

TO: Elena, Pauline, Nicole, and Jen
FR: Christa

Final Documents attached:

- Event Memo
- Morning Panel Materials:
 - Script
 - Sequence of Speakers
 - Bios
- Afternoon Panel Materials:
 - Script
 - Sequence of Speakers
 - Bios
- Overview of Policy Announcements
- Fact Sheet on Children's Health Initiative
- Letter of Support from Association of American Medical Colleges
- Fact Sheet on Safe Start Initiative
- Fact Sheet on DOD Memorandum
- DRAFT Copy of Memorandum
- 1 Pager on Event
- Accomplishments Document
- List of Audience Participants
- List of Satellite Sites
- Internal Q&A

April 16, 1997

CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

DATE: April 17, 1997
LOCATION: The East Room
TIME: 1st Panel: 10:45 am - 1:00 pm
2nd Panel: 2:45 pm - 4:30 pm
FROM: Bruce Reed/Elena Kagan

I. PURPOSE

To call attention to new scientific research on brain development in very young children and the practical applications of these findings. This is also an opportunity to showcase what your Administration already has done to enhance early childhood development and to announce some new initiatives.

II. BACKGROUND

You and the First Lady will be hosting two panel discussions, with the Vice President and Mrs. Gore joining you for the afternoon session. During the morning session of the conference, leading researchers and child development experts will discuss the new research and what it means for parents and caregivers. The afternoon session will highlight model community efforts to support parents and enhance early childhood development. The First Lady will moderate the afternoon session.

The morning session will be broadcast to approximately 100 satellite sites attended by, among others, subcabinet officials, and regional administrators. The hosts of these satellite conferences will put on programs of their own in the afternoon.

This conference builds on the Administration's investment in children and families. The Administration has invested heavily in research to help us better understand the importance of the first few years of a child's life, including increasing the funding for NIH children's research by 25%, from \$1.3 billion to \$1.6 billion. In addition, the Administration raised funding for Head Start by 43% over the last four years and created the Early Head Start program to support families with children ages zero to three. Your FY 1988 Budget further increases participation in the Head Start program to reach 122,000 more children in FY 1998 than when you first took office. The Administration also dramatically increased participation in the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program.

This conference is an opportunity for you to announce the following new policy announcements:

- **Executive Memorandum to DOD:** Based on reports from child care experts that the military child care system is now the best in the country, you will be issuing an executive memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to use the Department's expertise to help improve child care across the nation. The memorandum urges the Department to consider: (1) creating partnerships with civilian child care centers in the community to help them improve quality; (2) providing training courses for civilian child care providers; (3) sharing the materials and models for worker training, accreditation and evaluation, facility design, financing, and other ingredients of the military's success; and (4) working with States and local governments to enable military child care facilities to serve as training sites for welfare recipients moving from welfare to work.
- **Children's Health Initiative:** You will announce that the Association of American Medical Colleges issued a letter of support for your children's health proposal. Your FY 1998 budget proposal includes a children's health initiative that will extend coverage to up to 5 million uninsured children by the year 2000 by strengthening Medicaid for poor children, building innovative State programs to provide coverage for working families, and continuing health coverage for children of workers who are between jobs.
- **Expanding Early Head Start.** The Department of Health and Human Services is requesting proposals for new Early Head Start programs to expand Early Head Start enrollment by one-third next year. Created by the Clinton Administration in 1994, the Early Head Start program brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women.
- **America Reads Early Childhood Kits: "Ready, Set, Read."** America Reads is releasing early childhood development activity kits that offer suggestions to families and caregivers about developmentally appropriate activities for children ages zero to five. They will be distributed in May to early childhood programs across the country and to callers to the Department of Education's 1-800-USA-LEARN hotline. (The kits are being handed out to all of the participants and press at the conference.)
- **Safe Start.** The Department of Justice is establishing "Safe Start" to change the way law enforcement officers respond to children who are the victims of or witnesses to violence. The program will provide training on early childhood development to community police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, school personnel and mental health providers. It will better prepare law enforcement officials to respond to young children exposed to violence. The initiative is built on the successful partnerships between community police officers and mental health providers funded by DOJ in New Haven, Connecticut and three other communities. (*The New Haven Police Chief will be participating in the afternoon panel to discuss the success of this partnership in New Haven.)

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

The First Lady
John Podesta
Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan
Melanne Vermeer
Sarah Farnsworth
Carolyn Curiel

Morning Panel Participants:

The President
The First Lady
Dr. David A. Hamburg, President of the
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Dr. Donald J. Cohen, Director of the Yale
Child Study Center (Behavior Development)
Dr. Carla J. Shatz, Professor of Neurobiology,
Univ. of California, Berkeley (Neuroscience
Overview)
Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl, Speech and Hearing
Sciences at the University of Washington
(Language/Cognitive Development)
Dr. Ezra C. Davidson, Jr., Drew University
of Medicine (Obstetrician)
Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Harvard Medical
School (Pediatrician)
Dr. Deborah Phillips, Institute of Medicine
(Child Care expert)

Afternoon Panel Participants

The President
The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
The Vice President
Arnold Langbo, Kellogg Corporation
Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, Avance Program
Sheila Amaning, Early Childhood PTA
Melvin Wearing, New Haven Police Chief
Harriet Meyer, Ounce of Prevention
Rob Reiner, "I Am Your Child" Campaign
Governor Bob Miller, Nevada

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR FIRST PANEL

- You will briefly greet panelists in the Blue Room.
- Panelists are announced into the East Room and take seats at table.
- You and the First Lady are announced into the room and proceed to the podium.
- The First Lady makes welcoming remarks from the podium and introduces you.
- You make remarks from the podium.
- You and the First Lady then take seats at the table.
- You will call on the first speaker, David Hamburg to open the discussion.
- David Hamburg makes remarks and introduces the next three consecutive speakers.
- Dr. Donald J. Cohen makes remarks.
- Dr. Carla J. Shatz makes remarks.
- Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl makes remarks.
- You will thank the first three speakers and call on the next three speakers to discuss the implications of the information being discussed, beginning with Ezra Davidson.
- Ezra Davidson will make remarks.
- The President will ask Ezra Davidson a follow-up question.

- Dr. Berry Brazelton will make remarks.
- The First Lady will ask Dr. Berry Brazelton a follow-up question.
- Dr. Deborah Phillips will make remarks.
- You will ask a follow-up question
- At this point, you and the First Lady can pose one or two additional questions to any of the panelists.
- You will thank participants and close event.

SEQUENCE FOR SECOND PANEL (All speakers are SEATED while speaking)

- You will briefly greet participants in the Blue Room.
- The panelists are announced into the East Room and take their seats.
- You, the First Lady, the Vice President, and Mrs. Gore are introduced into room and take seats.
- Mrs. Gore makes welcoming remarks.
- The Vice President makes remarks and introduces the First Lady to moderate the discussion.
- The First Lady introduces all the panel participants and calls on them individually to speak, beginning with Mr. Arnold Langbo.
- Mr. Arnold Langbo makes remarks.
- You could ask Mr. Langbo a follow-up question.
- Dr. Gloria Rodriguez makes remarks.
- The Vice President asks Dr. Gloria Rodriguez a follow-up question.
- Sheila Amaning makes remarks.
- Mrs. Gore asks Sheila Amaning a question.
- Police Chief Melvin Wearing makes remarks.
- You could ask a follow up question to Police Chief Wearing.
- Harriet Meyer makes remarks.
- You could ask a follow-up question to Harriet Meyer
- Rob Reiner makes remarks.
- You could ask a follow-up question to Rob Reiner.
- Governor Miller makes remarks.
- You will thank Governor Miller and other participants and make closing remarks.

VI. REMARKS

Morning Panel: Opening and closing remarks prepared by Speechwriting.
 Afternoon Panel: Closing Remarks prepared by Speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Bios on panelists
- Script of each panel
- Administration Accomplishments
- 0-3 Poll Executive Summary
- Letter of support from the Association of American Medical Colleges

FIRST PANEL OUTLINE OF EVENTS

The President opens discussion following his remarks by introducing David Hamburg, who will serve as moderator for the first panel.

David Hamburg, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York

The Carnegie Corporation produced the Seminal 1994 Study "Starting Points." Last year David Hamburg received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

David Hamburg will make very brief remarks and introduce the panelists. The following three speakers will make consecutive presentations:

Dr. Donald Cohen, Director of the Yale Child Study Center

Dr. Cohen will discuss emerging knowledge in the field of behavioral development.

Dr. Carla Shatz, Professor Neurobiology at the University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Shatz will explain brain development and wiring.

Dr. Patricia Kuhl (COOL), Chair, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, University of Washington.

Dr. Kuhl will discuss how infants learn language.

It is important to move quickly to the second portion of the panel where there is a greater opportunity for discussion. Below is a suggested question if you would like to make comments at this time.

