG:

- **David Berson, chief economist, Fannie Mae, 6/14/97:** "What we have now is the best combination of sustained growth and low inflation that we have had in at least a decade."
- **Bruce Steinberg, chief economist, Merrill Lynch, 6/7/97:** "The best of all possible economies just keeps rolling along."
- **Fortune, 6/9/97:** "Business is booming, inflation is falling, jobs are plentiful, and American industry is way out in front. The U.S. economy is stronger than it's ever been before."
- **Allen Sinai, one of America's top economic forecasters, 4/30/97:** "Job growth is good. Real income is rising. Sentiment is high. Unemployment is the lowest in years. Times are good for American consumers."
- **Mickey Levy, chief economist, NationsBank, 2/1/97:** "It's really the best of all worlds. Growth at a healthy pace, but with the economy not overheating and continued very favorable news on inflation."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1997

Diana

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DPC STAFF

FROM: Paul Weinstein

SUBJECT: Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments Document

Please review the draft Clinton-Gore Accomplishments document and provide written edits on the appropriate sections to me by COB ~~Tuesday~~ Monday

PREPARING AMERICA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments
June 1997

*Welfare team
comments*

ECONOMY: The Best American Economy In A Generation

12.3 Million New Jobs...for the first time ever over 11 million jobs were created during a single Presidential term.
Deficit Cut By 80%...from \$290 billion to \$57 billion, down 5 years in a row for the first time in 50 years.
Lowest Unemployment In 24 Years...down from 7.5% in 1992 to 4.8% today, the lowest level since 1973.
Median Family Income Up \$1,600...between 1993 and 1995, the fastest growth since the Johnson Administration.

EDUCATION: Largest Expansion Of Educational Opportunity In 30 Years

180,000 More Kids In Head Start...which now reaches more kids than at any time since its creation in 1965.
Leading A Crusade For Voluntary National Education Standards...so that by 1999, every 4th grade student will be tested in reading and every 8th grade student will be tested in math.
Making College More Affordable...by increasing Pell Grants by 20% from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997 and creating the Direct Lending program, which has made college more affordable for more than 2.1 million students.

Biggest Investment In Higher Education Since The G.I. Bill....The balanced budget plan includes the largest overall investment in education in 30 years and biggest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill in 1944.

CRIME: Declining Steadily For The First Time In 25 Years

Violent Crime Down 5 Years In a Row...the longest period of decline in 25 years. And for the first time in seven years, juvenile crime (which had been exploding) declined in 1995.
100,000 New Police On The Street...resulting in a nearly 20% increase in our nation's police force. Already 61,000 new officers have been funded.
186,000 Felons, Fugitives And Stalkers Denied Handguns...because the President signed the Brady Bill into law.
Developed Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy...and appointed four-star General Barry McCaffrey Drug Czar.

WELFARE: Largest Drop In Welfare Rolls In 50 Years *History*

Overhauled The Welfare System...by signing bipartisan welfare reform legislation in 1996 and is now challenging private businesses to hire 1 million people, moving them from welfare to work.
2.75 Million People Moved From Welfare To Work... *Have left the Welfare Rolls... a drop of 22%. This is the largest welfare decline in welfare rolls in 50 years history*

3.11

50% Increase In Child Support Collection...from 1992 to 1996 due to tougher enforcement of Child Support Laws. A record \$4.8 billion was collected in 1996, up \$4 billion (nearly 50%) since 1992.

12

ENVIRONMENT: Protecting Our Environment For Future Generations

Cleaned Up As Many Superfund Sites In 3 Years As Previous Administrations Did In 12.
Safer Food, Drinking Water And Air...because the President fought for and signed the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Food Quality Protection Act and issued new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by 90%.
Created New National Parks In Utah, California; \$1.5 Billion Plan To Restore The Florida Everglades.
Reduced EPA Paperwork Requirements For Businesses By 15 Million Hours.

**President Clinton:
Building Stronger Families**

"To Prepare America for the 21st Century, we must build stronger families."

President Bill Clinton
February 4, 1997

Strong families are vital to our children, our communities and our nation. President Clinton is meeting the challenge to strengthen our families by providing tax relief to working families, investing in our children's education, reducing crime and helping families move from welfare to work. The Clinton Administration is committed to protecting children, improving their quality of health, encouraging companies to adopt family-friendly practices and strengthening parents' capacity to nurture healthy families.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Cherishing Our Children

- **Expanding Children's Access to Health Care:** Ten million children lack health insurance -- 80% of them have working parents who pay taxes. President Clinton's Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997 expands health care for 5 million of these children.[1997 Budget Agreement]
- **Expanding Head Start to Reach 1 Million Children a Year:** For over 30 years, Head Start has helped low-income families create an environment where their children are ready to learn by taking a comprehensive approach to child development - improving children's learning skills, health, nutrition, and social competency. Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased 80% to \$4 billion in 1997. These additional funds have enabled Head Start to serve 180,000 more children and their families. And President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress continues expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of servng 1 million children in 2002. [Paper;HHS Press Release, 3/26/96]
- **Protecting Children from TV Violence:** President Clinton gave parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("V-chips") in all new televisions.[Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, signed 2/8/96] In addition, the President announced a breakthrough agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a television ratings system to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content. Today, the rating system is in place, informing parents on what their children are watching. [Statement by the President, 2/29/96]

