

File
child care

1/5/99

Melanne -

Enclosed are copies of some, but not all, of the letters that have been sent to you as part of the mass-mailing campaign in regard to child-care funding and the FY2000 budget.

As is our policy with mass-mailings in regard to federal government proposals, we have sent the letters to Agency Liaison and asked that they be delivered to the appropriate government agency - in this case, OMB. My understanding is that the designated agency is expected to tally the letters and send a response as appropriate.

Some of the letters you received have already been sent to OMB. The enclosed letters were ready to be sent over and I have given the originals to Agency Liaison and asked that they continue to send them to OMB.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.



Alice

Chicago Commons
C/O Bonnie Kisielewski
915 N. Wolcott
Chicago, Il. 60622

Nice

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Asst. To the President and Cheif of Staff to
the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, D.C. 20502

December 7, 1998

Dear Ms. Melanie Vereer,

I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nilda Mesfey

December 7, 1998

Dear Ms. Melanie Vereer,

I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maria L. Sanchez

December 7, 1998

Dear Ms. Melanie Vereer,

I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is an important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marlene
Bahne

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Hazel C.
Ransera

2340 N. Kimball

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Concepcion Rodriguez
1807 W. Augusta

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Teresa Delgado
910 N Hermitage

December 7, 1998

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I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

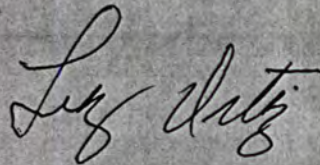
Sincerely, *Teresa Delgado*

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liz Ditz". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Diana Rodriguez

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

MARIA Gutierrez

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely, *Leticia Savinente*

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

JUDITH ORDAZ
934 N. WINCHESTER
CHICAGO IL 60622

December 7, 1998

Dear Ms. Melanie Vereer,

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Sincerely,

Maria Salgado

1836 W. Rice

Chicago, IL 60622

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Anilda Rivera
ANILDA RIVERA
834 N. CENTRAL PARK
CHICAGO, IL 60657

December 7, 1998

Dear Ms. Melanie Vereer,

I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Francisca Delgado
653 N. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60622

December 7, 1998

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I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Martinez
1910 N OHIO
Chicago ILL 60622

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Yolanda Flores
2054 W. Augusta Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60622

December 7, 1998

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I am writing to voice my concern about the President's commitment to increase child care funding. Child Care and after school programs are a major necessity for children and working families. Child care programs offer a safe place for education and socialization while their parents are working. It is essential that the FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please do not abandon working families! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ivette Rivera

*1123 W. Armand.
Chicago IL 60622*

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Lisa Rosado
3254 Potomac
Chgo, IL
60657

Lisa Rosado

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

V. Alexander
5003 W. Montana
Chicago Ill. 60632

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

*Maria Corredo
1910 W Ohio St
Chicago IL 60622*

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Ascension Arroyo
1922 W Superior

December 7, 1998

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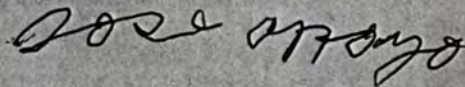
Riyam BARAKAT
1037 N. HOYNE

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,



1859 W. Chicago

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Lillian Lanza
5129 S Wood

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Paul Robson

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Guadalupe Herrera
824 N Wood
Chicago ill
60622

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Esmeralda Paniagua.

858 N HERMITAGE.

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Antonia Arroyo
1859 w Chicago

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Sylvia Salgado
955 N. Wolcott
Chicago, Ill. 60622

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,

Esther Quijano
946 N. Monroe

December 7, 1998

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Angelo Valente
1815 W. Huron
Chicago, IL 60620

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Sincerely,

Debbie Kolonski
958 N. Honore

December 7, 1998

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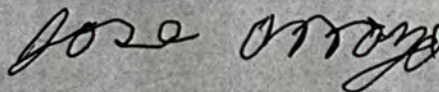
Josefino Salgado
855 Newlcoff
Chicago 122606

December 7, 1998

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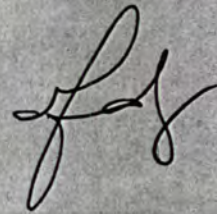
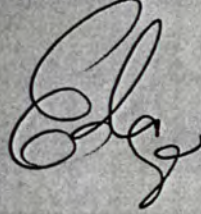
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jose Ortiz", written in a cursive style.

December 7, 1998

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Sincerely,



Nia Family Center
744 N. Monticello
Chicago, Ill 60624

Mrs. Mela.
Assistant to
and Chief of Staff
First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington,

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
Washington, DC. 20502

This letter is to make you aware of how important child care is. What will happen to our children without quality care?

The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Staff member
Antoinette L. Wallace

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOb
Washington, DC. 20502

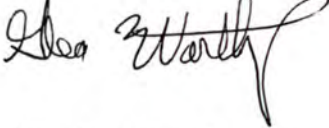
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Concerned Parent,



Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
Washington, DC. 20502

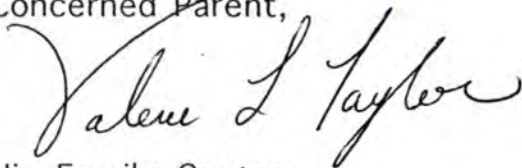
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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,



Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

This letter is to make you aware of how important child care is. What will happen to our children without quality care?

The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have ____0____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Geannette Martin* Staff

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
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I have 0 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Staff member*

Nina Hodge
Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

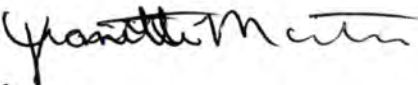
Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOP
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I have 0 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, 



Nia Family Center
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December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

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I have 1 grand child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Nora Madkins

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Sakiyah Jackson*

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December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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I have 3 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin Davis".

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Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

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I have ____0____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

 (staff member)

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
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December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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I have 1 grand child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Eva N. Hill and staff member

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744 N. Monticell
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December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Bertha Williams and staff member*

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744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. H. L.", written over the text "Concerned Parent,".

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Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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100 OEGB
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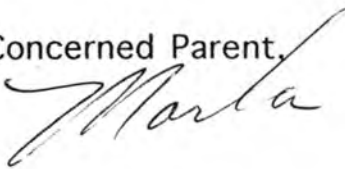
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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent.



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I have 4 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Yvonne Brant
Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOP
Washington, DC. 20502

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I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *+ Staff member*
Joe Epstein

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744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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I have 0 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, & *Staff member*

John Barry

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744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Goh Mista

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Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

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744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eugene H. H. H.", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

December 7, 1998

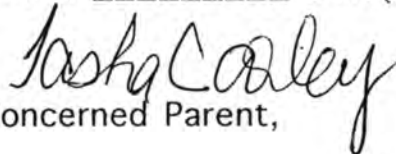
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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.


Concerned Parent,

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Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Staff member

Concerned Parent, *Marilyn Omeuf*

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Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

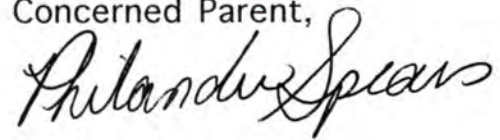
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I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,



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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Alberta Cooper*
Also staff member

Nia Family Center
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744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOP
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I have two child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Latoya P. Russell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the address block.

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticello
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December 7, 1998

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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,
Annie Cole

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744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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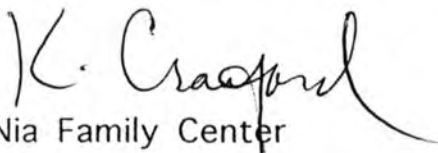
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Concerned Parent,


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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tracy L. Crayton".

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I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

 / Staff Member

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744 N. Monticell
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December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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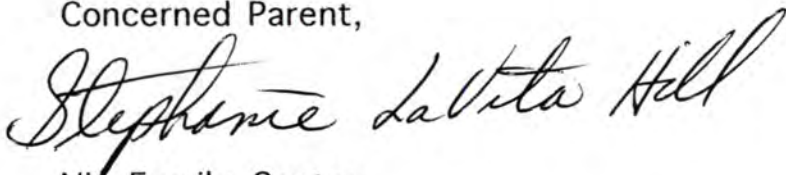
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I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie LaVita Hill".