OPTIONAL QUESTION (to Kuhl): Can you tell us more about how the interactions between children and adults affect children's language development?

The President will turn to the next three speakers on the panel and ask them to discuss the implications of this scientific research in each of their fields.

"We're now going to hear from three experts in obstetrics, pediatrics, and child care. They are going to tell us how they make use of this knowledge to help parents and children."

Dr. Ezra Davidson, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, Los Angeles

Dr. Davidson is an expert on prenatal and perinatal services and their importance for early childhood development.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: How can we encourage people who work with expecting parents to talk to them about the importance of early learning?

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Brazelton is America's best-known pediatrician. He has written 26 books on subjects relating to child development. He will discuss the pediatrician's role in early childhood development.

FLOTUS QUESTION: *As I mentioned earlier, the organization Zero to Three today released the results of a nationwide survey of parents of young children, which tries to find out what parents know and what they don't know about their children's development. It is clear from the poll's findings that parents are hungry for information on how to enhance their children's development. Dr. Brazelton, what are the best things that every parent can do to nurture their young children.*

Dr. Deborah Phillips, Director of the Board on Children, Youth and Families of the National Research Council's Commission on Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Phillips is an expert in child care services; she will talk about the implications of this new scientific research for how we care for our youngest children.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *How can we equip parents to figure out what child care settings will be good for their children?*

FLOTUS QUESTION *Some people argue that what this research really tells us is that women with very young children shouldn't work outside of the home. Can you comment on that?*

The President then thanks participants and makes closing remarks.

MORNING PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Dr. David A. Hamburg, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York

Among the many projects completed in his tenure was the production of *Starting Points*, the 1994 seminal report on early childhood development. Dr. Hamburg has served on numerous policy boards, including his current position on the board of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. In 1996, President Clinton bestowed onto Dr. Hamburg the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Donald J. Cohen, Director of the Yale University Child Study Center

The Yale Child Study Center is internationally recognized for its multi disciplinary programs of clinical and basic research, professional education, and clinical services and advocacy for children and families. Dr. Cohen is also the Irving Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology at the Yale School of Medicine. His research has focused on urban child development and approaches to intervention, as well as studies of the impact of violence and trauma on children and families in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Carla J. Shatz, Professor of Neurobiology at the University of California, Berkeley

Her ongoing studies of brain development have gained her numerous honors, including the Society for Neuroscience Young Investigator Award in 1985 and the Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Health and Education in 1995. Dr. Shatz is the immediate past president of the 24,000 member Society for Neuroscience.

Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl, Chair of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Washington

Dr. Kuhl's research focuses on language and speech development, and the results of her studies have illustrated how infants' early experience plays a role in the acquisition of language. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Society, and the Acoustical Society of America.

Dr. Ezra C. Davidson, Jr., Professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Los Angeles, California

Dr. Davidson also holds professorships at the University of California, Los Angeles and the Dartmouth School of Medicine. He has led an active career in research, education, and clinical and public service, serving, for example, as president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and as chair of the Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality. He currently chairs the Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs for the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus at Harvard Medical School

Dr. Brazelton is a widely acclaimed pediatrician, author, and professor, who has served as president of the Society for Research in Child Development and of the National Center for Clinical Infant Programs. Dr. Brazelton is also an active member of the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Deborah Phillips, Director of the Board on Children, Youth and Families of the National Research Council's Commission on Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Institute of Medicine

Dr. Phillips is an expert in child care policy. She was the first Director of the Child Care Information Service of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and serves on numerous advisory groups that address child and family policy issues, including the Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Advisory Committee on Services for Families with Infants and Toddlers of the U.S. Administration for Children, Youth and Families.

MORNING PANEL SEQUENCE OF SPEAKERS

Mrs. Clinton makes welcoming remarks.

The President makes remarks.

Dr. David A. Hamburg, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, introduces panelists.

Dr. Donald J. Cohen, Director of the Yale University Child Study Center, will discuss emerging knowledge in the field of behavioral development.

Dr. Carla Shatz, Professor of Neurobiology at the University of California, Berkeley, will explain brain development and wiring.

Dr. Patricia Kuhl, Chair of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Washington, will discuss how infants learn language.

The President thanks first three panelists and calls on next three.

Dr. Ezra Davidson, Jr., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, will discuss the importance of prenatal and perinatal services to early child development.

The President asks a question.

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus at Harvard Medical School, will discuss the pediatrician's role in early childhood development.

The First Lady asks a question.

Dr. Deborah Phillips, Director of the Board on Children, Youth and Families of the National Research Council's Commission on Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, will discuss the implications of new scientific research for child care.

The President asks a question.

The First Lady asks a question.

The President will make closing remarks.

SECOND PANEL

(Suggested questions are for POTUS unless otherwise indicated)

- Mrs. Gore will make welcoming remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks and introduce the First Lady to moderate.
- The First Lady will introduce panelists and call on Mr. Langbo to make remarks.

Mr. Arnold Langbo, CEO, The Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Michigan

Last fall, Kellogg launched a community-wide effort to provide practical early brain development information to every Battle Creek parent and caregiver.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: What kind of employment policies can businesses adopt to support their employees as parents?

Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, Founder, President and CEO, AVANCE, (A-VON-SAY) Inc., Texas

The AVANCE Program is a widely acclaimed community and school-based family support program that serves children and parents in low-income hispanic families throughout Texas.

****VP ASKS QUESTION: Can you tell us about the role of fathers in AVANCE?***

Sheila Amaning (A-MON-ING), Co-President, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Early Childhood PTA, North Carolina As a parent, as co-president of the Early Childhood PTA, and as an employee of a non-profit that provides information to parents on early learning, she is committed to enhancing childhood development.

MRS. GORE ASKS QUESTION: What have you learned from other parents and teachers in the Early Childhood PTA program that has helped you as a parent?

Melvin Wearing, New Haven Chief of Police, New Haven, Connecticut

Through a DOJ-funded program, Police Chief Wearing works in partnership with the Yale Child Study Center to train community police officers to use child development principles in their work.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: Do you think this effort will help to reduce crime in the long term?

Harriet Meyer, Executive Director, Ounce of Prevention, Chicago, Illinois

The Ounce of Prevention Fund is a statewide program in Illinois that develops innovative early childhood programs and runs model Early Head Start and child care programs.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: What do you think are the advantages of home visiting?

Rob Reiner, Castle Rock Entertainment, Founder of the "I Am Your Child" Campaign

The "I Am Your Child" campaign being announced this week brings together entertainment leaders, corporations, early childhood experts, etc. to work together to promote family and community involvement in the early stages of young children's lives.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: What do you think is the media's responsibility to improve children's lives through the entertainment they provide?

Gov. Bob Miller, Governor of Nevada, Chair of the National Governors' Association and Co-Chair of the National Governors' Association Children's Task Force.

The President will thank participants and make closing remarks.

AFTERNOON PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Arnold Langbo, CEO, The Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Michigan

Last fall, Kellogg launched "Learning Now!" a community-wide partnership between local business and education leaders to provide practical early brain development information to every Battle Creek parent and caregiver. The campaign includes print, radio and TV ads, mailings to parents with information tailored to the age of their children, and brown-bag lunches in hundreds of businesses. The goal is to ensure that every student arrives at school ready to learn.

Gloria Rodriguez, President and CEO, AVANCE, Inc. Family Support and Education Programs, Texas

The AVANCE Program, founded by Dr. Rodriguez in 1973, is a widely acclaimed community and school-based family support program that serves over 7,000 low-income children and parents a year in predominantly Hispanic communities throughout Texas. AVANCE operates in public housing centers, elementary schools, and through its family service centers. It presents classes on child development and parenting activities, conducts home visits by trained staff, reaches out to fathers, and disseminates information on community services and education classes and job training.

Sheila Amaning, Co-President, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Early Childhood PTA, North Carolina

This Early Childhood PTA gives parents of pre-school age children the opportunity to share ideas with each other and become involved in their children's learning from the start. Ms. Amaning has participated in this Early Childhood PTA since her son was two years old.

Melvin Wearing, Chief of Police, New Haven, Connecticut

With support from the Department of Justice, the New Haven Police Department has partnered with mental health clinicians at the Yale Child Study Center to develop innovative ways in which community police officers can deliver better serve children and families exposed to violence.

Harriet Meyer, Executive Director, Ounce of Prevention, Chicago, Illinois

The Ounce of Prevention Fund combines public resources with private funds to develop and test innovative early intervention strategies for replication. The Ounce's Center for Successful Child Development provides child care, Head Start and Early Head Start, home visits, medical care, and other services to families in public housing. The Ounce's Beethoven Project was one of the models for the federal Early Head Start program established in 1994.

Rob Reiner, Founder, "I Am Your Child" Campaign

The "I Am Your Child" campaign launched this week brings together entertainment leaders, corporations, foundations, elected officials, and early childhood experts to work together to promote family and community involvement in the early stages of young children's lives.