- **Targeting Teen-Age Smoking:** President Clinton proposed the first-ever comprehensive program to protect children from the dangers of tobacco. The Food and Drug Administration has already issued rules aimed at teen-age smoking, such as making 18 the age for the purchase of cigarettes nationwide.[Food and Drug Administration Press Release, 4/15/97]
- **Protecting Children's Health Through Increased Immunizations:** The President has established a Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure vaccinations and healthy futures for all children. In 1995, the immunization rate for two-year olds reached 76%, a record high. And these vaccinations are working: the number of reported cases of diphtheria, mumps, tetanus, measles, rubella, and polio continue to be at or near record low levels.[Centers for Disease Control, Press Release, 2/27/97]
- **Reaching Full Participation in WIC:** The Clinton Administration is committed to full funding in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), reaching 7.5 million participants by the end of FY97. This program works: Every dollar invested in WIC has been proven to save \$ 3 in preventive health-care costs.[Federal Department and Agency Documents, 2/6/97]
- **More Educational Television:** Joined together with the four major television networks to support a proposal to require broadcasters to air three hours of quality educational programming each week.[AP 7/29/96; Statement by the President, 7/29/96]

→ ADD SUMMIT — see attached page
Strengthening Our Families

- **Strengthening Families:** The first bill President Clinton signed was the Family Medical Leave Act, which enables workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. More than 12 million families have taken leave since its enactment. [Commission on Family Medical Leave, A Workable Balance - Report to Congress, 1996; Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, P.L. 103-3, signed February 5, 1993]
- **Greater Health Care Security for Millions of American Families:** Because President Clinton believes that we should provide more Americans with access to health care services, he fought for and signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, also known as Kennedy-Kassebaum. The bill limited exclusions for pre-existing conditions, ended "job-lock" by making health coverage portable, and helped individuals who lose jobs maintain insurance coverage. The Health Insurance Reform Bill President Clinton signed into law protects the health care of millions of working Americans, giving millions of families peace of mind.[Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, P.L. 104-191, signed 8/21/96]

- **Cutting taxes for millions of working families:** President Clinton expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million working families tax relief. Today, that earned income tax credit is worth about \$1,000 to a family of four with an income under \$28,000 a year. The Earned Income Tax Credit lifts full-time workers with children out of poverty. [Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66, signed August 10, 1993]
- **Increasing the Minimum Wage:** The President proposed and signed into law an increase in the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 over two years. For a full-time, year-round worker at minimum wage, this 90-cent increase raises yearly income by \$1,800 -- as much as the average family spends on groceries over seven months. The law signed by President Clinton will increase the wages of 10 million Americans, giving them a chance to raise stronger families and build better futures. [Small Business Job Protection Act Of 1996, P.L. 104-188, Signed 8/20/96]

Ensuring Responsibility - Reorder bullets

Enforcing Child Support: The Clinton Administration collected a record ¹² \$11.8 billion in child support in 1996 through tougher enforcement, an increase of \$4 billion, or nearly 50%, since 1992. [Source: HHS Press release, 4/14/96] President Clinton also issued an Executive Order to help track down federal workers who fail to pay child support. [Executive Order 12953, 2/27/95]

Moving People From Welfare to Work: ^{April} During the first four years of the Clinton Administration, from January 1993 to January 1997, the number of people receiving welfare benefits fell by 20%, or 2.75 million recipients - the largest decline in the welfare rolls in 50 years. This historic decline occurred in response to the Administration's grants of federal waivers to 43 states to experiment with innovative approaches to ending welfare dependency, as well as in response to a strong economy. These waivers gave states the freedom to reform welfare on the local level, including setting time limits on benefits, requiring recipients to work or stay in school, providing child care and giving employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. [Council of Economic Advisors, Explaining the Decline in Welfare Receipt: 1992-1996, 5/9/97]

Overhauling the Welfare System: Last year the President signed a bipartisan welfare plan that ~~will~~ dramatically change the nation's welfare system into one that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance. The law contains strong work requirements, a performance bonus to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs, state maintenance of effort requirements, comprehensive child care enforcement, and supports for families moving from welfare to work -- including increased funding for child care and guaranteed medical coverage. [Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, signed 8/22/96]

3.1
2
22%
History and the lowest percentage of the population on welfare since 1970.

Nearly 90% of states have chosen to continue or build on their welfare ~~programs~~ ^{waivers} in implementing the new law

Support

New bullet #4 - see attached "Mobilizing the Business Community..."

File...

See new text on attached page

5 • **Breaking the Cycle of Dependency:** The Clinton Administration took executive action in May 1996 to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts or lose their welfare benefits. Having a baby should not be the ticket to leaving home and dropping out of school. [Memorandum from the President on the Welfare Initiative for Teen Parents, 5/10/96]

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

America is moving in the right direction. The crime rate is down, welfare rolls and food stamp participation are falling and the teen pregnancy rate has dropped. But we still have more work to do to ensure the health, safety and futures of our children and families. The President's agenda includes:

- Expanding health insurance coverage for all children whose parents cannot afford it.
- Providing families with a \$500 per child tax credit.
- Expanding the accessibility of child care information and services to parents, expanding child care funding available to low-income working families and working with states to improve the quality of services.
- Expanding the Family Medical Leave Act to better help workers care for their families without sacrificing their work obligations. This expansion would allow workers to take up to 24 hours of unpaid leave in support of their children's education needs, older relatives' health care and other family medical obligations.

- Enacting and implementing the \$3.6 billion program that the President ~~presented~~ ^{won as} ~~to~~ part of the balanced budget agreement, to help cities and states create and subsidize jobs for the hardest to employ welfare recipients and to provide tax credits and other incentives for businesses that hire people off welfare.

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**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW CENTURY**

"Looking ahead, the greatest step of all -- the high threshold of the future we now must cross -- and my number one priority for the next four years is to ensure that all Americans have the best education in the world."