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744 N. Monticell
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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Staff Member*
Danine Ballard

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I have 0 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Staff member*
Grace Butler

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744 N. Monticell
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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned ~~Parent~~, *Staff, and Grand parent*
Ms. Grace Mass

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Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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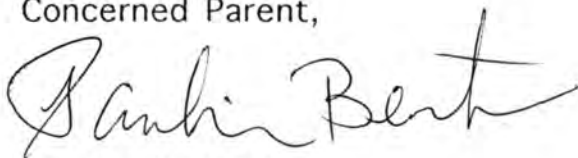
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Concerned Parent,



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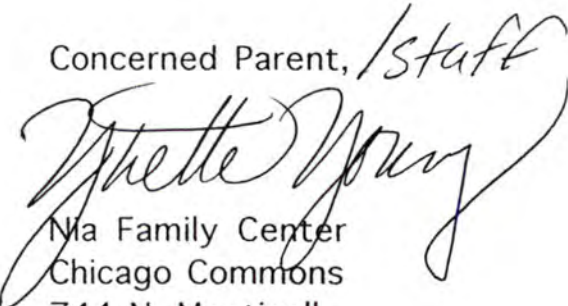
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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Staff*


Ma Family Center
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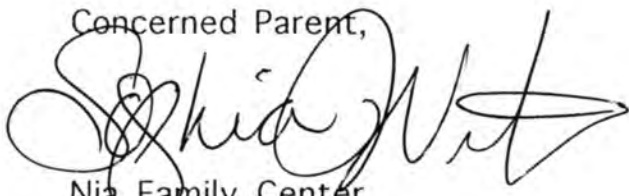
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I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophia White", written over the printed name.

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keneja Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keneja" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Williams".

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

This letter is to make you aware of how important child care is. What will happen to our children without quality care?

The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 2 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Staff member
Wanda Brown

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
Washington, DC. 20502

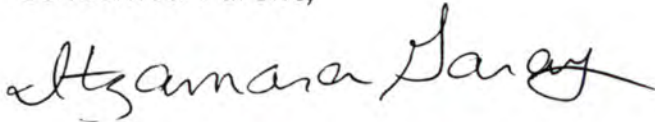
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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,



Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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100 OEOB
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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 1 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

 (Staff Member)

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 3 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *Yolanda Johnson*

Staff members

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
Washington, DC. 20502

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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 3 child(ren) in child care. *Staff member*

Concerned Parent,

Mary Johnson
Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

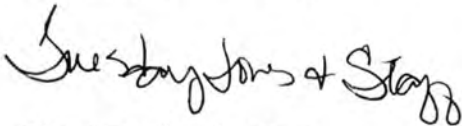
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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have ____1____ child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Stangor".

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

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I have 2 child(ren) in child care.


Concerned Parent, & Site Director

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOb
Washington, DC. 20502

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So, please don't forget our children, they are our future. Children should always be FIRST.

I have 0 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent, *and Staff Member*
Jonette Gardner

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC. 20502

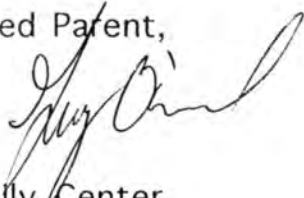
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Concerned Parent,



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Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
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December 7, 1998

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Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
Washington, DC. 20502

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I have 3 child(ren) in child care.

Concerned Parent,

Nia Family Center

Nia Family Center
Chicago Commons
744 N. Monticell
Chicago, Illinois 60624

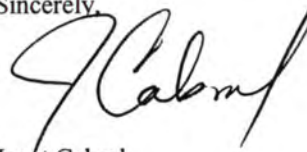
December 3, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. Verveer:

The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Cabral', written in a cursive style.

Janet Cabral

Manchester, CT 06040



Melanne Verveer Asst. to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502





NORTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

1 8 9 5 - 1 9 9 5

CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES
DeKALB, ILLINOIS 60115-2854
(815) 753-1901
FAX (815) 753-2305

December 3, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer

Please consider the following message: The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over five years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over five years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

I am a researcher who has been monitoring the development of the child care subsidy system in Illinois over the last two years. My major area of interest is talking to parents who have a child care subsidy, have lost a subsidy or are ineligible for a subsidy. I have interviewed 150 women for this research. This year, in interviews with mothers who work and are poor, they talked about being unable to feed their children and were finding it difficult to see the benefits of work because they pay as much for child care as they pay for their rent. They believe that government places barriers to their ability to make it financially. In Illinois you are eligible for a subsidy till you earn up to 150% of poverty. Mothers I interviewed think that cutoff is too low and their co-payments with the subsidy are difficult for them to manage.

I have heard it said that the President is concerned about what history will have to say about him. With all due respect, I know he would want to be remembered as a president who valued the welfare of children over work that does not pay a living wage. Most welfare recipients I talk to want to work but they will not put their children at risk to do so. A great nation would not ask them to.

Sincerely,

Catherine Harned

Senior Research Associate

Jackson County Child Care Task Force

% The Job Council ♦ 673 Market Street ♦ Medford OR 97504 ♦ (541) 776-5100

December 7, 1998

Melanne Verveer, Ass't to the President
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer,

It is absolutely imperative that the President of the United States hold firm to the commitment to increase the Child Care Development Block Grant by \$20 billion over the next 5 years, and the \$5 billion increase in 21st Century Learning Centers over the next 5 years. These increases must remain in the proposed FY 2000 budget.

The success of major changes in Welfare to Work initiatives hinges on affordable child care for the increasing numbers of poor working parents in our society. We must build a society or capable, literate, and secure children who will become productive citizens when they mature. We don't need a nation of "home alone" children vulnerable to the lack of imagination displayed on our televisions. We need nurtured children who are stimulated by learning, by placing these children into "doing" activities.

Surely the investment into children can not be forgotten at the expense of an increased military budget.

Keep this investment in our society a part of the FY 200 budget!

Sincerely,



Dennis Alexander, Chair
Jackson County Child Care Task Force

Community members joining to support and enhance affordable, accessible, quality child care services in Jackson County



130 Bishop Allen Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
Business: (617) 547-1063 / Fax: (617) 547-3340
<http://www.ccrccinc.org>

December 4, 1998

100 OEOB
Washington DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer,

As you may know, quality child care is of great importance in the daily lives of millions of children and parents in this country. Because of its importance and the increasing need for child care, the FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant. It must also include a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Taylor".

Stacey Taylor

Public Policy Specialist





Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C)

155 N. Third St., Suite 300
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815)758-8149 or (800)848-8727
Fax: (815)758-5652

December 3, 1998

Elizabeth Schaffer
Community Coordinated Child Care
155 N. Third St., Ste. 300
DeKalb, IL 60115

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

I understand things are a little topsy-turvy at the White House right now, but I feel there is an issue that requires President Clinton's full commitment.

The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

This initiative will provide children with the opportunity to start school on a level playing field, greatly increasing their chances for school success.

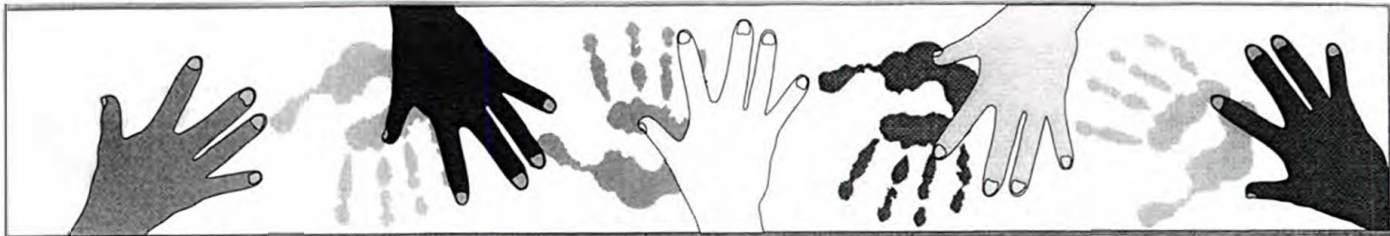
Please consult with President Clinton and the First Lady on this most important issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Schaffer".

Elizabeth Schaffer
Parent Educator





QUINCY AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE, INC.

P.O. Box 697482 • Quincy, MA 02269 • (617) 773-3299 • Fax (617) 773-4265

December 2, 1998

Melanne Verveer
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

Quincy After School Child Care is a not-for-profit organization in a large city south of Boston. We provide after school, extended day kindergarten and vacation programs to three hundred and fifty children in Quincy and the surrounding area. We are always looking for funding opportunities through government grant programs. Unfortunately there are not enough funds to get to all the child care organizations that need them to assist in providing quality after school programs.

The Fiscal Year 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion increase over five years in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion increase over five years in the 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

Thank you for your assistance in the pursuit of healthy, safe and loved children across America.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Cooper
Assistant Director

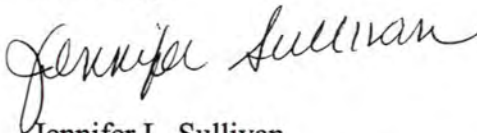
December 4, 1998

Ms. Melaine Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OBOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. Sullivan
Board of Directors, Sheltering Arms



ALABAMA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS, INC.