Gov. Bob Miller, Governor of Nevada, Chair of the National Governors' Association and Co-Chair of the National Governors' Association's Children's Task Force

The National Governors' Association has formed the Children's Task Force to explore what actions states can take to enhance early childhood development.

AFTERNOON PANEL SEQUENCE OF SPEAKERS

Mrs. Gore will make welcoming remarks.

The Vice President will make remarks

The First Lady will introduce panelists.

Arnold Langbo, CEO, The Kellogg Company, will discuss the community-wide effort Kellogg launched last fall to provide early brain development information to parents.

The President asks a question.

Gloria Rodriguez, President and CEO, AVANCE, Inc. Family Support and Education Programs, Texas will discuss the contributions parenting programs can make.

The Vice President asks a question.

Sheila Amaning, Co-President, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Early Childhood PTA, will discuss the benefits of Early Childhood PTA.

Mrs. Gore asks a question.

Melvin Wearing, New Haven Chief of Police, will discuss a pioneering initiative that trains community police officers to use child development principles in their work.

The President asks a question.

Harriet Meyer, Executive Director of Ounce of Prevention in Chicago, will discuss innovative early childhood programs and model Early Head Start programs.

The President asks a question.

Rob Reiner will discuss the "I Am Your Child" campaign launched this week and the media's role in making early childhood development information available.

The President asks a question.

Governor Bob Miller will discuss what states are doing to enhance early childhood development.

The President will thank Governor Miller and make closing remarks.

**WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING
POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today, the President and First Lady are hosting *The White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children*. The day-long conference highlights new scientific findings on brain development in very young children and points to the importance of children's earliest experiences in helping them get off to a strong and healthy start and reach their full potential.

Clinton Administration Commitment to Young Children. The Clinton Administration has invested heavily in research to help us better understand the importance of the first few years of life to child development and learning. President Clinton has also strengthened efforts to support families with young children by investing in Head Start and Early Head Start, the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program, immunization and other early childhood programs.

At the conference, the President will make a series of policy announcements that build on the Clinton Administration's commitment to young children:

Improving the Quality of Child Care By Learning from the Military. Child care experts believe that the military child care system is now the best in the country. The President is issuing an executive memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to use the Department's expertise to help improve child care across the nation. The memorandum urges the Department to consider: (1) creating partnerships with civilian child care centers in the community to help them improve quality; (2) providing training courses for civilian child care providers; (3) sharing the materials and models for worker training, accreditation and evaluation, facility design, financing, and other ingredients of the military's success; and (4) working with States and local governments to enable military child care facilities to serve as training sites for welfare recipients moving from welfare to work.

Providing Health Coverage for Children. The President's fiscal year 1998 budget includes a children's health initiative that will extend coverage to up to 5 million uninsured children by the year 2000 by strengthening Medicaid for poor children, building innovative State programs to provide coverage for working families, and continuing health coverage for children of workers who are between jobs. Today, the Association of American Medical Colleges issued a letter of support for the Clinton Administration's children's health proposal.

Importance of Early Education. The President recognizes that children must be nurtured and stimulated in the earliest years. That is why he is announcing two initiatives geared toward early learning.

- **Expanding Early Head Start.** The Department of Health and Human Services is requesting proposals for new Early Head Start programs to expand Early Head Start enrollment by one-third next year. Created by the Clinton Administration in 1994, the Early Head Start program brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women.
- **Giving Parents and Caregivers Early Childhood Tools.** The President's America Reads Challenge is releasing "Ready*Set*Read" early childhood development activity kits. The kits

offer suggestions to families and caregivers about developmentally appropriate activities for children ages zero to five. They will be distributed in May to early childhood programs across the country and to callers to the Department of Education's 1-800-USA-LEARN hotline.

Safe Start. The Department of Justice is establishing "Safe Start" to change the way law enforcement officers respond to children who are the victims of or witnesses to violence. The program will provide training on early childhood development to community police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, school personnel and mental health providers. It will better prepare law enforcement officials to respond to young children exposed to violence and can help prevent today's children from turning into tomorrow's criminals. The initiative is built on the successful partnerships between community police officers and mental health providers funded by DOJ in New Haven, Connecticut and three other communities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

Significant gaps remain in children's health coverage. In 1995, 10 million children in America lacked health insurance. The President's children's health initiative will extend coverage to up to 5 million uninsured children by 2000 by strengthening Medicaid for poor children, building innovative State programs for working families, and continuing health coverage for children of workers who are between jobs. **Today, the Association of American Medical Colleges issued a letter of support for the Clinton Administration's children's health initiative.**

Strengthening Medicaid for Poor Children

- **12-Month Continuous Eligibility.** Currently, many children receive Medicaid protection for only part of the year. The President's fiscal year 1998 budget gives States the option to provide one year of continuous Medicaid coverage to children. The budget invests \$3.7 billion over five years, covering an estimated million children who would otherwise be uninsured.
- **Outreach.** The President also proposes to work with the Nation's Governors, communities, advocacy groups, providers, and businesses to develop new ways to reach out to the 3 million children eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid.

Building Innovative State Programs for Children in Working Families

- The President's budget provides \$3.8 billion between 1998 to 2002 (\$750 million a year) in grants to States. States will use these grants to provide insurance for children, leveraging State and private investments in children's coverage through a matching system (as in Medicaid). States have flexibility in designing eligibility rules, benefits (subject to minimums set by the Secretary), and delivery systems.
- The Federal grants, in combination with State and private money, will cover an estimated one million children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private coverage. The grant program will also increase Medicaid enrollment by about 400,000 kids since some families interested in the new program will learn that their children are in fact eligible for Medicaid.

Continuing Coverage for Children Whose Parents are Between Jobs

- The President's budget will give States grants to temporarily cover workers between jobs, including their children, at a cost of \$9.8 billion over the budget window. The program, which is structured as a four-year demonstration, will offer temporary assistance (up to 6 months) to families who would otherwise lose their coverage. This assistance may be used to purchase coverage from the worker's former employer (through COBRA) or other private plans, at States' discretion.
- This initiative will help an estimated 3.3 million working Americans and their families, including 700,000 children, in any given year.
- The President's budget also makes it easier for small businesses to establish voluntary purchasing cooperatives, increasing access to insurance for workers and their children.

April 17, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

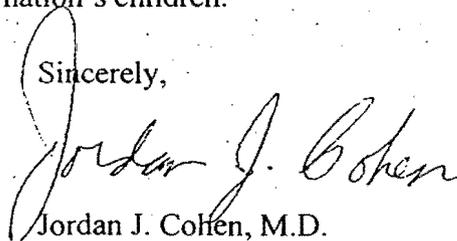
On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our strong support for your efforts to extend health care coverage to the ten million American children who are currently without coverage.

Recent studies have shown that the reduction in the availability of health insurance has disproportionately affected children in part due to the decline in employment-based dependent coverage coupled with the general reduction of employment-based coverage. As you know, lack of health insurance coverage has been shown to be a deterrent for individuals both in requesting and receiving care. As a result, many uninsured persons seek treatment for themselves and their family when their condition is more advanced and, as a result, more difficult and expensive to treat. For a child, forgoing needed medical care can have implications that last a lifetime.

The AAMC represents all of the nation's 125 accredited medical schools, approximately 400 major teaching hospitals, including 75 Veterans Affairs medical centers, the faculty of these institutions through 89 constituent academic society members and the more than 160,000 men and women in medical education as students and residents. The AAMC member institutions, which have the multiple missions of education and training, research and direct patient care, are acutely aware of the rise in the number of uninsured Americans, many of whom seek treatment at our institutions.

As you strive to reach an agreement on a balanced budget, the AAMC strongly supports your efforts as well as those on Capitol Hill to include a significant investment to expand health insurance coverage for children. We are prepared to work with you, your staff and members of Congress to achieve this critical objective for our nation's children.

Sincerely,



Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S SAFE START INITIATIVE

Announcement

- Today at the White House Early Childhood Development and Learning Conference, the President announced a new Safe Start Initiative to help break the cycle of violence for our nation's youngest victims. The Safe Start Initiative will provide training to law enforcement, prosecutors, school personnel, probation officers, and other professionals to better respond to the needs of children exposed to violence in their homes and communities.

The Problem

- Throughout America, too many children are exposed to violence at home, in their neighborhoods, and in their schools. Children's exposure to violence has been associated with increased depression, anger, substance abuse, and lower academic achievement. Children who experience violence either as victims or witnesses also are at increased risk of becoming violent themselves.
- In a study conducted at Boston City Hospital, 1 out of every 10 children seen in its primary care clinic had witnessed a shooting or stabbing before the age of 6 -- half in their homes and half in the streets. The average age of these children was only 2.7 years old.