President Clinton

State of the Union, February 4, 1997

A Commitment to Education

President Clinton has made an unprecedented commitment to education: the President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in our investment in education in 30 years and the largest single boost in college aid since the G.I. Bill.

ENSURING THAT EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA CAN LEARN

• **Voluntary National Standards.**

Leading a National Crusade for Education Standards. President Clinton has challenged every state to adopt high national standards, so that by 1999, every 4th grade student will be tested in reading and every 8th grade reader will be tested in math. These standards will represent what all our children must know to succeed in the knowledge economy. [Already five states have joined the President's effort.]

Goals 2000. The President's National Standards effort builds upon the success of Goals 2000, a Clinton Administration initiative enacted in 1994, that helps participating States establish voluntary standards of excellence for all children and plan and implement steps to raise educational achievement. All states have now chosen to receive Goals 2000 funding. [Goals 2000: Educate America Act, P.L. 103-227; Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998, 1997]

- **Launched America Reads.** President Clinton launched America Reads Challenge, a nationwide effort to mobilize a citizen army of a million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of third grade. [The 1997 Congressional Budget Resolution] The President's Budget Agreement with Republicans includes America's Reading Corps: 25,000 reading specialists and 11,000 AmeriCorps members serving as recruiters and coordinators, to enlist an army of one million volunteer.[1997 Budget Agreement]

- **Expanding Head Start to Reach 1 Million Children a Year.** President Clinton has made Head Start an Administration priority. For over 30 years, Head Start has helped low-income families create an environment where their children are ready to learn by taking a

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comprehensive approach to child development - improving children's learning skills, health, nutrition, and social competency. Under the Clinton administration, funding for Head Start has increased 80% to \$4 billion in 1997. These additional funds have enabled Head Start to serve 180,000 more children and their families. And President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress continues expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2002. [Budget Agreement; HHS Press Release, 3/26/97]

- **Expanding School-To-Work.** The Clinton Administration is providing hundreds of thousands of students with school-to-work opportunities, where they experience work-based learning and gain access to pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. [School-to-Work Opportunities Act, P.L. 103-239] In 1994 and 1995, over 500,000 young people in 1,800 schools throughout the nation, as well as 135,000 employers, participated in school-to-work systems that integrate academic and vocational instruction and provide work-based learning. [Source: Department of Education, 12/96]
- **Expanding Opportunity for Disabled Children.** President Clinton signed legislation reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strengthening and reaffirming our nation's 20-year commitment to disabled children and their parents. The IDEA demonstrates the Administration's commitment to educational opportunity for all, by helping ensure that children with disabilities are included in all facets of community life and are able to become independent and productive citizens. [Title,

PREPARING OUR SCHOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

- **Bringing Computers to the Classroom.** The President's 1997 Budget Agreement with Congress doubles the funding for America's Technology Literacy Challenge, catalyzing private-public sector partnerships to put the information age at our children's fingertips. The President is committed to helping communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century. For 1998, the budget proposes \$425 million, more than doubling the \$200 million that Congress provided in 1997. [1997 Budget Agreement]
- **Linking Children to the Internet.** The Clinton Administration is implementing a plan to create an "E-Rate," a discounted education rate for telecommunications services so schools and libraries will be able to bring technology into the classroom, set up phone lines and access the Internet at a fraction of the cost. The Federal Communications Commission has already approved a plan to make discounts worth \$2.25 billion annually available to our schools and libraries. [Source: Education Department Initiatives, 5/8/97]
- **Expanding school choice and accountability in public education.** The President has challenged every state to let parents choose the right public school for their children. The Clinton Administration is helping teachers, parents and community groups to start charter schools -- innovative public schools that stay open only as long as they produce results and meet the highest standards. The President's proposed budget doubles funding to help start

charter schools so that there will be more than 3,000 charter schools at the dawn of the 21st century. [Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998, 1997]

OPENING THE DOOR TO COLLEGE

- **Making the 13th and 14th years of education universal.**

America's Hope Scholarships The President's Budget Agreement with Congress funds these scholarships, which provide students with a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for full-time tuition in their first year and second year of college. [Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998, 1997]

A targeted tax deduction of up \$10,000 a year for all tuition after high school. The President's Budget Agreement with Congress will fund this initiative as part of the \$35 billion in tax cuts for higher education. This tax cut will put college in the reach of millions of American families.

The largest increase in Pell Grants in 20 years. President Clinton has already increased Pell Grants from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997. These grants will provide a total of 3.8 million low-income students the opportunity to attend college this year. [Source: Department of Education (Memo to President, 12/6/96)] And he plans to do more. The President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in Pell Grants in two decades -- a funding boost of 25%. The maximum award will reach \$3,000, \$700 more than in 1993. In the 1998 budget alone, an additional 348,000 students will receive grants: 130,000 young people from moderate income families, and 218,000 low income students over the age of 24. [Source: Budget Agreement - Domestic Policy Council Background]

- **Expanding Student Loans.** President Clinton has reformed the student loan program, making college more affordable this year for millions of students through the Direct Lending program. [Student Loan Reform Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66] More than 2.1 million student and parent borrowers have received direct loans since the program began. [Source: Department of Education, 12/96] Under this Administration, the rate of student loan defaults within the first two years after borrowers leave college has reached an all-time low. The losses from student loan defaults fell from \$ 1.7 billion in 1992 to \$ 249 million in 1996 - an 86% drop. [Budget; Department of Education Press Release, 1/9/97]
- **Expanding Educational Opportunity Through Service.** The Clinton Administration has enabled 70,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program. [The National and Community Service Act, P.L. 103-82; U.S. Newswire, 4/28/97]

THE AGENDA AHEAD:

President Clinton has issued a call to action for American education in the 21st Century:

- **Set rigorous national standards**, that all states adopt, with national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math to make sure our children master the basics.
- **Make sure a talented and dedicated teacher is in every classroom.** We must ensure teacher quality well into the 21st century by challenging our most promising young people to consider teaching as a career and setting high standards for entering the teaching profession.
- **Connect every classroom and library to the Internet** by the year 2000 and help all students become technologically literate.
- **Create 1,000 after-school safe havens in communities across the country.** This initiative would extend learning opportunities for children and their families at schools across the country, keeping schools open late, on weekends, and in the summer so young people will stay off the streets and out of trouble.