P.O. Box 409
Ruth Cole, President

Auburn, AL 36831-0409

(334) 821-8336

FAX# (334) 826-6397

Jerry Roden, Jr., Executive Director

Nancy Spears, Program Director

December 3, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

The White House must stand absolutely firm on its proposed budget increases for child care and after-school programs. The \$20 billion (over five years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and \$5 billion (over five years) increase for 21st Century Learning Centers are desperately needed in the FY 2000 budget.

As program director of the Alabama Council on Human Relations – administrator of a wide range of social service programs for low-income children and their families – I see first-hand, everyday, the crushing consequences that current funding levels impose on real, flesh-and-bone people.

No matter how much pressure to do so, please do not waver a dollar.

I urge the White House to continue, without flinching, its courageous battle in this most righteous of causes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Spears
Program Director
Alabama Council on Human Relations

(R)

**CHILDSPACE COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

December 2, 1998

Dear Ms. Verver,

I am writing to urge you to include additional funding for child care in the FY 2000 budget.

Specifically we need at a minimum \$ 20 Billion over 5 years increase in the CCBBB funds, and a \$5 billion over 5 years increase in 21st Century Learning Centers Budget.

I am a parent of a 7 and 10 year old, I have taught 2 year olds and I currently do policy work in the field of early education. My personal and professional experience have taught me how much we need these resources to be effective. Thank you.

5517 Greene Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Sincerely, Janet Flante

phone: (215) 842-3050
fax: (215) 842-3075
e-mail: 103423.1731@compuserve.com

"Creating Quality Jobs in Child Care"



Janet Levinger

4050 134th Ave. NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-861-7039
janet@jl.com
425-861-7029 (Fax)

December 3, 1998

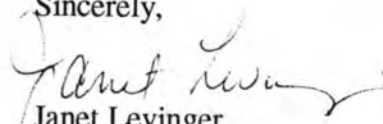
Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

It has come to my attention that the Administration is still debating the provisions of the FY 2000 budget proposal. I urge you not to back down on increased funding for child care and after-school programs. Both of these programs are a necessity for children of working families.

The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. Our country will suffer if we increase defense and other spending at the expense of our children.

Sincerely,


Janet Levinger

*Business Strategy and
Marketing for Non-Profit
Organizations*



Melanne Verveer
Asst. To the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington DC 20502

December 3, 1998

Dear Ms. Verveer,

One of the reasons I voted for President Clinton was that he seemed to understand social issues and was willing to listen to the people living with them. I was pleased to realize that the First Lady shared this quality, and I trust that the White House will listen now to parents, child care professionals and anyone concerned with the future of our nation when it applies to increased funding for child care. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion increase over 5 years in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion increase over 5 years in 21st Century Learning Centers.

Our fiscal commitment to child care will help everyone recognize the vital role quality early child care and education programs have as the foundation for education. Our nation cannot be truly strong without a well educated population. Early child care and education programs also help young children learn the social skills that contribute greatly to both personal and professional success. Parents are certainly the most important first teachers in a child's life, but many parents work and need to entrust their children to qualified professionals in safe, reliable learning environments. Even at-home parents need support when it comes to educating their children. All of society benefits when *every* child is well cared for and educated from birth.

I urge the White House to remember two famous sayings when the budget priorities are being decided: ***It is more cost effective to build a healthy child than to repair a dysfunctional adult and It takes a village to raise a child.*** I'd like to add: ***...and the village needs adequate financial resources to raise that healthy child!***

Sincerely,



Leslie Abrahamson



December 3, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 Old Executive Office Building
Washington DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

I am writing on behalf of the membership, the steering committee, the advisory board and the staff of the Children's Collaborative to indicate our concern about the President's FY 2000 budget and how it will affect our youngest citizens and their families.

We believe that the President is sincere in his commitment to quality child care and after-school programs and we want to commend him for his understanding of how investments in children impact the nation's future.

We urge him to continue that commitment by including a \$20 billion increase (over five years) in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion increase (over 5 years) in 21st Century Learning Centers.

We're counting on him.

For all the children,

Hinda R. Miller
Director



Dr. John W. Glaser
Vice President: Theology and Ethics
St. Joseph Health System
440 South Batavia
Orange, CA 92868

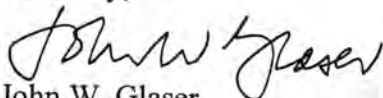
Ms. Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer,

In my judgment, the FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

I appreciate your attention to this concern.

Sincerely,


John W. Glaser



December 3, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President and Chief
Of Staff to the First Lady
100 OBOB
Washington, D.C. 20502

Re: FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion increase over 5 years in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion increase over 5 years in 21st Century Learning Centers.

Dear Ms. Verveer:

At a time when welfare mothers are being required to seek employment rather than stay at home with their young children, we must increase funding for childcare. Welfare reform will not succeed if the necessary support mechanisms that enable parents to stay on the job and concentrate on their work are not in place. Low wage workers already spend 50 to 75 percent of their income just on housing costs, often forcing them to choose between paying the rent or buying food. Don't exacerbate an already difficult situation by reneging on a commitment to increase funding for childcare. Working families need high quality, affordable childcare and after school programs, and it would be irresponsible for the federal government to think private charities can do it all.

Our country will not prosper if the government neglects the needs of children for the sake of increasing an already excessive military budget.

Sincerely,

Meara Nigro



31 EVANS TERMINAL ROAD HILLSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07205

908•355•FOOD (3663) FAX: 908•355•0270

www.njfoodbank.org





December 3, 1998

Ms Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

As a member of the Children's Defense Fund I am writing to express my concern for our nation's children. The FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in Children.

Sincerely,

Sister Ricarda Vincent

Sister Ricarda Vincent
1125 West 9th Street
Erie, Pa. 102



MICHAEL W. SMITH
518 PARK AVENUE, EAST
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78212

Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, D.C.

December 3, 1998

Dear Ms. Verveer,

As chairman of the Commission for Children and Families for the City of San Antonio, I would like to urge you and the President to include in the fiscal year budget for 2000 a \$20 billion (over five years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over five years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is more important than military readiness in building a strong and prepared nation. There are hundreds of things that can be done before sending in troops! Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense spending at the expense of investing in children.

With the current welfare reform measures that are in place, it is more important than ever that we provide alternative sources of support of children who are at risk, in trouble and in need.

I depend upon the good offices of our Democratic President to see to the needs of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Shalom y suerte.....

Michael W. Smith
Chair, Commission for Children and Families
City of San Antonio

2639 Franklin Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Melanne Verveer,

I want you to urge the Mrs. Clinton to urge her husband to follow through with his commitment to increase child care funding. Child care and after school programs remain a daily necessity for children and working families.

I've experienced choosing a child care for my two girls. I agonized over where to put my baby and didn't have the luxury to stay home with either of my girls. I felt I was picking the best of the worst when my children were very young. It broke my heart to put them someplace else until they were old enough to go to the Child Development Center where I have worked for many years and started out at very low wages. If I had worked as a public school teacher I would make twice the amount today.

I am proud of the 25 years I have worked in the early childhood field but discourage my girls from this field because of the conditions of the work, attitude towards it and low wages. I wish it wasn't so but it is a sad state of affairs.

I advertised in our newspaper for a teacher substitute and got very little response (3 interested potential teachers with only one with experience and education.) Please work on raising the profession to attract new workers and see they make a living wage. The question I ask you is Who will care for the children when the current generation of Early Childhood professionals retire?

The FY 200 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children. Please prioritize our young children.

Sincerely,


Jules McLeland



Northeastern
Child Care Services

Judith Graziano
President

December 3, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President
& Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

Our children are hurting and we must invest in them before spending on other things such as military readiness and highway construction.

The FY 2000 budget must include \$20 billion over 5 years to increase the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase for the 21st Century Learning Centers.

Please listen to those of us who daily see the need.