The Safe Start Initiative

- The Safe Start Initiative builds on the Child Development-Community Policing Program (CD-CP) started in 1991 between the New Haven Department of Police Services and Yale University Child Study Center, and now funded by the Department of Justice. It was more recently extended to Buffalo, NY; Charlotte, NC; Nashville, TN; and Portland, OR, with Justice Department funding.
- The Safe Start Initiative will increase the number and expand the scope of these regional demonstration sites in which community police officers partner with mental health clinicians to provide rapid and effective treatment to children exposed to violence.
- The Safe Start Initiative will also provide nationwide intensive training and technical assistance for professionals who come into contact with children who have been exposed to family and gang violence, violence in their community and schools, and abuse or neglect.
- Up to 20,000 professionals who work with children in communities across the nation will receive Safe Start training including: law enforcement, prosecutors, school personnel, and probation and parole officers.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ASKS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO SHARE EXPERTISE FROM THE MILITARY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

We now know that children's earliest experiences, including those in child care, have significant effects on learning and development. I believe we all have a role to play in making sure that all of our children have a strong and healthy start in life.

- President Bill Clinton, 4/17/97

Today, the President urged the Secretary of the Department of Defense to use the military's expertise to improve child care across the nation.

Building on Success: Learning from the Military.

Child care experts believe that the military child care system is now the best in the country. Military child care programs serve the families of men and women in the United States armed forces and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense. In developing its child care system, the Department of Defense has learned how to make a difference in the day to day lives of children. The military child care system is noted for: (1) high quality standards, including a high percentage of accredited centers; (2) a strong enforcement and oversight system with four annual unannounced inspections and a 1-800 hot line for parents to report concerns; (3) mandatory training for child care providers; (4) relatively generous wages and benefits tied to continued training and education; (5) a system of linking up and providing needed support to individual home care providers; and (6) sufficient funding to make quality child care affordable.

Leading the Nation in Child Care Accreditation.

Most notably, the Defense Department today leads the nation in achieving child care accreditation: 72% of all of its child care programs have been accredited, compared to 5% nationally. Most of the Department's success in meeting accreditation standards has come recently: the National Association for the Education of Young Children has accredited 337 of military child care facilities today, as compared to 55 in 1992.

A Challenge to the Defense Department.

The President issued an executive memorandum to the Secretary of Defense, directing him to use the Department's expertise to improve child care in communities across the nation. The memorandum urges the Department to consider: (1) creating partnerships with civilian child care centers in the community to help them improve quality; (2) providing training courses for civilian child care providers; (3) sharing the materials and models used by the military for worker training, accreditation and evaluation, facility design, financing and other ingredients of their success; and (4) working with States and local governments to enable military child care facilities to serve as training locations for welfare recipients moving from welfare to work.

DRAFT

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Using Lessons Learned from the Military Child Care System to Improve the Quality of Child Care in the United States

We now know that children's earliest experiences, including those in child care, have significant effects on learning and development. I believe we all have a role to play in making sure that all of our children have a strong and healthy start in life.

The Military Child Development Programs have attained a nation-wide reputation for an abiding commitment to quality in the delivery of child care. Your dedication to adequate funding, strict oversight, improved training and wage packages, and strong family child care networks and your commitment to meeting national accreditation standards is laudatory. I believe that the military has important lessons to share with the rest of the nation on how to improve the quality of child care for all of our nation's children.

I therefore direct you, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the General Services Administration, to share the expertise and lessons learned from the Military Child Development Programs with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as with private and non-profit entities, that are responsible for providing child care for our nation's children. I ask that you report to me, within six months with a preliminary report and within one year with a final report, on actions taken and with further recommendations. I urge you to consider the following:

- I. In consultation with States, encourage military installation child development facilities in the United States to partner with civilian child care programs in their local communities to improve the quality of service offered. The military staff could provide assistance with local accreditation efforts, offer training as available, assist with state and local child development credentialing processes, and provide models of effective child care practices.
- II. Establish military Child Care Programs of Excellence, to the greatest extent feasible, to offer training courses to civilian child care providers. These training courses could demonstrate model practices for child care centers, family child care homes, and school-

age facilities.

- III. Make widely available to the civilian child care community information on the model approaches and designs that the military uses for training and compensation, accreditation and evaluation, playground and facility design, support systems linking individual family child care providers, as well as overall financing strategies.
- IV. Establish partnerships with State or County employment and job training programs to enable Military Child Development Centers and Family Child Care Homes to serve as training locations for welfare recipients moving from welfare to work. Military programs could provide on-the-job training, work experience, and an understanding of best practices for the delivery of child care.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING: WHAT NEW RESEARCH ON THE BRAIN TELLS US ABOUT OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN

"Learning begins in the first days of life. Scientists are now discovering how young children develop emotionally and intellectually from their very first days, and how important it is for parents to begin immediately talking, singing, even reading to their infants.... We already know we should start teaching children before they start school."

--President Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, February 4, 1997

Today, the President and First Lady are hosting *The White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children*. The day-long conference highlights new scientific findings on brain development in very young children and point to the importance of children's earliest experiences in helping them get off to a strong and healthy start.

Applying New Findings on Brain Development in the Earliest Years. New scientific research shows that experiences after birth -- particularly in the first three years of life -- have a dramatic impact on brain development. That means that nurturing, talking to, singing to and reading to our youngest children will improve their ability to learn and develop throughout their lives. The White House Conference will focus on the practical applications of the latest scientific research on the brain, particularly for parents and caregivers. The conference will also be a call to action to all members of society -- including the health, business, media and faith communities, child care providers and government -- to use this information to strengthen America's families.

Clinton Administration Commitment to Young Children. This conference builds on the Clinton Administration's investment in children and families. The Administration has invested heavily in research to help us better understand the importance of the first few years of life to child development and learning. Between 1993 and 1997, funding for NIH children's research increased 25%, from \$1.3 billion to \$1.6 billion.

President Clinton has also strengthened efforts to support families with young children. To take just a few examples, the Administration raised funding for Head Start -- providing low-income children and their families with comprehensive education, health services, and nutrition -- by 43% over the last four years and created the Early Head Start program to support families with children ages zero to three. The President's FY 1998 Budget further increases participation to reach 122,000 more children in FY 1998 than when he took office. The Administration also dramatically increased participation in the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program, providing 7.4 million pregnant women, infants, and children with nutrition packages and information and health referrals -- 1.7 million more than when President Clinton took office. And his FY 1998 Budget would achieve his goal of full participation in the WIC program by the end of FY 1998.

Conference Program and Participants. During the morning session of the conference, leading researchers and child development experts will discuss the new research and what it means for parents and caregivers. The panelists for this session are: Dr. David Hamburg, Carnegie Corporation of New York (moderator); Dr. Carla Shatz, University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Donald Cohen, Yale Child Study Center; Dr. Patricia Kuhl, University of Washington; Dr. Ezra Davidson, Drew University of Medicine, Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Harvard University; and Dr. Deborah Phillips, National Research Council. The afternoon session will highlight model community efforts to support parents and enhance early childhood development. The panelists include: Avance Family Support and Education Program, San Antonio, TX; the CEO and Chairman of the Board, The Kellogg Company, Battle Creek Michigan; and Ounce of Prevention, Chicago, IL.

Broad Participation Across the Country. The morning session of the conference will be broadcast by satellite to over 80 locations across the country. The satellite conferences will be co-hosted by regional federal agencies, local officials, and children's and other organizations.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN

"Learning begins in the first days of life. Scientists are now discovering how young children develop emotionally and intellectually from their very first days, and how important it is for parents to begin immediately talking, singing, even reading to their infants.... We already know we should start teaching children before they start school."

-- President Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, February 4, 1997

Recent scientific research has demonstrated that experiences during the earliest years of life -- before children reach school age -- are critical to their cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Nurturing and stimulating children in the first years of life actually help their brains develop and prepare them for the challenges of school and later life. President Clinton is committed to giving America's children the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential by investing in research, supporting parents and caregivers, and strengthening programs that provide early intervention to disadvantaged families.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Supported Over 90% of all Children's Research. In fiscal year 1995, the federal government spent an estimated \$2 billion on research and development directly related to children and youth -- over 90% of all funding of children's research. Spending on children's health research at The National Institutes of Health (NIH) increased 25% between 1993 and 1997, and this year NIH will spend \$904 million on research on young children alone. This research has contributed to the recent advances in understanding early learning and language development.

Increased participation in WIC program. WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition packages, nutrition education, and health referrals to low-income pregnant women, infants, and children. Over the past four years participation has expanded by 1.7 million from 5.7 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children. The increase in the President's budget proposal fulfills his commitment to achieving full participation in WIC by the end of 1998. Research shows that WIC prenatal services save Medicaid much more than they cost by reducing health care expenses in the first 60 days after birth.