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**PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON:
BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES BY TAKING BACK OUR
STREETS FROM CRIME, GANGS AND DRUGS**

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Won Passage of the Most Comprehensive Crime Bill Ever:

In 1994, after more than six years of gridlock, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the toughest, smartest Crime Bill in the nation's history. ["Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994," P.L.103-322] It passed with the strong support of every major law enforcement organization in the country, as well as prosecutors, mayors, and state and local officials. The new law now provides:

- A targeted "Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out" provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life.
- An expanded death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
- Funding for 100,000 more prison cells to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- Increased penalties for sex offenders and a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.

More Police and Community Policing

- **The President's plan to put 100,000 more police officers on the street through community policing represents the federal government's biggest commitment ever to local law enforcement.** The President's plan will result in an almost 20% increase in the nation's police force levels. Already, the Administration has provided funding for over 60,000 officers, who are now helping keep our neighborhoods and communities safe. [U.S.D.O.J. COPS, 6/4/97; Government Performance Results Act 1997 (attached to President's FY 98 Budget Request)]
- **The rate of violent crime is down.** The number of murders fell an historic 11% in 1996, while violent crime decreased 7%, and aggravated assault decreased 6%. These falling crime rates mark the largest one-year decline in the past 35 years. [Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report - 1996 Preliminary Annual Release, 6/1/97]

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- **The rate of juvenile crime is down.** Over the past two years, there has been a decline in both the rates of murders committed by young people and youth violence in general.
 - While the juvenile violent crime arrest rate increased 62% between 1987 and 1993, it decreased 2.9% in 1995, the first decline in seven years.
 - The decrease in the juvenile murder arrest rate is even more significant, declining 15.2% in 1995 -- the largest one-year drop in more than 10 years.
 - Since 1993, the juvenile murder arrest rate has dropped an incredible 22.8%. [Department of Justice, 3/97; OJJDP, Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence, 7/97]
 - And the rate is decreasing for other crimes as well: robberies by juveniles decreased 15% in 1995 and juvenile aggravated assaults decreased 32%. [OJJDP, Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence, 7/97]
- **Crime rates have dropped for five straight years.** Violent crime has dropped five years in a row - the longest period of decline in 25 years. [FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 1/5/97]

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Criminals

- **Stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the Brady Bill** which provides for a 5-day waiting period and background checks of prospective handgun buyers. [Brady Bill, P.L. 10-159] In the three years since its enactment, the Brady Law has stopped over 186,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers from buying guns. [Bureau of Justice Statistics, Press Release, 2/25/97]
- **Banned the manufacture and importation of 19 of the deadliest assault weapons** while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs - not hunters and sportsmen. ["Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994", P.L. 103-322]
- **The Clinton Administration has strengthened efforts to clamp down on illicit gun markets, especially those that provide guns to children.** The President directed the ATF to implement the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative in 17 pilot cities. Through this initiative, law enforcement will trace all guns used in crime that are seized by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, and work with that trace information to help identify illegal gun traffickers. By analyzing patterns of gun

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trafficking that exist in an area, our communities will develop more effective law enforcement strategies to target illegal gun traffickers for prosecution, particularly those who put guns into the hands of our nation's young people. [Memorandum on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, 7/8/96]

- **Placing child safety locks in guns.** The President is fighting for legislation in Congress that would require child safety locking devices as part of every gun in America. He has already signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices in every handgun issued. [Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns, 3/5/97]

Combatting Drug Use

- **Developed a comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy** that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction. [Office of National Drug Control Strategy, National Drug Control Strategy, 1997]
- **Made Drug Czar a Cabinet Position.** President Clinton is the **first** President to make the Director of National Drug Control Policy a Cabinet position. [U.P.I. 7/1/1993] He is also the **first** President to nominate a Drug Czar with drug interdiction background. And he appointed a four-star general, Barry McCaffrey, to lead our nation's fight against drugs.
- **Targeting young people with anti-drug messages.** The President's proposed FY 98 budget funds a \$175 million national advertising campaign that would rely on high-impact, anti-drug television ads to educate young people on the dangers of illegal drug use.
- **Drug seizures are up.** The Clinton Administration has increased seizures of marijuana by 50% - from 787,523 pounds in 1992 to 1,163,989 pounds in 1996. And seizures of heroin are up 32% - from 1,157 kilograms in 1992 to 1,524 kilograms in 1996. [DEA's FDSS Report, 3/11/97]
- **Increasing Drug Seizures.** In the last three years, the Border Patrol has seized over \$4.7 billion in drugs -- a 38 percent increase over the three prior years. The \$4.7 billion represents nearly 20,000 drug seizures -- an increase of 22 percent. On the California border, alone, the Border Patrol has seized more than 110 tons of illegal drugs valued at \$618 million. [Source: Department of Justice, U.S. Border Patrol, Total Drug Seizures: Narcotics: Dollar Value of Drugs seized, 1995]
- **Drug Use is Down.** Overall drug use in the United States has declined under the Clinton Administration:

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* Casual drug use is down 13% among Americans between the ages of 18 and 35 since 1992. [Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse/Mental Health Agency, 8/20/96]

* During this Administration, the number of cocaine users has dropped by 30%. The amount of money Americans spend on illicit drugs has declined by 23%. [Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, The National Drug Control Strategy, April 1996]

- **Mandatory drug testing of state prisoners and parolees as a condition of parole.** President Clinton fought for and signed legislation requiring states to drug test prisoners and also parolees so that they can send them back to prison if they get back on drugs. [Omnibus Consolidated Appropriation Act, 1997, P.L. 104-208, Signed 9/30/97]
- **Expanding drug courts.** The Clinton Administration has established drug courts across the country, a proven and effective measure in breaking the cycles of drugs and crime. The President's FY 98 budget increases funding for this program by 150% over last year's funding. [ONDCP, The National Drug Control Strategy, 1997: Budget Summary, 1997]
- **Developed a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, one of the country's most dangerous drugs.** The President fought for and signed legislation that increases penalties for trafficking in meth and those chemicals used to produce meth. And the strategy is working. In the eight cities where meth use had been skyrocketing, it declined substantially in 1996.

Fighting to End Domestic Violence

- **Extended the Brady bill to deny handguns to anyone convicted of domestic violence.** Under the law, anyone who commits an act of domestic violence against a spouse or child, would be prohibited from having a gun. [Omnibus Consolidated Appropriation Act, 1997, P.L. 104-208, Signed 9/30/97]
- **Bolstered local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address violence against women through \$275 million in state grants.** Over the next four years, a total of \$800 million in federal funds is scheduled to assist states as they restructure their law enforcement response to address violent crimes against women. [Violence Against Women Office Press Release, 5/24/96]
- **Established nationwide 24-hour domestic violence hotline** providing immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need. Since the hotline opened, there have been over 106,000 total calls. [Department of Justice, Stop the Cycle of Violence: What You Can Do": National Domestic Violence Summary Report, 3/31/97; HHS Press Release, 5/20/97]
- **Almost tripled funding for battered women's shelters.** In 1993, the federal government spent \$20 million on battered women's shelters. In 1997, the Clinton Administration spent \$58 million. [Administration for Children and Families, 1997; HHS Press Release, 5/20/97]

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Making Our Schools and Communities Safer

- **Keeping dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms** by enforcing a "Zero Tolerance" gun policy in schools. Thus far, 6,276 students have been expelled for bringing weapons to schools, and the vast majority of those expulsions involved guns. [Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, enacted as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382, signed on 10/20/94]
- **Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies** to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect. [Public Papers of the Presidents, Memorandum on the School Uniforms Manual, 2/23/96]
- **Helped protect families and children who live in public housing** from gangs, drugs and violent crime by instituting a "One-Strike-and-You're-Out" policy for residents who engage in criminal activity. [Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, P.L. 104-120]
- **The Clinton Administration has targeted efforts against sexual predators.** The President fought for and signed "Megan's Law," which makes community notification concerning registered sex offenders mandatory. Megan's Law requires States to make public relevant information about child molesters and sexually violent offenders who are released from prison or placed on parole. [P. L. 104-145, Signed 5/17/96] And taking the next step, the President directed the Department of Justice to develop a plan for the implementation of a national sexual predator and child molester registration system. [Public Papers of the Presidents, Memorandum on the Development of a National Sexual Offender Registration System, 6/25/96]

Securing America's Borders

- **Stood firm against illegal immigration** and deported over 95,000 illegal and criminal aliens from October 1995 to January 1997. [Source: I.N.S. 1/97]
- **More border patrol agents than ever.** There are now over 6,000 Border Patrol agents stemming the flow of illegal immigration. This represents an increase of over 70% since 1993. [Federal News Service, Prepared Testimony of Commissioner Doris Meissner, Immigration and Naturalization Services, 4/10/97]

The Agenda Ahead

The President recognizes that juvenile crime will be the largest threat to our communities in the future. That is why he has proposed a bill that will be a full scale assault on juvenile crime. The President's bill:

Declares war on gangs with new prosecutors and tougher penalties.

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Extends the Brady Bill so that someone who commits a violent crime as a juvenile is barred from buying a gun as an adult.

Requires child safety locks be sold with every gun to keep children from hurting themselves or each other.

Keeps schools open after hours, on weekends and in the summer to keep children off the streets and out of trouble. The President's juvenile crime legislation funds anti-crime initiatives to keep our schools open later and on weekends so young people can stay under the watchful eye of parents, educators and community leaders.