Sincerely,

President

Judith Graziano



State of Vermont

AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0204

December 7, 1998

Telephone: (802) 241-2220
Fax: (802) 241-2979

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President
and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer,

I had an occasion to speak to your very kind and able assistant about the importance of child care and making sure that funding is included in the fiscal year 2000 budget. He suggested that I write to you directly and reiterate my hope that the strong leadership the President and First Lady have taken on this issue be continued into the coming session, particularly in appropriately funding the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Those of us that administer Child Care programs for the state, struggle everyday in order to keep up with the expanding needs for child care, and our increasing knowledge that the early years play a critical role in the child's future development. I know that the First Lady and the President understand all of this, and I am delighted that they have spoken out so strongly in favor of increased child care funding. Please let me know if there's any other way that I can be of assistance with statistics about child care in Vermont or personal stories from families.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl Mitchell
Deputy Secretary

CM/lh

MICHELLE R. TRACHTMAN
7 Tucker Meadow Road
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

(203) 387-7562

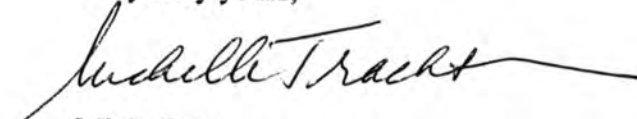
December 9, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer,

I want to remind the President of his and this Administration's commitment to child care and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in Child Care and Development Block Grants and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. In February, 1998 President Clinton addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women and stated his commitment to the above mentioned budget figures. I am asking that he not waiver in that commitment. Many, many children and families are relying on him.

Very truly yours,


Michelle Trachtman



National Council of Jewish Women

Gillian Casson
State Public Affairs Chair
3030 SW Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97221
Phone (503) 222-5006
Fax (503) 222-9395

December 9 1998

Melanne Veeveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Ms Verveer,

The 550 members of the Portland Section of National Council of Jewish women want to remind the President of his and his administration 's commitment to child care and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in Child Care and Development block grants and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. In February , 1998, I was there President Clinton when you addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women and stated your commitment to the above mentioned budget figures. I am asking that you not waiver in that commitment. Many, many children and families are relying on you for this.

Sincerely,

Gillian Casson
Oregon State Public Affairs Chair

December 11, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Ms. Verveer:

We want to remind the President of his and this Administration's commitment to child care and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in Child Care and Development Block Grants and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. In February, 1998, President Clinton addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women and stated his commitment to the above-mentioned budget figures. I am asking that you not waver in that commitment. Many, many children and families are relying on him for this.

New York State Public Affairs Committee of the National Council of Jewish Women represents 13,000 families across the state of New York.

Sincerely,



Blanche Finkelstein
Vice Chair
New York State Public Affairs

BF:lrw

National Council
of Jewish Women

NCJW

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND SECTION

263 Congressional Ln.#502
Rockville, Md.20852
301-468-6124 voicemail
jemac@freewwwweb.com

December 10, 1998

Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mrs. Vermeer,.

We want to remind the President of his, and this Administration's, commitment to child care and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 year) increase in Child Care and Development Block Grants and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. In February 1998 President Clinton addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women that I attended and stated his commitment to the above-mentioned budget figures. I am asking that he not waiver in that commitment. Many, many children and families rely on you for this.

Sincerely yours,



Evelyn Macfadden, President



Free

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

144 West 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609
Phone: (773) 373-3400
Fax: (773) 373-3602

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Asst. To the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington DC 20502

Dear Ms. Melanne Verveer,

I am writing to you on behalf of the children of Firman Community Services. Affordable Child Care, as well as After School Programs is of the utmost importance to our working families .

The FY 2000 budget, must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$ 5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. Schools readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation.

Our country will not prosper, if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in our children. " Our Children today... Our World Tomorrow."

Sincerely,

Earline Moore

Ms. Earline Moore

Education Coordinator/ Asst. Director

Alice P.

Diane Schaar, M.D.
33 Graymoor Lane
Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461

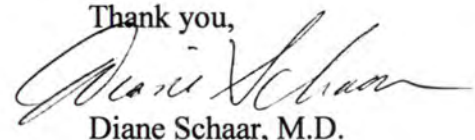
Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

December 13, 1998

Ms. Verveer;

At this time, I want to remind the President of his and this Administration's commitment to childcare and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in Child Care and Development Block Grants and a \$5 Billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. In February 1998, President Clinton addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women and stated his commitment to the above-mentioned budget figures. As a member of NCJW and as a Pediatrician, I am asking that you not waiver in that commitment. Many, many children and families are relying on you for this.

Thank you,



Diane Schaar, M.D.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

144 West 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609
Phone: (773) 373-3400
Fax: (773) 373-3602

December 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President and Chief of Staff to the
First Lady Hillary Clinton
100 EEOB
White House
Washington DC 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As an advocate for our youngest learners and one who care about children across this country, it is essential for the White House to understand that our President can not and should not abandon his commitment to increase child care funding. Child care and after-school programs still remain a daily necessity for children and working families -- most important with the onset of Welfare Reform.

The FY 200 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in our children.

Please follow through on your commitment to our children, they are our future....

Sincerely

Lois Porter
Director Children Services

National Council
of Jewish Women

NCJW
BROOKLYN SECTION

1001 Quentin Road • Brooklyn, NY 11223 - 2385

Tel: 718-376-8164 • Fax: 718-336-1831 • e-mail: ncjwbklyn1@aol.com

PROJECTS: Council Center for Senior Citizens • Community Help for the Aged and Infirm (CHAI) • Brooklyn Section Child Care Center • Religious Education for Children with Learning Disabilities • Thrift Mart • Second Time Around Furniture Shop • Gift Shoppe • Yad b' Yad • Dynamite Youth Center • Brooklyn Section Scholarship Fund • Leo Laks Memorial Fund • Irma Asen Scholarship Fund • Harold Asen Scholarship Fund • Brooklyn Section Nursing Scholarship Fund • Dr. Harry Ordan Memorial Scholarship • Remembrance Fund • Readers to the Blind • Bereavement Support Group • Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center • Women's Survival Space • Hello Israel

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** Deceased

December 15, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer

Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

100 OEOB

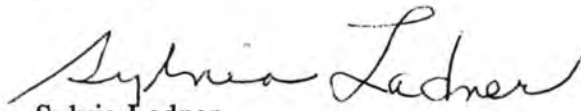
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Ms. Verveer:

We want to remind the President of his and this Administration's commitment to child care and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in Child Care and Development Block Grants and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. In February, 1998, President Clinton addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women and stated his commitment to the above-mentioned budget figures. I am asking that you not waver in that commitment. Many, many children and families are relying on him for this.

Brooklyn Section, National Council of Jewish Women represents 1,500 families in Brooklyn.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Ladner
Vice President
State Public Affairs
Brooklyn Section

SL:lrw



**Child Care Resource
& Referral (CCR&R)**

Orleans Community Action Committee (OCAC)



123 Ensign Avenue
Medina, New York 14103
1-800-873-2566
(716) 798-1587
Fax: (716) 798-1587

5073 Clinton St. Rd.
Batavia, New York 14020
1-800-716-7727
(716) 343-7727
Fax: (716) 343-8307

Me

Dear Ms. Vereveer,

I am writing to you in regard of the Fiscal Year 2000 budget proposal. The Fiscal Year 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion increase, over a 5 year period, in 21st Century Learning Centers.

School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tammy Meadows

Tammy Meadows
CCR&R Phone Counselor

Mice

**Cheryl Waterman
22355 Prairie Road
El Toro, Ca. 92630**

December 22, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer,

I want to remind the President of his and this Administration's commitment to childcare and after school programs. These remain a daily necessity for children and for working families. The FY2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation.

In February, 1998, President Clinton addressed the importance of this issue at the Washington Institute of the National Council of Jewish Women. He stated his commitment to the above-mentioned budget figures. I am asking that the administration not waiver in that commitment. Many children and families are relying on President Clinton.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Waterman

Cheryl Waterman
Member, Council of Jewish Women
Long Beach, California Section

Price

Ms. Connie Jameson
725 Ackerman Road
Columbus Ohio 43202

December 7, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEOB
Washington, DC 20502

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

I am very concerned that the FY 2000 budget must include a \$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$5 billion (over 5 years) increase in 21st Century Learning Centers. School readiness is as important as military readiness for building a strong and prepared nation. Our country will not prosper if the budget focuses on increasing defense at the expense of investing in children.

Connie Jameson
Connie Jameson

The FY 2000 budget must include a
\$20 billion (over 5 years) increase in
the Child Care + Development Block
Grant & a \$5 billion (over 5 years)
increase in 21st Century Learning
Centers. School readiness is as
important as military readiness
for building a strong and prepared
nation. Our country will not
prosper if the budget focuses
on increasing defense at the
expense of investing in children.

Sincerely,
Andy & Jennifer Smith
Family Circle Daycare
764 N. 200 W.
Logan, Utah 84301

Code 29804 • ©Current, Inc., Colorado Springs, CO 80941 • Printed in the USA



Melanne Verveer
Asst. to the President +
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 OEGB
Washington, DC
20502

003
OFC OF THE FIRST LADY
77 FRI 10:22 FAX 202 456 6244

file child care

E. J. Dionne Jr.

Child Care Without Ideology?