Raised Childhood Immunization Rates to an All-Time High. The President's Childhood Immunization Initiative focuses on five areas: 1) improving the quality and quantity of vaccination delivery services; 2) reducing vaccine costs for parents; 3) increasing community participation, education and partnerships; 4) improving systems to monitor diseases and vaccinations; and 5) improving vaccines and vaccine use. This initiative has achieved notable

success. In 1995, 75% of two-year olds were fully immunized -- an historic high. Funding for childhood immunization has doubled since fiscal year 1993.

Protected the Medicaid Guarantee for 9 Million Children Under 6 Years Old. This Administration has protected and, preserved -- and now will improve on -- the guarantee of Medicaid coverage for 36 million Americans, including 9 million children under the age of 6. In 1995, the President vetoed the Republican Medicaid block grant proposal that would have ended the guarantee of coverage for up to 4 million children by 2002. At the same time, the President worked with states by granting 15 comprehensive Medicaid waivers and approving many more state plan amendments that improve and expand coverage for children.

Seeks to Extend Health Coverage to Up to 5 Million Children. Although this Administration has made great strides in protecting the health of America's neediest children, there is still much to be done. In 1995, more than 10 million American children, 80% of whom have working parents, had no health insurance. The President's budget takes three important steps to address the problem of children who lack health insurance coverage:

- 1) Provides annual grants to states to cover health insurance premiums for families of workers who are in-between jobs;
- 2) Utilizes state partnership grants to help working families who are not eligible for Medicaid to purchase private insurance for their children; and
- 3) Expands Medicaid coverage by allowing states to continue Medicaid coverage for up to one year even if family income changes, intensifying outreach to children who are currently eligible but not enrolled; and continuing current law expansions of coverage to reach poor children between the ages of 13 and 18.

Fighting Pediatric AIDS. In 1994, the National Institutes of Health released new research showing that the use of the drug AZT by HIV-infected pregnant women can reduce the risk of transmission from mother to child by two-thirds. In response, the Food and Drug Administration quickly approved changes in labeling indications for AZT to include HIV-infected pregnant women and, in 1995, the Centers for Disease Control began recommending routine HIV counseling and voluntary HIV testing for all pregnant women. In addition, the President has consistently supported investment through Title IV of the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides grants for coordinated HIV services and access to research for children, women and families. Since 1994, \$113 million has been appropriated under Title IV, with 59 organizations in 26 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia receiving support.

Protecting Mothers and Children. Due to the Clinton Administration's comprehensive strategy to increase access to prenatal care, the preliminary estimate for the U.S. infant mortality rate (the rate at which babies die before their first birthday) is at an historic low of less than 8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1995, and the proportion of mothers getting early prenatal care is at a record high of 81%. In addition, the President spearheaded legislation requiring insurance companies to cover at least 48 hour hospital stays following childbirth. In 1970, the average length of stay for an uncomplicated delivery was four days, but by 1992 it had declined to two days. This legislation ensures that mothers and babies do not leave the hospital before they and their doctors decide they are ready. The Administration is ensuring that the health needs of mothers and

children are met by providing over \$1 billion in FY 97 for Title V Maternal and Child Health Programs. The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, one of the Title V programs, serves approximately 17 million women, infants and children, in partnership with states. In addition, Title V programs provide comprehensive care for children with special health needs, meet nutritional and development needs of mothers and children and help reduce infant mortality.

Preventing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The Clinton Administration launched the Back to Sleep public education campaign to send the message to parents and health professionals that putting babies to sleep on their backs can reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Largely as a result of this campaign, SIDS deaths dropped by 30% between 1992 and 1995.

PROMOTING EARLY LEARNING

Increased participation in Head Start, created Early Head Start for 0-3 year olds, and improved program quality. For more than thirty years, Head Start has been one of our nation's best investments. President Clinton has made improving and expanding Head Start a priority because Head Start ensures that low-income children start school ready to learn. Over the past five years, funding for the program has increased by 80%, and in fiscal year 1997 Head Start will serve 800,000 low-income children five years old and younger. Initiated in 1994, there are now 143 *Early Head Start* programs across the country, expanding the proven benefits of Head Start to low-income families with children under three. Over the last three years, the Clinton Administration has also invested significantly in improving program quality and providing local programs with the resources they need to attract and retain high quality teachers. The President's 1998 budget proposal provides a \$324 million increase in Head Start's budget so that it will remain on course to serve 1 million children by 2002.

Improved Support for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Infants and Families Program supports the continuing efforts of states to implement high quality statewide early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Over the past four years, funding for the program has increased by 48% or \$102.5 million. During the same period, the number of children served increased by 21.5%. An estimated 191,000 children will be served in fiscal year 1998.

Enhanced Family Literacy Program. Even Start Family Literacy is a family-focused grant program to improve the educational opportunities for children and their parents in low-income areas by integrating family literacy activities, including early childhood education, adult education, and parenting education. Since 1993, funding for Even Start has increased by over 40% to support programs in every state and the District of Columbia.

Providing Funding for Parent Resource Centers in 42 States. In addition to involving parents in the development of state and local education plans, the President's Goals 2000 program provides funding to establish parent resource centers that help parents learn how to help their children meet high standards. The centers provide training, distribute resource materials, and support a variety of programs that strengthen family involvement in education. In fiscal year 1997, funding is available for support centers in 42 states, 14 more than in 1996.

Promoting Parents as First Teachers. The President's America Reads Challenge, a campaign to ensure that every child can read well by the end of the third grade, includes Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grants to fund proven local, regional and national programs that provide assistance to parents to help their children become successful readers. The grants can be used to expand successful programs such as the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) and the Parents as First Teachers (PAT) program. They will also fund national and regional networks to share information on how parents can help children to read.

IMPROVING CHILD CARE

Increased Child Care Funding. Since 1993 federal funding for child care has increased by \$1 billion, providing services for over 660,000 children -- 65% of whom are under 5 years of age. The newly established Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) has made available \$2.9 billion to states. The new fund, authorized and expanded by the new welfare law, will assist low-income families working their way off welfare to obtain child care so they can work or attend school.

Improved Child Care in Public Housing. The Early Childhood Development Program helps to provide quality child care for families living in public housing communities, as well as families who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. The program allows parents or guardians who live in public housing to get and keep jobs by ensuring that their children are cared for. In 1996, \$21 million was awarded to public housing sites across the country -- three times more than in 1994.

Providing High Quality Child Care for Military Families. Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Defense has made important strides to improve the quality of child care for the children of the men and women who serve our country. Since 1992, the number of military child care facilities that are accredited by the independent National Association for the Education of Young Children has risen from 55 to 466. Currently, 72% of military child care programs are accredited, as compared to only 7% of other child care facilities nationwide.

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

Controlling Childhood Lead Poisoning. The Administration has launched a major new effort to control childhood lead poisoning. The program requires landlords and sellers of older homes to notify prospective tenants and buyers about lead-based paint hazards, provides grants to states to control lead-based paint hazards in low-income privately-owned homes, and offers technical assistance to ensure that lead hazard control work is done safely and efficiently. The 1997 interim report evaluating the HUD Lead-Based Point Hazard Control grant program shows that median dust levels on interior window sills were reduced by 85 %. In addition, the number of children suffering from lead poisoning dropped from 1.7 million in the late 1980s to about 930,000 in the mid-1990s.

Protecting Our Children's Environment. Because their bodies are still developing, children are among the most vulnerable to pollution in the air, water and soil. In 1995, the Clinton Administration began requiring that children receive first consideration when EPA assesses

environmental hazards and sets public health standards. In addition, the Clinton Administration has strengthened environmental protections for children by: proposing to strengthen air quality standards for soot and smog to protect children from air pollution, particularly those with asthma; speeding the clean-up of two-thirds of the nation's toxic waste sites to protect the 10 million children under age 12 who live within four miles of a toxic waste dump; strengthening drinking water protections to ensure that drinking water is free of microbial contaminants; expanding families' right to know about environmental health risks that infants and children face to help them make informed decisions about their children's exposure to these risks; issuing advisories about contaminated fish so parents can protect children from cancer-causing PCBs; and educating parents about the effects of second-hand smoke, which annually results in 7,500 to 15,000 hospitalizations of infants and children under 18 months of age.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Passed Family and Medical Leave. The President fought for the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) that allows workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. In June 1996, President Clinton proposed expanding FMLA to allow workers to take up to 24 unpaid hours off each year for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical care, and additional activities related to caring for an elderly relative. Last week, the President asked Federal agencies to implement his expanded leave policy immediately for Federal workers.

Improved Children's Television. 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. In addition, the Administration has given 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.