Ending the use of cop-killer bullets. The President is fighting for a permanent ban on the production and use of cop-killer bullets. These armor-piercing bullets have no sporting value and serve only to endanger the police officers we ask to protect us every day. [S 112, introduced Jan. 21, 1997]

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Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments

THE ENVIRONMENT

"We must protect our environment in every community. In the last four years, we cleaned up 250 toxic waste sites, as many as in the previous 12. Now we should clean up 500 more so that our children grow up next to parks, not poison." -- President Clinton, State of the Union address, 2/4/97

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Ensuring Public Health

- **Expanded The Public's Right To Know About Toxic Releases:** President Clinton required polluters to publicly disclose information about toxic releases -- nearly doubling the number of chemicals releases reported to the public and increasing by 30 percent the number of facilities that must report under right to know. [Executive Order 12969 & 12856, Public Papers of the President, 8/8/95; 8/3/93; EPA rule, 11/28/94 (AP, 11/28/94); President's remarks, (U.S. Newswire, 4/22/97)]
- **Cleaned Up As Many Superfund Sites In Three Years As The Previous Administrations Did In 12 Years:** The Clinton Administration achieved this dramatic increase in toxic waste clean-ups while dramatically cutting costs. The President and the Vice President also fought Republican attempts to gut the Superfund law that makes polluters -- rather than taxpayers -- pay to clean up toxic dumps. The President vetoed a GOP bill that would have cut Superfund clean ups by 25%. [EPA Construction Completion/Deletion Tracking System; Veto Message of H.R. 1977, Public Papers of the President, 12/18/95]
- **Proposed & Signed The Safe Drinking Water Act:** President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to ensure that our families have healthy, clean drinking water. This law requires drinking water systems to protect against dangerous contaminants like *cryptosporidium*, and gives people the right to know about contaminants in their tap water. [P.L. 104-182, Public Papers of the President, 8/6/96]
- **Fought To Ensure Safe Food & Water For Our Families:** President Clinton fought attempts in Congress to roll back the progress that has been made in ensuring safe food and water for our families. The Clinton Administration also issued new standards to prevent *E. coli* bacteria contamination in meat. The President signed the Food Quality Protection Act which included special safeguards for children and the Administration cancelled dozens of hazardous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly. [Veto Messages, 11/13/95, 12/6/95, 12/18/95, Public Papers of the President; President's Radio address, 7/8/96; P.L. 104-170, Public Papers of President, 8/3/96]
- **Made The Air We Breathe Cleaner:** The Clinton Administration made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by **90%** and dangerous incinerator emissions by **98%**. [EPA HON Rule (made final 3/1/94); EPA incinerator and cement kiln rule (proposed 3/20/96); L.A. Times, 3/2/94]
- **Toughened EPA Enforcement Programs To Ensure Compliance With Environmental Safeguards:** The Clinton Administration has collected the largest fines in history and established a

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new compliance assistance program to help honest business owners comply with environmental laws. [EPA Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Accomplishments Report, 7/96]

- **Forged Agreement For A Global Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants:** The Clinton Administration led the way on an agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants worldwide, such as PCBs and DDT.

Protecting Our Natural Resources

- **Created The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument In Utah:** President Clinton created a new national monument protecting 1.7 million acres of spectacular red rock canyonlands, artifacts from three ancient cultures, and the most remote site in the lower 48 states. [Presidential Proclamation Number 6920, 9/18/96]
- **Improved The National Parks & Created A Large New Park In The California Desert:** President Clinton signed legislation that creates or improves almost 120 national parks, trails, rivers, and historical sites. President Clinton also created the largest new park in lower the 48 states with California Desert Protection Act. [P.L. 104-333, Public Papers of the President, 11/12/96; P.L. 103-433, Public Papers of the President, 10/31/94]
- **Fought Attempts To Close National Parks & Lift The Ban On Offshore Drilling.** [President Clinton Radio Address, 8/26/95; President Clinton Statement 6/20/95]
- **Vetoed A Republican Bill That Would Have Opened The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge To Oil & Gas Drilling.** [Veto Message on H.R. 2491, U.S. Newswire, 12/6/95; President Clinton Letter to Senator Lieberman, 10/26/95]
- **Led The Way On A Plan To Restore The Florida Everglades:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the unique Florida Everglades. President Clinton signed into law the most sweeping restoration effort ever to implement his Everglades plan. [P. L. 104-127; P.L. 104-303, Public Papers of the President, 4/4/96; 10/12/96; VP Gore Statement (FDCH), 2/20/96 (statement on 2/19/96)]
- **Reached An Agreement To Halt Destructive Mining Near Yellowstone National Park.** [President Clinton statement (U.S. Newswire), 8/12/96]
- **Negotiated A Plan For California Bay-Delta Water:** The President broke through decades of conflict and negotiated a consensus plan to protect and allocate California Bay-Delta water. [President Clinton statement (U.S. Newswire), 12/15/94]

Common Sense Reform To Environmental Programs

- **Working With Auto Manufacturers To Develop A "Clean Car":** This partnership program with the domestic auto industry and labor is designed to produce automobiles three times as fuel efficient as today's cars without sacrificing affordability, performance or safety. [Presidential announcement (U.S. Newswire), 9/29/93; New York Times, 10/19/94]

- **Reduced EPA Paperwork For Businesses By 15 Million Hours:** With the Vice President, President Clinton changed EPA rules and procedures to reduce paperwork requirements for businesses by 15 million hours. [Best Kept Secrets In Government, p. 90]
- **Reformed The Wetlands & Endangered Species Programs:** The President reformed wetlands and endangered species programs to lessen any adverse impact on homeowners without compromising environmental protection. The Administration completed 190 habitat conservation partnerships, compared to 14 in place when the Administration took office. [President Clinton statement (U.S. Newswire), 7/12/95; Department of the Interior]
- **Launched A Brownfields Initiative.** President Clinton proposed a targeted \$2 billion tax incentive for investors who purchase and clean up old waste sites in communities across the country -- a move that will protect public health and revitalize urban areas. [President Clinton's Remarks at Farleigh Dickinson University, 3/11/96 (Federal News Service)]
- **Helped To Increase Recycling:** President Clinton issued an Executive Order to jump start the market for recycled goods which is now stronger than ever. [Executive Order 12873, 10/20/93]

A RECORD TO BUILD ON:

→ **Recognize & Restore Outstanding Stretches Of America's Rivers:** Select ten American Heritage Rivers this year.