President Clinton's detractors see child care as one of those adorable soccer mom issues he routinely embraces to his political benefit. No wonder he and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton are hosting a White House Conference on Child Care on Oct. 23. What's not to like about nurturing kids?

It turns out that as soon as the government gets involved, the answer is: plenty. The veterans of two decades of child-care arguments bear the scars of ideological combat. The impasse created by the old battles is why so much remains to be done.

Already, there are warnings that this conference has a hidden agenda: to revive proposals for a massive federal day-care program. "If what we do is empower government to spend more time with our kids instead of empowering parents to have more private and sectarian [i.e., church-based] options, then we're moving in the wrong direc-

tion," says Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council.

"I certainly have qualms," said David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, "and I know others have qualms, about using recent research on early childhood development to justify new federal child-care programs and regulations."

The research he's talking about found that the amount of stimulation and affection children get in their first three years has a lot to do with how well their brains develop. Many parents know this instinctively, but the scientists helped kick off the new round of concern about infant care.

Two things are true about the child-care debate: (1) Ideological conflicts are inevitable, and (2) they are the last thing this discussion needs right now.

Ideology is a fancy word for people's morals, habits, values and commitments. Few questions raise more of a

moral ruckus than how kids should be brought up and who should do the job.

Conservatives make a fair point when they insist that government programs should not discriminate either against or in favor of couples in which a parent stays home. But if the debate gets bogged down in people's views of feminism and government, parents looking for just a little help won't get any.

Traditionalists such as Bauer say the problem is that parents, especially mothers, are working too much outside the home. But there are many two-paycheck families—earning, say, \$35,000 or \$40,000 a year—in which the mother or father would love to be home at 3 p.m. when the kids get out of school, yet simply can't afford to leave work.

If Bauer wants to lobby his allies among conservative business people to demonstrate their traditional values by letting more parents get home early, more power to him. In the meantime,

what about that two-paycheck couple? Might it not be helpful to keep the schools open until 6 p.m. with homework assistance, music, arts or sports programs?

Bauer says a loudly ideological "No!" because this would "continue down the road we're on where we think government bureaucrats and social workers can make up for what parents should do." Blankenhorn has a less reflexive response, welcoming the idea of "using school grounds for community-based programs available to all children."

Another idea likely to emerge from the conference is using regulatory and tax relief to help employers create more and better child care at workplaces and to encourage small employers to pool resources.

The conference will also deal with the reality that there's a lot of bad child care out there. This raises the hackles of conservatives, who warn that bureaucrats will regulate the care given

by churches, neighbors—or Grandma. Well, yes, some regulations can be crazy. But recent day-care horror stories suggest that the well-being of kids requires some enforceable rules and safety checks.

Expanding choice would help too. "If parents have choices, they're not going to choose the option where a kid has a coach crawling on him or gets locked in a closet," says Margy Waller, an analyst at the Progressive Policy Institute. But options require money, whether for vouchers, tax credits or more school-based infant care. Where will the money come from?

The mantra for the conference, says White House spin-doctor-in-chief Rahm Emanuel, is "access, affordability, safety." A clever slogan that, because it's designed to bury as many ideological issues as possible. In the case of child care, Clinton's gift for dodging ideology may be exactly what kids and their parents are looking for.

The Washington Post
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1997

file child care

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 9, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK LEW

FROM: MELANNE VERVEER

SUBJECT: Child Care and Appropriations Negotiations

This memo is to follow up on our conversation of yesterday. As appropriations negotiations proceed, I want to thank you again for your attention to child care and to convey our position on child care funding priorities. The DPC and NEC agree with the following assessment.

First and foremost, we should fight to get the full amount (\$182 million) or, preferably, more of our discretionary child care request. It is important that this money be appropriated without unreasonable strings of later authorization. While we are pleased with the positive prospects for the class size reduction initiative, we should be mindful that, in our budget request, child care and class size were paid for from the same pot, tobacco revenue, and were proposed with similar funding levels. Therefore, we should be sensitive to the perception that the Administration is pushing harder for education than for child care.

Second, once the funding level is secure, our priority list for how it should be spent is as follows:

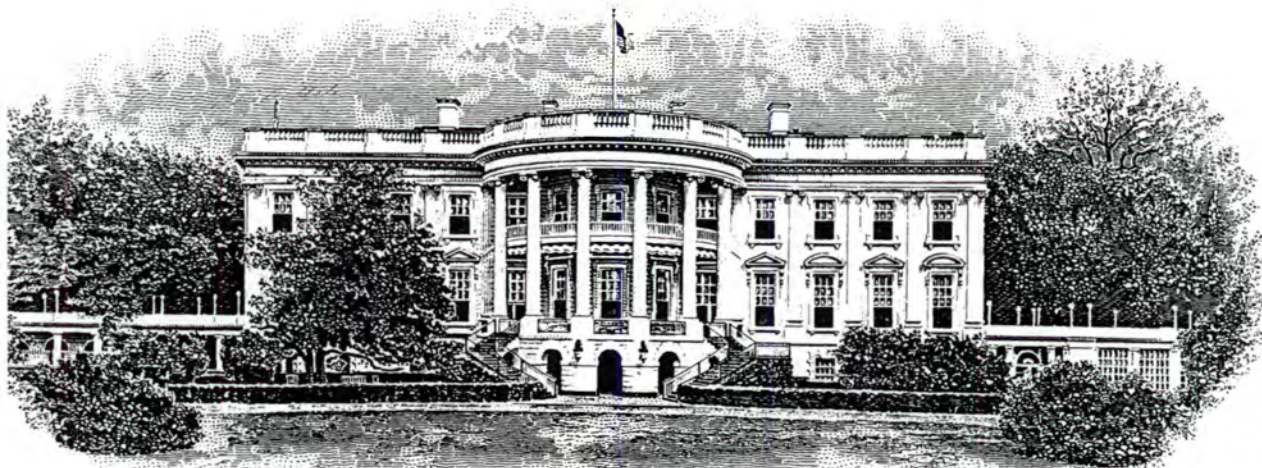
- (1) To support the three discretionary programs of our budget proposal -- scholarships, standards enforcement, and research.
- (2) Targeted in the CCDBG to quality improvements in one of two ways: (a) by adding it to the Harkin infant-toddler fund created in the FY 1998 budget; or (b) by adding it to the overall quality set-aside (*i.e.* to the 4 percent floor, with protections against supplantation).
- (3) Added to the CCDBG for subsidies.

file child care



The White House

Child Care



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

October 23, 1997

"I hope that this conference will be the beginning of a national dialogue about how best to care for all of America's children and will make a valuable contribution to our effort to improve child care in this country."

-- President Clinton, July 23, 1997

Today, the President and First Lady are hosting the first-ever *White House Conference on Child Care*. The day-long conference will address the need that America's parents have for safe, affordable child care for their children. Millions of Americans, struggling to be both good parents and good workers, rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of each day. Exploring the roles of both the public and private sectors, the Conference is intended to begin a dialogue on three of the most pressing child care issues -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.

Clinton Administration Commitment to Strengthening Child Care. President Clinton has worked to improve and increase funding for child care. Under President Clinton's leadership, federal funding for child care has increased by nearly 70%. The 1996 welfare reform law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over 6 years to provide child care assistance to low-income working families and parents moving from welfare to work. A percentage of these funds are set aside for efforts to improve the quality of child care. To ensure that children in child care are in safe and healthy environments, the President also launched the Healthy Child Care America Initiative. And because the Department of Defense child care system has become a model of employer-sponsored child care and after-school programming, the President asked the DOD to share its expertise and lessons learned with the civilian child care community.

During President Clinton's time in office, funding for Head Start has increased by 43%. This funding will continue to expand until it reaches the President's goal of serving 1 million children by the year 2002. The President also initiated the Early Head Start Program to expand the proven benefits of Head Start to low-income families with children age three and under.

To expand the benefits of after-school care, the President has, among other things, supported and signed the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act to fund after-school programs; called for an increased number of community schools that stay open longer and provide valuable resources to families and communities; and published a guide on *Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers*.

Clinton Administration Commitment to America's Working Families. This Conference builds on the President's record of helping America's working families. To take a few examples, the President fought for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow workers to take unpaid leave when their families need them. And signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to extend important new protections for estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, or who have pre-existing medical conditions. And in August 1997, the President signed the Balanced Budget Act which included \$24 billion for the Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965. President Clinton has also fought to expand economic opportunity for working families, including a \$500 per-child tax credit for children under age 17 -- helping 27 million families with 45 million children. The Administration also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million families tax relief, and increased the minimum wage by 90 cents.