Reducing Child Abuse and Domestic Violence. The Administration created the Safe Streets/Safe Kids initiative to make community responses to child abuse and neglect more comprehensive and coordinated in an effort to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later delinquency. The Administration also put in place a nurse home visitation program for low-income first-time mothers. Studies have shown that home visitation programs are successful -- for example, reducing cigarette smoking during pregnancy by 25% and reducing mistreatment of children from birth to age 2 by 80 percent. The Clinton Administration has also taken significant steps to reduce domestic violence. For example, the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program helps law enforcement agencies, courts community organizations and businesses to work toward early identification, intervention and prevention of domestic violence and child victimization in rural areas. Finally, the President is committed to finding stable and permanent homes for children who cannot remain safely at home. As a result, the Administration announced Adoption 2002, a plan to double the number of children adopted or placed in permanent homes each year by the year 2002.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING
April 17, 1997

THE PRESIDENT & MRS. CLINTON
THE VICE PRESIDENT & MRS. GORE

- Dr. John Lawrence Aber
Director, National Center for Children in Poverty
- Dr. Duane F. Alexander
Director, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
- Ms. Sheila Pegues Amaning
Co-Chair, Early Childhood PTA
- Ms. Carolyn Becraft
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Personnel Support, Families
and Education
- Ms. Helen Benham
Scholastic, Inc.
- Mrs. Carol Berman
Zero to Three National Center
- Ms. Julie Bernas-Pierce
Blind Babies Foundation
- Hon. Sheldon C. Bilchik
Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
Department of Justice
- Ms. Barbara "Bobbi" Blok
Executive Director, Washington Child Development Council
- Dr. Thomas Berry Brazelton
Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
- Mr. David V.B. Britt
President & CEO, Children's Television Workshop
- Mr. James Larry Brown
Director, Center on Hunger, Poverty & Nutrition Policy, Tufts University
- Dr. John Bruer
President, James S. McConnell Foundation
- Mr. Shannon Romandos Bryant
Student Team Leader, Jumpstart
- Mr. Patrick Butler
Vice President, The Washington Post Company
- Hon. Jane L. Campbell
Cuyahoga County Commissioner
- Rev. (Dr.) Joan Brown Campbell
General Secretary, National Council of Churches
- Ms. Joy Carlson
Director, Children's Environmental Health Network
- Hon. (Gov.) Lawton M. Chiles
Governor of Florida
- Dr. Harry T. Chugani
Director, PET Center, Children's Hospital of Michigan
- Dr. Donald Cohen
Director, Yale University Child Study Center
- Dr. Jordan J. Cohen
President, Academy of American Medical Colleges

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2.

- Ms. Janice Cox
President, Georgia State Parent Teacher Association
- Mr. Dwayne Crompton
Executive Director, KCMC-Early Child Development Corporation
- Ms. Judsen Culbreth
Editor-in-Chief, Working Mother
- Ms. Sharon Darling
President, National Center for Family Literacy
- Dr. Ezra C. Davidson
Professor & Chairman, Dept. of OBGYN, Charles R. Drew University
of Medicine & Science
- Dr. Karen Davis
President, The Commonwealth Fund
- Hon. (Rep.) Rosa DeLauro
D/Connecticut
- Ms. Barbara Dellinger
Director for Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Head Start
- Ms. Deborah Eaton
President, National Association for Family Child Care
- Ms. Marian Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund
- Ms. Isela Flores
- Ms. Yolie Flores Aguilar
Los Angeles, CA
- Dr. Henry W. Foster
Acting President, Meharry Medical College
- Ms. Ellen Galinsky
Co-President, Family & Work Institute
- Hon. (Dr.) John H. Gibbons
Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy
- Ms. Ellen Gilbert
International Creative Management
- Hon. Daniel Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture
- Mrs. Katharine Graham
Chairman of the Board, The Washington Post Company
- Ms. Sarah Greene
Chief Executive Officer, National Head Start Association, Partnership Project
- Dr. Stanley Greenspan
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry & Pediatrics, George Washington Medical School
- Ms. Elinor Guggenheimer
Child Care Action Campaign
- Dr. Megan Gunnar
University of Minnesota
- Ms. Margaret Hale
Executive Director, West Virginia Kids Count
- Ms. Martha D. Haley
Director, Public Affairs, Lifetime Television
- Dr. David Alan Hamburg
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

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3.

Dr. Robert E. Hannemann
President, American Academy of Pediatrics

Hon. (Sen.) Thomas R. Harkin
D/Iowa

Mr. Irving Harris
Chairman, The Harris Foundation

Mr. William Harris
KidsPAC, Head Start

Dr. Jane M. Healy
Author

Ms. Judith Nolte Heimer
Editor-in-Chief, American Baby Magazine

Mrs. Teresa Heinz
Chairman, Heinz Family Foundation

Ms. Harriet Meyer Horwitz
Executive Director, Ounce of Prevention Fund

Mr. Jeffrey Jacobs
President, Harpo Entertainment, Inc.

Ms. Eloise Jenks
President, National Association of WIC Directors

Ms. Judith Marie Jerald
Brattleboro, VT

Dr. Gloria Johnson-Powell
Judge Baker Children's Center

Ms. Judith E. Jones
Director, Free to Grow

Hon. Elena Kagan
Office of Domestic Policy, The White House

Dr. Elaine C. Kamarck
Office of the Vice President

Hon. (Sen.) Edward M. Kennedy
D/Massachusetts

Dr. Patricia Kuhl
Professor & Chair, Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences
University of Washington

Dr. J. Ronald Lally
Director, Center for Child & Family Studies, WestED

Dr. Philip J. Landrigan
Director, Office of Children's Environment Health, EPA

Mr. Arnold Langbo
Chairman of the Board & CEO, Kellogg Corporation

Mr. Ralph S. Larsen
Chairman and CEO, Johnson & Johnson

Dr. David M. Lawrence
CEO, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program

Ms. Geraldine B. Laybourne
President, Disney/ABC Cable Networks

Ms. Dolores Leckey
Executive Director for the Secretariat, Catholic Conference

Dr. Arthur Leibowitz
Chief Medical Officer, AETNA US Healthcare

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4.

- Dr. Michael Levine
Program Officer, Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Mr. David Liederman
Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America
- Dr.Carolynn Lindeman
National President, Music Educators National Conference
- Dr. Evelyn Gruss Lipper
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Cornell Medical Center
- Ms. Melissa Ludtke
Author
- Dr. Shirley M. Malcom
Director of Education, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Rear Admiral Larry R. Marsh
Bureau of Naval Personnel
- Mr. Lawrence A. McAndrews
President & CEO, National Association of Children's Hospitals
- Dr. Bruce McEwen
President, Society for Neuroscience, Rockefeller University
- Ms. Gail McGovern
AT&T
- Mr. Matthew Melmed
Executive Director, Zero to Three National Center for Infants
- Hon. (Gov.) Robert J. Miller
Governor of Nevada
- Dr. Evelyn K. Moore
Executive Director, National Black Child Development Institute
- Dr. Herbert L. Needleman
University of Pittsburgh Medical School
- Dr. David Olds
University of Colorado
- Dr. Bruce Perry
Senior Fellow, CIVITAS Initiatives
- Dr. Carol Brunson Phillips
Executive Director, Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition
- Dr. Deborah Phillips
Director, Board on Children, Youth & Families, National Academy of Sciences
- Dr. Bruce Ramirez
The Council for Exceptional Children
- Mrs. Michele Singer Reiner
Castlerock Entertainment
- Mr. Robert Reiner
Castlerock Entertainment
- Ms. Barbara Reisman
Executive Director, Child Care Action Campaign
- Mr. James J. Renier
Renier & Associates
- Ms. Nan H. Rich
National President, National Council of Jewish Women
- Dr. Julius Richmond
Professor of Health Policy, Emeritus, Harvard University Medical School
- Mr. John E. Riggan
Chairman of the Board, National Association of Child Advocates

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5.

Hon. Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education

Ms. Geraldine Robinson
The Children's Museum

Dr. Gloria Rodriguez
President and CEO, Avance Family Support & Education Program

Ms. Susan Roman
Executive Director, American Libraries Association Services to Children

Hon. (Gov.) Roy R. Romer
Governor of Colorado

Mr. Edward F. Rover
Charles A. Dana Foundation

Ms. Esperanza Segura

Mr. Rudy Segura

Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health & Human Services

Dr. Carla J. Shatz
Professor of Neurobiology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Mr. Jack Shifrel
Community Advocate

Ms. Marilyn Smith
Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children

Mr. Marshall Smith
Acting Deputy Secretary of Education

Mr. Richard M. Smith
Editor-in-Chief & President, Newsweek, Inc.

Dr. Mary Susan Stine
Section Chief of Developmental Medicine, DuPont Hospital for Children

Ms. Maria Gregory Taylor
Parent Education Specialist, Parents as Teachers Program

Ms. Inez Moore Tenenbaum
President, South Carolina Center for Family Policy

Ms. Ruth Tracy
Navajo Chapter Coordinator, Pilot Parents

Mr. Thomas Van Coverden
President and CEO, National Association of Community Health Centers

Dr. Harold Varmus
Director, National Institutes of Health

Hon. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President & Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Ms. Yasmina Vinci
Executive Director, National Association of Child Care Resource
and Referral Agencies

Mr. David Walker
Executive Director, North Carolina Partnership for Children

Ms. Claudia Wayne
Executive Director, National Center for the Early Childhood Workforce

Mr. Melvin Wearing
Chief of Police, City of New Haven

Dr. Betsy Weaver

President & CEO, Parent's Plus, Inc.