Expand Community Right-To-Know Laws: Expand these laws and challenge communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution.

Clean Up Two-Thirds Of Superfund Sites By 2000 -- 500 More In Four Years: Challenging Congress to provide true reform of the Superfund program and to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pick up the tab to clean up toxic waste.

Get Tough On Criminal Polluters: This can be done by strengthening penalties for the worst environmental criminals and ensuring that courts can secure polluters' assets in order to restore the communities they victimize.

Negotiate A Global Accord To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Challenge Congress to provide true reform of the Endangered Species Act.

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Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments

POLITICAL & GOVERNMENT REFORM

"Our second piece of unfinished business requires us to commit ourselves tonight, before the eyes of America, to finally enacting bipartisan campaign finance reform... So let's set our own deadline. Let's work together to write bipartisan campaign finance reform into law and pass McCain-Feingold by the day we celebrate the birth of our democracy, July the Fourth." -- President Clinton, State of the Union, February 2, 1997

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Reforming Our Political System

- **Signed Motor-Voter Bill Into Law Leading To 9 Million New Voters:** President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act ("Motor-Voter") which registered at least nine million new voters and made voting easier for more than 20 million Americans from January 1995 to June 1996. "Motor-Voter" has already created the greatest expansion of the voter registration rolls since the 19th century. [P.L. 103-31, U.S. Newswire, 5/20/93; National Motor Voter Coalition study, 10/15/96; USA Today, 10/15/96]
- **Fought For Meaningful Campaign Finance Reform:** In 1992 Governor Clinton proposed voluntary campaign spending limits, free TV time, PAC limits, and a ban on soft money. In May 1993, President Clinton unveiled his campaign finance reform plan which Fred Wertheimer called a "strong campaign finance reform proposal." This plan was eventually killed by a Republican filibuster. In 1996, President Clinton supported the bipartisan McCain/Feingold campaign finance reform bill which was also killed by a Republican filibuster. President Clinton continues to support this legislation and has named former Senators Walter Mondale (D-MN) and Nancy Kassebaum-Baker (R-KS) to head a campaign finance reform education project. [Washington Post, 3/18/97; 5/8/93; Newsday, 7/4/96; AP, 10/3/92; 10/30/92]

Cracking Down On Special Interests

- **Signed Toughest Overhaul Of Lobbying Rules In 50 Years:** President Clinton fought for and signed the Lobby Disclosure Act -- the first major overhaul of the lobbying rules in 50 years. This bill requires lobbyists to disclose who they work for and eliminated loopholes that allowed lobbying organizations to avoid disclosure. [P.L. 104-65, Public Papers of President, 12/19/95]
- **Eliminated Tax Deduction For Lobbying:** President Clinton eliminated the tax deductibility of the cost of lobbying expenses for corporations. [P.L. 103-66; Public Papers of the President, 8/10/93; New York Times, 8/27/93]
- **Fought For And Signed A Ban On Gifts From Lobbyists:** In his 1995 State-of-the-Union Address, President Clinton challenged the Congress to ban gifts, meals, travel and entertainment from lobbyists. The Congress subsequently passed the ban on November 16th, 1995. [P.L. 104-65, Public Papers of President, 12/19/95]

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- **Strictest White House Ethics Guidelines Ever:** On his first day in office, President Clinton imposed the strictest Administration ethics guidelines ever -- including a five-year ban on top officials lobbying their former agencies and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments. [Executive Order 12832, Public Papers of the President, 1/20/93]

Reinventing Government

- **The Smallest Federal Government in 30 Years:** From January 1993 to January 1997, President Clinton and Vice President Gore cut the federal civilian workforce by 309,000 positions. The size of the federal government is now at its *lowest level in 30 years*. President Clinton has *eliminated 16,000 pages* of obsolete regulations affecting the public and rewriting 31,000 more. Vice President Gore's Reinventing Government efforts have already *saved \$118 billion* by cutting wasteful government practices and spending. Additional recommendations will save billions more. [Office of Personnel Management, 1/97; 1996 Best Kept Secrets In Government, p. 1; p. 4]
- **Washington Is Now Accountable For Abiding By The Laws It Passes:** President Clinton fought for enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act & the Presidential & Executive Office Accountability Act. These acts ensure that the Congress and the Executive Office of the President live under the same laws as the rest of the country. [P.L. 104-1, P.L. 104-331 Public Papers of the President, 1/23/95; 10/26/96]
- **Signed Bill Ending Unfunded Mandates From Washington:** In 1995 President Clinton signed a bill which restricted Congress from imposing new requirements on state and local governments without paying for them. [P.L. 104-4, Public Papers of the President, 3/22/95]
- **Signed Line Item Veto Into Law To Fight Government Waste:** President Clinton fought for and signed into law line-item veto legislation which significantly enhances the presidential authority to eliminate wasteful spending by allowing the president to cancel wasteful special interest projects and special interest tax loopholes that sneak into the budget year after year. [P.L. 104-130; Public Papers of the President, 4/9/96]

A RECORD TO BUILD ON:

- **Pass Real Campaign Finance Reform This Year:** Pass the first truly bipartisan campaign finance reform bill (McCain-Feingold, Shays-Meehan) in a generation that will reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections and open the airwaves to all candidates.
- **Finish The Job Of Balancing The Budget:**
Since taking office in 1993, President Clinton has cut the deficit from \$290 billion to \$75 billion. President Clinton is now working to enact into law an historic bipartisan budget agreement which will balance the federal budget by the year 2002.
- **Get Gillespie To Find Something Else To Put Here:**
entitlement reform?

Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments

FOREIGN POLICY

"To prepare America for the 21st century we must master the forces of change in the world and keep American leadership strong and sure for an uncharted time... Let us do what it takes to remain the indispensable nation, to keep America strong, secure and prosperous for another 50 years." -- President Clinton, State of the Union address, February 4, 1997

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:***Protecting American Interests***

- **Forged A Deal To Stop Russian Nuclear Missiles From Pointing At U.S.:** For the first time in over 40 years, Russian nuclear missiles are no longer pointed at America's children and Ukraine, Belarus and Kazhakstan gave up nuclear weapons altogether. [President Clinton's State of the Union address, 1/25/94]
- **Successfully Secured Bipartisan Senate Ratification Of The Start II Treaty:** This treaty reduced U.S. and Russian nuclear stockpiles by another 25%. [AP, 1/26/96]
- **Persuaded North Korea To Freeze & Eventually Dismantle Its Dangerous Nuclear Weapons Program.** [President Clinton statement, Federal News Service, 10/18/94]
- **Signed New Anti-Terrorism Legislation:** President Clinton intensified the fight against terrorism by pressing for and signing new anti-terrorism legislation imposing sanctions on Iran and Libya for state-sponsored terrorism and providing law enforcement officials with tougher tools to stop terrorists before they strike, ensuring strong penalties for the convicted. [P.L. 104-132, Public Papers of the President, 4/26/96]
- **Fought For & Secured Bipartisan Senate Ratification Of Chemical Weapons Convention:** President Clinton's leadership helped ensure passage of this treaty which will bans the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and which will reduce the threat of chemical weapons disasters. [Washington Post, 4/25/97]
- **Deployed Aircraft Carriers To Taiwan Straits To Deter China:** When China conducted provocative military exercises, in 1996, President Clinton deployed two aircraft carriers. [L.A. Times, 3/11/96]
- **Imposed The Toughest Sanctions Ever On Cuba:** President Clinton imposed the toughest sanctions on Castro's Cuba following the brutal killing of U.S. nationals over international waters. [President Clinton announcement, (Federal News Service), 2/26/96]
- **Shaped The New American Military For Post Cold-War Challenges:** President Clinton's leadership ensures that America remains the best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world.

- **Swiftly Deployed U.S. Forces To Deter Resurgent Iraqi Threats.** [President Clinton Letter to Congressional Leaders on Iraq, 3/7/97]
- **Ordered The Reorganization Of U.S. Foreign Policy Agencies:** The President has ordered the merger of ACDA, USIA, & USAID into a new and better coordinated State Department to make the conduct of U.S. foreign policy more accountable and responsive to the challenges of the 21st century. [New York Times, 4/18/97]

Leading The Fight For Peace & Democracy

- **Brokered The Dayton Peace Accords And Ended Four Years Of Bloodshed:** President Clinton's Dayton Peace accords ended four years of rape, bloodshed, and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, America is now helping to provide a secure environment so that peace, democracy and economic reconstruction can proceed. [President Clinton letter to Senator Daschle (D-SD), Public Papers of the President, 12/11/95]
- **Negotiated Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty:** President Clinton championed peace efforts in the Middle East by negotiating the Israel-Jordan peace treaty and helping Israelis and Palestinians fulfill their historic peace agreement. [President Clinton remarks at signing of Peace Treaty, 10/26/94 (U.S. Newswire, 10/27/94)]
- **Led International Efforts To Adopt Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** President Clinton led these efforts at the Summit of the Peacemakers in Egypt in March 1996, at the G-7 Economic Summit in France in June 1996, and at the July 1996 Paris Terrorism Ministerials. [President Clinton statements, (Public Papers of the President) 3/13/96; 6/27/96]
- **Negotiated A Written Agreement Between Syria and Israel:** This agreement ended Hezbollah attacks on Israel, restored peace, and protected civilians on both sides of the Lebanon-Israel border. [President Clinton statement, (U.S. Newswire), 4/26/96]
- **Successfully Managed Israeli Troop Withdrawal From Hebron:** The President advanced the Middle East Peace Process by successfully managing the Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron. [President Clinton statement, 1/15/97]
- **Restored Democracy To Haiti:** President Clinton stopped the flow of refugees to the U.S. and accomplished the first transfer of power from one democratically-elected president to another in Haitian history. [P.L. 103-423, Public Papers of the President, 10/25/94; President Clinton Letter to Congressional Leaders on Haiti, 3/21/96]
- **President Clinton Became The First American President To Engage Directly In The Pursuit Of A Just & Lasting Peace In Northern Ireland.** [Reuters, 8/31/94; 5/14/94]
- **Led The Way On NATO Expansion:** Expansion of the NATO alliance would help extend European security and democracy. [President Clinton's Remarks, 1/11/94; Partnership For Peace, 1/10/94; President Clinton's Remarks, (U.S. Newswire), 5/14/97]

A RECORD TO BUILD ON:

President Clinton will continue to stand up for American values abroad. By supporting those who are taking risks for peace, we are living up to the promise of American leadership and helping secure a future of peace and prosperity for all. President is challenging the Congress and other countries to:

- **Intensify The Fight Against Terrorism & Organized Crime:** Continue to combat terrorism at home and abroad by working for tougher enforcement and more cross-border cooperation.
- **Secure A Truly Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:**
- **Aggressively Combat International Drug-Trafficking:** Continue to aggressively fight international drug-trafficking by working closely with other countries, providing military support and initiating anti-corruption efforts to stem the flow of drugs.