Conference Program and Participants. During the morning session, experts will discuss why child care matters both to our children's development and to the economy, and will examine the state of child care in this country. The panelists for this first session are: Ms. Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute; Ms. Michelle Seligson, National Institute of Out-of-School Time; Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin; Secretary of HHS Donna Shalala; Governor James Hunt, North Carolina; Dr. Valora Washington, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and Patty Siegel, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. The afternoon session will highlight promising efforts around the country and discuss how all members of the community can meet critical child care challenges. Panelists are: Major General John G. Meyer, United States Army; Representative Jane Maroney, Delaware State Legislator; Dr. Susan Aronson, American Academy of Pediatrics; Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan, Diocese of Brooklyn; Ms. Beatriz Otero, Calvery Bi-Lingual Multicultural Learning Center; Mr. John J. Sweeney, AFL-CIO and Mr. Doug Price, FirstBank of Colorado.

Broad Participation Across the Country. The entire conference will be broadcast by satellite to over 100 locations in over 45 states across the country, as well as to several Federal agencies. Satellite conferences co-hosted by regional federal agencies, local officials, and children's and other organizations.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES CHILD CARE PROVIDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

October 23, 1997

Today, President Clinton announced a National Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund as well as an outreach plan to let child care providers know that they may be eligible for Pell Grants. Too many child care providers currently do not have the training our children deserve and are not rewarded with higher compensation when they do have training. The measures announced today will help improve the quality of our nation's child care by helping caregivers get training and raise their pay, and thereby supporting efforts to recruit and retain them.

New National Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund: The National Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund will provide more than \$300 million in scholarships over five years to up to 50,000 child care providers annually -- helping the more than half a million children they care for.

Up to a \$1,500 Scholarship and Higher Pay For Continued Service: The Fund will provide scholarships of up to \$1,500 to current and future child care providers who agree to remain in the field for at least one year after receiving assistance. These providers will earn increased compensation or a bonus when they complete their course work, provided by some combination of the Fund and the provider's employer.

Public-Private Partnership: The Fund will receive at least \$250 million in Federal funds over five years, with every four dollars of Federal funds matched with at least a dollar of private, local or State funds. States will have flexibility in designing their programs, and can provide scholarships for students working toward a state or national credential, certificate, or Associate, B.A. or B.S. degree. States cannot use the Fund to substitute for existing efforts. States also cannot provide scholarships to employees or child care providers that are not licensed or registered.

Modeled on Successful Programs: The Fund is modeled on the North Carolina T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project, a bipartisan program that has been shown to work. Participants in T.E.A.C.H. complete an average of 18 credit hours per year and receive an average 10 % increase in their wages. They have less than a 10 % turnover rate, compared to the statewide rate of 42 %. The President's Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund is also modeled on the Defense Department's model of tying pay raises to increased training, which has helped to make the Department of Defense child care system one of the best in the world.

Builds On Pell Grants: While not limited to those eligible for Pell Grants, the scholarships build on Pell Grants for those eligible, by covering any costs not covered by Pell, including tuition and fees, books, supplies, transportation, and child care expenses. For example, a typical caregiver in a child care center earns \$12,000 a year. Attending a community college half time, with total costs of \$3,000, this individual would be eligible for a \$1,350 Pell Grant in 1997-98. The Fund will then provide additional monies. All applicants must first apply for Pell Grants before receiving a Child Care Provider Scholarship.

Actions To Help Child Care Workers Take Advantage of Pell Grants, the New Lifetime Learning Tax Credit and Other Financial Aid: Many child care providers are not aware of other financial aid that is available now. Today, the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services jointly sent a letter to child care providers in all 50 states, providing them with information on the aid already available to current and future child care providers, including Pell Grants, the new Lifetime Learning and HOPE Tax Credits, and loans.

Builds on the President's Actions to Make Higher Education Universal and Lifetime Learning the Standard: Today's initiatives build on President Clinton's historic achievements to promote opportunities for lifelong learning, including winning the largest increase in Pell Grants in more than 20 years, creating HOPE and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits, expanding College Work Study, creating the Direct Lending program that lets students repay their loans as a share of their income, and creating AmeriCorps National Service program to enable young people to earn money for college while serving their country.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SENDS NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AND PRIVACY COMPACT TO CONGRESS

October 23, 1997

Today, President Clinton transmitted the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact to Congress. The compact will facilitate effective background checks on child care providers by eliminating state law barriers to the sharing of criminal history information for purposes other than ongoing criminal investigations. The vast majority of child care providers are caring people who have dedicated their lives to teaching and nurturing children. But one tragedy in child care is too many, and background checks are one important way to ensure that the people watching our children are fit for this responsibility.

Current Limitations on Information. Many states currently have laws prohibiting release of criminal history records for purposes other than ongoing criminal investigations -- such as in connection with background checks for employment or licensing. This means that a child care agency wishing to do a nationwide check to determine whether a potential child care worker has a criminal history will not be able to gain direct access to all states' records but instead must go to the FBI for information. FBI records, however, are not nearly as complete as states' own records because state reporting of criminal dispositions to the FBI is wholly voluntary. In addition, FBI checks can take weeks or months to complete because of the total volume of FBI records and the FBI's nationwide criminal responsibilities.

Effect of the Compact. Under the compact, each ratifying state would agree to release its own criminal history information to other ratifying states for any purpose authorized by the receiving state's law. This means an agency wanting to do a nationwide check for a purpose authorized by state law need not rely on incomplete FBI records, but may gain access directly to other states' complete criminal records. The only role played by the FBI would be to give the requesting agency a list of the states in which the individual has a criminal record (information which the FBI would have in complete form), so that the agency can access those states' records directly. In this way, the compact will vastly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of nationwide criminal background checks.

One Step in Ensuring Safety of Child Care. A background check is only a first step in assuring that our children are cared for safely. Many people who are unsuited to be child care providers are never arrested or convicted of a crime; most child abuse cases, for example, are not prosecuted in criminal court. A recent study by the American Bar Association's Center for Children and the Law found that personal interviews and reference checks are essential tools in checking the credentials of caregivers.

**THE PRESIDENT URGES SERVICE AS A STRATEGY
IN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
The White House Conference On Child Care
October 23, 1997

Today, at the White House Conference on Child Care, President Clinton announced steps to use community service to strengthen after-school programs.

Helping Communities Link Service and After-School Programs. To enable more communities to use community service to enrich their after-school programs, the President announced actions by the Corporation for National Service's new To Learn and Grow Initiative, a public-private partnership dedicated to expanding access to and enhancing the quality of after-school programs through service. The initiative will:

- Release a "How-To Manual" that shows after-school programs how they can use service to strengthen their efforts (prepared by the Corporation for National Service with the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College); and
- Provide training and technical assistance to after-school programs that want to use national service and volunteers to help meet their needs.

Building on What Works. Today, communities use both volunteers and those engaged in full-time service commitments such as AmeriCorps to extend the reach and improve the quality of many child care and after-school programs. These individuals work alongside child care providers, educators, and community-based professionals across the country. Two-thirds of national service programs supported by the Corporation for National Service, including AmeriCorps, address the needs of children and youth, many in child care and after-school programs. The To Learn and Grow Initiative will build on this experience to show programs across the country how to use volunteers and others engaged in service to provide better care to more children.

Young people can also benefit from serving others after school hours. For example, Big Brothers/Big Sisters committed at the Presidents' Service Summit that its mentors would participate with young people in service projects. In addition, the Corporation's Learn and Serve program supports service-learning programs across the country, where young people serve and then reflect on that experience. The To Learn and Grow Initiative's manual and training activities will guide after-school programs in incorporating service into their activities.

Successful Programs Exist. Successful programs where service strengthens after-school programs today include Jumpstart AmeriCorps, where AmeriCorps members get needy children and their families ready for school; Columbia University's Community Impact program, where AmeriCorps members provide educational enrichment, mentoring, and tutoring for youth from K-3rd grade in collaboration with the YMCA; the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in St. Paul, Minnesota, which pairs seniors and middle school students in after-school programs with 900 children in K-3rd grade; and the Sheridan Family Resources Center in Colorado, where AmeriCorps members tutor at-risk youth, run after-school and summer camp programs, and help youths and senior citizens have access to health services offered by school-based and community clinics.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 23, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND FIRST LADY
AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

The East Room

10:00 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you and please be seated, and welcome to the White House Conference on Child Care. We are delighted to have with us in the East Room today members of Congress and the President's Cabinet, other officials from the government here in Washington. We have many elected officials from around the country and a great group of distinguished guests, including parents and experts in this important issue.