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6.

Ms. Bernice S. Weissbourd

President, Family Focus

Dr. Miriam Westheimer

Executive Director, HIPPI USA

Dr. Clarissa Leister Willis

Executive Director, Southern Early Childhood Association

Ms. Mildred Winter

Executive Director, Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.

Ms. Marti Worshtil

College Park, MD

Dr. Ernst L. Wynder

President, American Health Foundation

Dr. Edward Zigler

Professor of Psychology, Yale University

Dr. Barry Zuckerman

Professor & Chairman of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 16, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: KRIS BALDERSTON

**SUBJECT: FINAL UPDATE ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGIONAL
SATELLITE SITES**

Attached is a near final list and map of the eighty-two (82) regional satellite sites for the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning which will be held on Thursday, April 17, 1997. (I say "near final" because we continue to get calls from state and local officials including Members of Congress who are planning to hold similar sessions. By Thursday morning, I am sure we will reach nearly 100 sites.) In just three weeks, the Regional Administrators from HHS, Education, USDA, EPA, and GSA set up sites in 36 states (OH, FL, and WI do not appear on the map) in every federal region of the country. As you review the materials, please note the following points:

- These are not just "conference-watching" sessions. In nearly every case, the local organizers have replicated the East Room program. They will watch the morning session via satellite and create their own panel sessions of local experts to discuss early childhood issues in the afternoon. Many plan to develop their own local action plans.
- Each of the satellite sites will distribute White House materials and collect the names of their participants so that we can send each of the attendees a final report. Most of the sites are planning to send the White House a 1-2 page summary of their own proceedings for inclusion in the White House document.
- There is genuine excitement in the regions about participating in this conference. The Regional Administrators note that the local respondents immediately jumped on the opportunity to participate and help organize it. Anecdotally, we have learned that 600 people are planning to attend the Phoenix conference, 300 in Kansas City, 350 in New York City, 200 in San Francisco, 150 in South Texas, and 250 in Philadelphia. In most cases organizers expect an average of approximately 100-150 participants. As you look through the sites, you will note that many of the satellite sessions are being held in hospitals, universities, high schools, and federal buildings.

Finally a special thanks should go to Laura Schwartz for answering a million technical questions from administrators throughout the country, Pat Lewis for answering their press inquiries, (Jay Wolf our Cabinet Affairs intern who spent countless hours inputting the information), and Eric Dodds, the White House Liaison at GSA, who is the main point of contact with the Regional Administrators. Also a thanks to HHS, DoEd, GSA, USDA, and EPA for contributing funds to put the program up on the satellite.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD	DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING APRIL 17, 1997
Boston University - Boston, MA (2 sites)	Illinois Institute of Technology - Chicago, IL
Boston Federal Executive Board - Boston, MA	University of Minnesota - St. Paul, MN
Lesley College - Cambridge, MA	Minnesota Extension Service - St. Paul MN
University of MA - Worcester, MA	Cincinnati Public Schools - Cincinnati, OH
Springfield Technical Community College - Springfield, MA	Indiana State Department of Health - Indianapolis, IA
Brown University - Providence, RI	University of Missouri - Kansas City, MO
University of Rhode Island - Kingston, RI	Epworth Family Learning Center - East Prairie, MO
University of Rhode Island - Providence, RI	Cooperating School Districts of St. Louis County - St. Louis, MO
Stamford Public Schools - Stamford, CT	St. Louis Community College - St. Louis, MO
Groton Public Schools - Groton, CT	Southwest Livingston County R-I School District - Ludlow, MO
New Haven Public Schools - New Haven, CT	Federal Aviation Administration - Kansas City, MO
University of Connecticut - Storrs, CT	Neosho R-V School District - Neosho, MO
University of Vermont - Burlington, VT	Missouri Department of Health - Independence, MO
NH Division of Children, Youth & Families - Concord, NH	Heartland Education Agency - Johnston, IA
University of Maine at Fort Kent - Fort Kent, ME	Child Care Resource and Referral - Des Moines, IA
University of Maine at Orono - Orono, ME	Iowa Pilot Parents Program - Ft. Dodge, IA
Manhattan Borough Community College - New York, NY	Cowles Elementary School - Des Moines, IA
Cornell University - Voorheesville, NY	Kirkwood Community College - Cedar Rapids, IA
Cornell University - Ithaca, NY	Kansas Department of Education - Topeka, KS
Cornell University - Albion, NY	Kansas Dept. Of Social & Rehab. Services - Topeka, KS
Cornell University - Middletown, NY	NW Kansas Education Service Unit - Oakley, KS
PBS TV Affiliate - Rochester, NY	Kansas State University - Manhattan, KS
American Booksellers Association - Tarrytown, NY	Creighton University - Omaha, NE
Rutgers University - Livingston, NJ	Nebraska Department of Education - Lincoln, NE
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children - Philadelphia, PA	Alliance Public Schools - Alliance, NE
Egleston Children's Hospital - Atlanta, GA	Arkansas Children's Hospital - Little Rock, AR
Tennessee University - Nashville, TN	Arkansas River Education Co-Op - Pine Bluff, AR
East Tennessee State University - Johnson City, TN	Texas A&M - Weslaco, TX
University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN	University of Texas Arlington - Arlington, TX
University of Tennessee - Martin, TN	University of Texas Arlington - El Paso, TX
Chattanooga State Technical Community College - Chattanooga, TN	Our Lady of the Lake University - San Antonio TX
Roper Mountain Science Center - Greenville, SC	Southwest Texas University - San Marcus, TX
Instructional Television Studio - Birmingham, AL	Children's Hospital of Oklahoma - Oklahoma City, OK
North Carolina State University - Raleigh, NC	Tulsa Community College - Tulsa, OK

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD	DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING APRIL 17, 1997
Department of Human Services - Hugo, OK	
Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute - Albuquerque, NM	
Onate High School - Las Cruces, NM	
Southeastern Louisiana University - Hammond, LA	
Colorado Department of Health - Denver, CO (2 sites)	
Auraria Media Center Library - Denver, CO	
Phoenix College - Phoenix, AZ	
Central AZ College - Coolidge, AZ	
San Francisco State University - San Francisco, CA	
Sacramento State University - Sacramento, CA	
Fresno State University - Fresno, CA	
UCLA - Los Angeles, CA	
Mable Smyth Auditorium - Honolulu, HI	
High Desert Conference & Training Center - Las Vegas, NV	
GSA Regional Headquarters - Auburn, WA	

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON THE CONFERENCE

Q. What will be discussed at the conference?

The conference will highlight new research on brain development in very young children and discuss what it means for parents, caregivers and policy makers. We now know that children's earliest experiences actually affect the development of their brains and are essential to their ability to learn, develop, and reach their full potential. This conference will be a call to action to all members of society -- including the business, faith and health communities, the media, child care providers and government -- to use this information to strengthen America's families.

Q. What kind of impact do you expect this conference to have?

We hope that this conference will mark the beginning of a national dialogue on how best to support, stimulate, and nurture children in the first years of life. That means a national dialogue on how to provide high quality, affordable child; how to make sure children have health insurance; and how to give them early educational opportunities. We also hope to send a simple message to parents and caregivers: that they should read to, sing to, play with and talk to children in the earliest years.

Q. How can the President reconcile his interest in early childhood development with the fact that he signed a welfare bill that will throw over a million children into poverty?

The President signed welfare reform because he believes that we need to end the cycle of dependency and help all Americans take responsibility for their own lives. The President believes -- and all the evidence suggests -- that children who grow up in households and communities where there's work will be far better off in the long run than those who don't. The welfare bill dramatically expanded the availability of child care for people moving from welfare to work, while preserving health, safety and other quality standards for child care.

Q. Doesn't this new research mean that women should stay home?

No. What the research suggests is that we should support all parents, those who work outside the home and those who don't. There are terrifically engaged parents who go to work, and there are parents who stay home but don't know or chose to spend time talking, reading and singing to their children. A recent report indicates that children in quality child care settings do just as well as children whose mothers stay home. What's most important is that children are surrounded by loving, nurturing caregivers who understand the importance of the first few years of life.

Q. Doesn't this new research mean that we can stop investing in children once they reach the age of three?

No. It would be nonsensical to stop spending money on things like crime prevention, schools, and job training. But we now know that early childhood is a critical time in children's development. Investments early can reduce the need for investments later, and we ought to set our priorities with that in mind.