I also want to greet the hundreds of people gathered at the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Health and Human Services here in Washington, and to the thousands more who are joining us via satellite from the more than 100 sites at universities, hospitals and schools and businesses around the country.

I'd like to take a minute for all of us to think about what's happening in America this morning, and about what happens every morning. Parents are making the preparations to get to work, and those preparations include for most working families putting their children in the care of others. And most, even before they're out the door, are worrying about the logistics of the care that their children will receive. Some are even worrying about the safety or quality of that care.

There are many who are wondering whether they would get better quality care if they could pay more. Others are struggling to determine how they'll be able to afford next month's payment. And there are many who are in the work force who worry every day about how they'll care for their child and hold down the job that they need. Many parents will go to work, but have trouble focusing on work because they are worried about the snuffle that their daughter had or wondering how their son is faring.

And before we finish today, many more working parents will keep looking anxiously at the clock and will murmur into telephones the instructions that their children need after school, because their concerns don't end at the end of the day for their children's school time, because parents won't get home, so that they have to worry about what happens to keep their child safe and well occupied during those hours, as well.

These are just some of the questions that America's parents are asking themselves this morning and every morning that they prepare to go to work. Some parents ask themselves these questions in the afternoon, as they prepare to go to a swing shift, or at midnight as they start to work in one of the other jobs that are essential to keeping our economy strong.

Earlier this month I went to the University of Maryland to visit its center for young children, and as soon as I walked in the door I knew immediately it was the kind of place any of us would feel comfortable sending our children. I was, frankly, tempted to sign up myself. The walls were painted bright colors. There was lots of natural light. The workers there were creative, energetic and focused. Inside there were toys and crafts material. Outside there was a playground. And the children looked happy and occupied and full of energy.

Now, later I left the center to make a speech, and after the speech I opened the floor to questions. And the very first question was one that I thought summed up the dilemma that we face today. It came from a divorced mother who works full-time as a secretary at the university. To send her 4-year-old son to the center I had visited, she told me, would cost \$6,000 a year, a quarter of her income, and she just couldn't do it. She had to do some real juggling to get the situation that she told me about. She was able to send her son to another less expensive center because she

qualified for a scholarship, and she moved back in with her parents. Otherwise, she said, I would have to quit my job and go on welfare, and then I would have to worry about who would watch my child as I looked for a job.

She and so many women like her are the reason we are here today, and parents like Paula Broglio, who is here with us in the East Room, represent the millions of parents who worry about this important issue. Thirteen million American children spend all or some of their day being cared for by someone other than their parent. Yet, a recent national study found that child care at most centers in our country is, "poor to mediocre, with almost half of the infants and toddlers in rooms having less than minimal quality."

The study also concluded that fully 40 percent of the rooms serving infants in centers provided care that was of such poor quality as to jeopardize children's health, safety or development. A recent University of Colorado at Denver survey of child care in four states found only one in seven child care centers to be of good quality.

And quality care, as Paula and so many others know, when it is available is often financially out of reach. According to the 1995 census, families earning under \$1,200 a month or less than \$15,000 a year pay an average of 25 percent of their income for child care. Middle class families are hit hard as well. These families, earning up to \$36,000 a year pay 12 percent of their income for child care.

The urgency of this conference today to focus on child care is heightened by the new scientific information we have about the emotional and intellectual development of young children. As we learned at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April, what happens to a child in the earliest years affects how well he or she learns for a lifetime. With 45 percent of our children under the age of one in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives, but on the future of our nation.

What's more, we now know from other studies that good care, whether given at home or in a day care setting, is good care. Done right, day care can be beneficial for children, and it is, therefore, worth our investment.

There's another reason that compels us to act, and that is demand. Demand for quality child care is growing, hastened on by our new economy, which has meant in the last 40 years dramatic changes in the American work force and in the American family's life. We know, for example, that half of all mothers with children under one year of age are working outside the home, and not only are more parents working, they are working longer hours. Also, with welfare reform we know that many more children will be needing quality child care.

So this conference is meant to start a conversation. It is only one day, but we hope it is a day that will renew our efforts to improve child care in America. We also hope it will involve our entire national community, because every aspect of our life together must be involved in looking for solutions. The federal government has a role to play, but so do state governments, business and labor, the nonprofit and religious communities, school systems, individual citizens, and especially parents.

We also know there are models of excellent child care around the country and we will hear about some of them -- like the military's day care system or the Smart Start Program in North Carolina. These initiatives provide examples of best practices and can energize and inspire us to do more.

We also know how important it is to ensure choice for parents in their selection of child care. One size fits all child care does not fit America's families. We don't work the same hours, we don't have the same economic or other kinds of pressures that we're dealing with, so we have to provide more options and we have to empower parents with good information to enable them to become good consumers. We also have to find ways that would make it easier and more affordable for parents who want to stay home with their children for some period of time to be able to afford to do so.

So I hope we approach this conversation with a certain fearlessness, with the same kind of energy that I see on the face of a three or four-year-old who's going about some task that he knows will occupy himself. We need to have the same kind of fearless approach, asking the hard questions and then listening to the answers.

There will be a lot of questions raised today -- questions about how to ensure the safety of every child in child care: how to do a better job of training and paying care-givers: how to encourage more employers to provide child care benefits of some variety to employees: how to make successful after-school programs more widely available: how to meet the needs of children with disabilities: how to better support parents who choose, often at significant cost, to stay home with their children: how to ensure that quality and affordability do not come at the expense of one another: and how to learn from the good models that we have in every community and state of our country: and, also, how do we leave ideology at the door and honestly address the real needs of America's families.

These are tough questions, and there are many more that we will be considering today. But we consider these questions at an opportune time. And we hope that this conference will spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games, or while going to or from work in the carpool -- whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion, to make it clear that we want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have, caring for the next generation, and to be good workers who contribute to the economy and the quality of life that we enjoy in our country.

Now I'd like to address your attention to a video produced by New Screen Concepts, in association with the Families and Work Institute, entitled, "Why Should We Care about Child Care?"

(Video is shown.)

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THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House. Thank you very much, Kathy Carliner, for your remarkable statement. And I thought you were very good in the film. Rob Reiner wants to give you a screen test. (Laughter.)

I am so happy to see all of you here. There are many people here who might well be introduced, but I think I must start with the people who are terribly important to whether we will be able to fully achieve our part of the great agenda we are going to lay out

today -- the members of Congress who are here. And I'd like to call their names, and then when I finish, ask them all to stand.

Senator Herb Kohl, who sponsored legislation on child care; Senator Jack Reed; Congressman Bill Clay; Congressman Sandy Levin; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey; Congresswoman Sue Kelly; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; Congressman Xavier Becerra; and Congressman Nick Lampson. Would the members of Congress who are here please stand. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank my longtime friend -- Hillary and I have been friends of Governor Jim Hunt and his wife, Carolyn, who are here, for almost 20 years now. And I think Governor Romer is here or on his way. Mayor Clever, we're glad to see you. And John Sweeney, the head of the AFL-CIO, and others who have come to be with us today. I thank you very much.

This is a happy day at the White House, first for all the people in the administration and all those who have worked with them for months and months and months to help this day come to pass; and second, and even more important, from my point of view, this is a happy day because I have been listening to the First Lady talk about this for more than 25 years now -- (laughter) -- and it may be that I will finally be able to participate in at least a small fraction of what I have been told for a long time I should be doing. (Laughter.) And I say that in good humor, but also with great seriousness.

This is an anniversary of sorts for me. It was six years ago today as a newly-announced candidate for President that I went back to my alma mater at Georgetown and began a series of three speeches outlining what I thought America ought to look like in the 21st century and what I thought we would have to do to create a country in which everyone had an opportunity, everyone was expected to be a responsible citizen, and where we came together across all the lines that divide us into one community.

There are many things that are necessary for that to be done, but clearly two of them are, first, people in this country have to be able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children. And if we put people in the position of essentially having to choose one over the other, our country is going to be profoundly weakened. Obviously, if people are worried sick about their children, and they

fail at work, it's not just individual firms, it's the economic fabric and strength of the country that is weakened. Far more important, if people fail at home, they have failed in our most important job, and our most solemn responsibility.

Second, we'll never be the kind of country we ought to be unless we believe that every child counts and that every child ought to have a chance to make the most of his or her God-given abilities.

That's why we're here today -- to examine where we are and what we still have to do. And what we still have to do is quite a lot, to make sure we live by what we believe when we say that all parents should be able to succeed at home and at work and that every child counts. No parent should ever have to choose between work and family: between earning a decent wage and caring for a child. Especially in this day and age when most parents work, nothing is more important, as you have just heard Kathy Carliner say, than finding child care that is affordable, accessible, and safe. It is America's next great frontier, in strengthening our families and our future.