Q. Given the new research, do you see an enhanced role for government in the lives of young children?

There are certainly things that government can do. The President fought for Family and Medical Leave so that workers can take leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, and he has proposed to expand FMLA to allow people to take up to 24 hours off each year for things like finding child care or school activities. The President has also expanded Head Start and created Early Head Start, increased participation in WIC, and raised immunization rates. But parents are responsible for raising their children. The purpose of this conference is to share information about what we can all do to enhance our children's development and learning, and to highlight model community efforts that are working across the country to support children and families.

Q. Isn't this conference just about government intruding into the family?

No. Parents raise children but, like it or not, children are influenced by businesses, schools, the media, and the government, to take just a few examples. This purpose of this conference is to share information about what we can all do to enhance our children's development and learning. The conference will also highlight model community efforts that provide voluntary assistance to parents and children, although most of these local initiatives do so with financial support from the federal government.

[NOTE: DOJ supports the New Haven Police initiative; AVANCE receives funding from Early Head Start, Even Start, and Family Preservation; and The Ounce of Prevention receives Early Head Start and Head Start funding.]

Q. Will there be a report on the conference?

Yes. There will be a report coming out of the conference that digests the research and its practical applications, summarizes the recommendations of the panelists, and provides a resource guide for parents, caregivers, and policymakers. We are also putting together a web page devoted to the conference that will be accessible through the White House home page.

Q. Is this conference part of Rob Reiner's 0-3 campaign?

No. Rob Reiner is working on an important effort -- a national engagement campaign involving foundations, corporations and media to spread the word about the significance of the first few

years of life. The President and the First Lady support his efforts and believe they complement the White House Conference, but the two are separate.

Q. Why aren't any Republicans participating in the Conference?

We invited the three Republican and three Democratic members of the NGA's Children's Task Force and asked both its co-chairs to participate in the afternoon roundtable discussion. None of the Republicans were able to attend. We also invited key Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, and one Republican will attend.

Q. A number of Members of Congress have sent a letter to the President urging him to devote at least one-third of the discussion to the development of the brains of fetuses. Will you do this?

Brain development before birth is a relevant topic. In fact, one of the panelists has done extensive work in this area. It will surely be discussed at the conference.

QUESTIONS ON POLICY INITIATIVES

Department of Defense

Q. You are holding the military child care system up as a model. Why is it so good?

The military child care system is noted for its high quality standards, including a high percentage of accredited centers; a strong oversight and enforcement system, that includes a 1-800 hot line for parents to report concerns; mandatory training for child care providers; relatively generous wages and benefits tied to continued training and education; a system of linking up and providing needed support to individual home care providers; and sufficient funding to make quality child care affordable.

Q. Isn't the military child care system so good because the military spends so much to fund it?

Experts agree that the military child care system is the best in the country for a number of reasons. It is true that the military recognizes that quality child care costs more than most parents can afford to pay and, therefore, the Department of Defense provides sufficient funding so that parents can afford the fees.

[NOTE: The military pays 50% of child care costs with appropriated funds. Parents pay according to a sliding scale based on income. Last year the average weekly fee was \$65 per week.]

In addition, the military child care system is noted for its high quality standards, including a high percentage of accredited centers; a strong oversight and enforcement system, that includes a 1-800 hot line for parents to report concerns; mandatory training for child care providers; relatively generous wages and benefits tied to continued training and education; and a system of linking up and providing needed support to individual home care providers.

Q. What are you doing to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable child care?

The President has proposed a \$500 per child tax credit, expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to help working families with children and, in the welfare reform law, increased federal funding for child care by \$1 billion, providing services for over 660,000 children -- 65% of whom are under 5 years old.

Q. Why should the military use their resources to help civilian child care providers?

There's no doubt that the military's first priority is protecting the national security and supporting its own service members. This initiative will not undermine that mission. Much of this can be done without a significant expenditure of dollars. One piece of evidence that that is true is that the military is already reaching out to civilian child care providers in their communities, though in a less comprehensive, coordinated way. This initiative will also benefit the military by providing workers for its child care centers and by increasing the number of available spaces.

Health Care

Q. Many Congressional Republicans say they are opposed to new entitlements. How are you going to convince them to expand health care coverage?

The President's children's health proposal is not a new entitlement, but a capped program which gives states the flexibility to design innovative ways to extend health coverage to uninsured children. This carefully targeted investment has been fully paid for in the President's balanced budget. Moreover, we have seen enormous interest from both Republicans and Democrats in expanding health care for children, and we are optimistic that we will be able to pass a children's health bill this year.

Q. Couldn't you reach these children more effectively through an existing mechanism such as the Medicaid program, the tax code, or an existing discretionary program?

The President wants to pass bipartisan legislation that will extend health care coverage to up to five million uninsured children. He is willing to consider any ideas that will enable us to reach this goal.

Q. Is it really worth cutting \$22 billion from Medicaid and implementing a per capita

cap just to expand coverage to a few more children?

First of all, the President has proposed \$7 billion in net savings in Medicaid, which represents a reduction of about 1% off of the current Medicaid baseline over the next five years. Also, the President's plan to expand coverage to more children is not paid for solely from our savings in Medicaid. Moreover, because under a per capita cap States would get more dollars when they cover additional children and because children are relatively inexpensive to cover, we believe that this policy may well provide States with positive incentives to extend health care coverage to more children.

Q. Does the President support the Kennedy-Hatch children's health care bill which finances children's health care expansions by increasing the tobacco tax?

First of all, the President is delighted that there is so much bipartisan interest in expanding health coverage to children, and he will continue to work with Senators Kennedy and Hatch and others in Congress to pass a balanced budget this year that extends health care coverage to more uninsured children.

While the Hatch-Kennedy bill pays for new expansions by increasing the tobacco tax, the President has a proposal which would expand coverage to millions of additional children and is paid for in the context of his balanced budget plan. Regardless of the source of financing, assuring a significant commitment for children's health care will continue to be a top priority for the President.

That being said, studies of State excise tax increases indicate that they can have significant public health benefits, particularly for children and adolescents, because the increased cost can discourage them from starting and continuing to smoke.

Q. The Hatch-Kennedy children's health coverage bill seems to be losing support even by some of its cosponsors because of the tobacco tax financing. Are you concerned about these recent developments?

No piece of legislation in this town experiences smooth sailing throughout the legislative process. The President continues to be very encouraged by the strong bipartisan support for an investment in children's health coverage. In addition to the Hatch-Kennedy bill, a number of others in Congress are coming forward with proposals to expand children's health insurance. Just this week, Nancy Johnson joined the list of Republicans who have put forth proposals on to expand children's health care coverage. And we expect there will be many more. This should be a major priority for this Congress, and it is a top priority for the President.

Safe Start

Q. What is Safe Start?

Safe Start is a program designed to change the way law enforcement officers respond to children who are the victims of or witnesses to violence. The program will provide training on early childhood development to community police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, school personnel and mental health providers. It prepares the people on the frontline to respond better to the needs of children who have been exposed to violence, and to intervene in time to prevent any further evidence.

Q. How much will this program cost?

In fiscal year 1997, the Department of Justice will spend \$700,000 of already appropriated funds on the program.

Q. How many individuals and communities will be reached by Safe Start?

Safe Start builds on a program that is already in place. In addition to providing additional intensive training and technical assistance to the four communities already taking part in the program, the Department of Justice will involve four additional communities and will provide training on early childhood development to 20,000 law enforcement and other professionals in more than 50 communities.

Q. Is President Clinton trying to turn police officers into social workers?

No. New Haven Policy Chief Wearing -- part of the panel at today's conference -- is a cop's cop, who rose up the ranks from detective to police chief. He will tell you that his department's partnership with the Yale Child Study Center helps stop the cycle of violence by providing early intervention to children who are exposed to violence and who, if left untreated, would be more likely to become violent offenders themselves.

Early Head Start

Q. Aren't many more children eligible for Early Head Start than are being served?

We estimate that nearly 3 million children ages 0 to 3 are eligible for Early Head Start while only 23,000 are currently served. However, Early Head Start is a very new program. The first Early Head Start grants were awarded in October 1995. The President's 1998 budget would nearly double the number of children and families served, from 18,000 in fiscal year 1995 to 35,000 in fiscal year 1998. The President is committed to continuing to support this program.

Q. Have the organizations who will receive this new funding been selected?

No. Today, we are announcing a competition for this funding. The Department of Health and Human Services expect to announce the new grantees in September.

Ready*Set*Read Kits

Q. How were the kits developed?

Fifty reading, literacy and early childhood groups worked with the Department of Education on the basic design for the kits. The materials were then developed by researchers from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, and finally a working group of families, caregivers and early childhood administrators reviewed and commented on them.

Q. How and when will these kits be distributed?

In May, kits will be mailed to families served by early childhood programs across the country like Even Start, Foster Grandparents, and Learn and Serve Early Childhood Programs. It will also be available to the public through the Department of Education's toll-free number at 1-800-USA-LEARN and will be available on the Internet through the Department of Education's home page. The kits are available in Spanish and English.