As the Catholic Conference has noted, no government can love a child and no policy can substitute for a family's care. But there is much that we can do to help parents do their duty to their children. From my days as governor of Arkansas to my service as President, strengthening families has been a central goal of what I have worked on. I'm very proud that the first bill I had the opportunity to sign into law as President was the Family and Medical Leave Act, so that no parent has to choose between caring for a child or keeping a job when a family member is ill.

The expanded earned income tax credit helps to ensure that parents who work don't have to raise their children in poverty. No one who is out there working full-time with children should have to worry about that. Expanded Head Start programs are serving more families than ever before. We've collected record sums of child support enforcement. The historic balanced budget I signed this summer provides a \$500-per-child tax credit and helps parents to pay for their children's college education through IRAs, expanded loans and Pell Grants, the HOPE Scholarship and other tax credits.

The Congress has before it now a program of Secretary

Riley's called 21st Century Community Schools in which we ask for funds to help our states keep our schools open after classroom hours for children who have no place else to go and need that environment.

We've also made some progress on child care. Since 1993, child care assistance has increased by 70 percent to help families pay for nearly a million children. Last year in the welfare reform debate, we fought and won the battle to expand child care assistance by \$4 billion over the next six years, giving states an unprecedented opportunity to lead, to innovate in efforts to make child care more affordable.

But we have to do more. With more families required to rely on two incomes to make ends meet, with more single-parent families than ever, more young children are left in the care of others even in their earliest years. And as the First Lady said, we learned at our Conference on Early Childhood and the Brain, that's when children develop or fail to develop capacities that will shape the entire rest of their lives. It's also true that more and more schoolchildren are returning to empty homes after school.

The first thing we have to do is to make it possible for parents to spend time with their children whenever possible. That's why I hope the Congress will vote to expand the Family and Medical Leave law so that parents at least can take some time off for their children's medical appointments, teacher conferences and other basic duties. And I support flex-time laws that will allow workers to choose between receiving overtime in pay or in time off with their families.

But during those times when children can't be with their parents, they must get care that keeps them safe and that helps them to learn and grow. As we all know, too often that isn't the case. Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and, sometimes, even unsafe. The cost, as Hillary said, strains millions of family budgets. And government assistance meets just about a quarter of the need. Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find, as Kathy said in her remarks. Waiting lists sometimes takes months or years to move, forcing many parents to cobble together unstable arrangements.

The shortage of care puts older children at risk, as

well. Five million of them between the ages of five and 14 are left to fend for themselves after school. And as they get older, that increases the chances that they'll be exposed to drugs, tobacco and crime.

Finally, studies have shown that too many child care facilities are literally unsafe. The tragedies that have befallen families who depended on child care continue to make headlines all across our nation. This conference is an important step forward in addressing all these issues. What we learn today should spur us on to find ways to help parents, all parents, afford safe, affordable, high quality child care, whether it's at home, a child care center or a neighbor's house.

In the coming months, our administration will develop a plan to be unveiled at the next State of the Union, to improve access and affordability, and to help to ensure the safety of child care in America. In the meantime, I want to announce four specific things we can do right now.

First, I'm asking Congress to establish a new scholarship fund for child care providers. (Applause.) Too many care-givers don't have the training they need to provide the best possible care. Those who do have training are rarely compensated with higher wages. The scholarship program I propose will help students earn their degrees as long as they remain in the child care field for at least a year, and it will ensure that care-givers who complete their training will receive a bonus or a raise.

Second, we have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children in the first place. I am transmitting to Congress the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which will make background checks on child care providers easier and more effective by eliminating state barriers to sharing criminal histories for this specific purpose. I urge Congress to pass and states to ratify this legislation.

Third, I've asked Secretary Rubin to oversee a working group on child care, composed primarily of business leaders working with labor and community representatives to find ways more businesses can provide child care or help their employees afford high quality child care. And again, I thank John Sweeney for his important support of this initiative. (Applause.) In some ways the most

gripping part of that film we saw was the father talking about how he was just consumed with worry at work. No parent should ever have to go through that.

Finally, we must use community service to strengthen and expand access to after-school programs. Today, the Corporation for National Service through its To Learn and Grow Initiative will pledge to help after-school programs all across our country to use volunteers to provide better care to children. It is releasing a how-to manual for groups who want to incorporate community service into after-school programs. And I think that, Secretary Riley, if we can win in our little budget battle here on the 21 century community schools, then together, we can do some real good out there on this issue.

My friends, for centuries, over two now, the American Dream has represented a compact that those who work hard and play by the rules should be able to build better lives for themselves and for their children. In this time, and even more into the future, child care that is too expensive, unsafe or unavailable will be a very stubborn obstacle to realizing that dream. So let us commit ourselves to clearing the obstacle, to helping parents fulfill their most sacred duty, to keeping the American Dream alive for them and most important, for their children.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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Caring for America's Children

The Clinton Administration and Child Care

October 23, 1997

Over the past decade, the number of American families with working parents has expanded dramatically. Making high quality child care more affordable and accessible is critical to the strength of our families and to healthy child development and learning.... Each of us --from businesses to religious leaders to policy-makers and elected officials --has a responsibility and an important stake in making sure that children of all ages have the best possible care available to them. From infancy through adolescence, in child care settings and after-school programs, children can learn and thrive with the right care, attention, and education.

-- President Clinton, July 23, 1997

President Clinton is hosting the first-ever White House Conference on Child Care to focus the nation's attention on the importance of addressing the need for safe, affordable, quality child care. This Conference underscores and builds upon the President Clinton's commitment to strengthen the American family by giving parents the tools they need to fulfill their responsibilities and giving children the ability to reach their full potential.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

- **Putting Families First.** Throughout his presidency, President Clinton has worked hard to help America's working families. That is why the President fought for the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to allow 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 caring for an elderly relative. The President also has fought for greater health security for America's families. He signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which includes important new protections for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions. And in August 1997, President Clinton signed the Balanced Budget Act which included \$24 billion for the Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965 -- to provide meaningful health care coverage to millions of uninsured children.
- **Providing Economic Opportunity.** In 1993, President Clinton put into place an economic strategy that invests in people and provides real opportunity. President Clinton has fought for policies that help working parents fulfill their responsibilities, including winning inclusion of a \$500 per-child tax credit for children under age 17 in the Balanced Budget Act -- helping 27 million families with 45 million children. The new Child Tax Credit is in addition to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (tax credits President

Clinton protected during the balanced budget negotiations). President Clinton also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million working families tax relief. In 1997, the average tax credit is \$1,450 on family income up to \$29,290. And the President proposed and signed into law an increase in the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15. For a full-time, year-round worker at minimum wage, this 90-cent increase raises yearly income by \$1,800 -- as much as the average family spends on groceries over seven months.

INVESTING IN CHILD CARE

- **Increasing Child Care Funding.** Because of President Clinton's leadership, federal funding for direct child care subsidies has increased by nearly 70 percent since he took office, providing child care services for over one million children. The 1996 welfare law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years, providing child care assistance to low-income working families and parents moving from welfare to work.
- **Increasing Participation in Head Start and Improving Program Quality.** For more than thirty years, Head Start has been one of our nation's best investments ensuring that low-income children start school ready to learn. President Clinton has made expanding and improving Head Start a priority of his Administration. Since 1993, funding for the program has increased by 43 percent -- in fiscal year 1997, Head Start will serve nearly 800,000 low-income children four years old and younger. The Balanced Budget continues the expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Over the last three years, the Clinton Administration has also invested significantly in improving program quality, providing local programs with the resources they need to attract and retain high quality teachers, and ensuring the safety of Head Start centers.
- **Created Early Head Start for 0-3 Year Olds.** Initiated by the President 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 age three and under. The program provides early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services, preparing children for a lifetime of learning and development. In FY 1997, the program will have served nearly 25,000 children and their families.
- **Developed a Full-Day, Full-Year Head Start Initiative.** In March 1997, the Administration announced a new Head Start initiative that will expand Head Start services for children while also helping parents, including those moving from welfare to work. Under the new initiative, child care providers will be given priority for Head Start expansion funds to deliver full-day, full-year Head Start services in partnership with Head Start. Children will stay in one place all day rather than attending Head Start for half a day then moving to child care for the remainder of the day.

- **Expanding Child Care in Rural America.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Agriculture Department's Rural Housing Service's Community Facilities program is directing its efforts towards meeting the need for quality child care in rural areas. As a part of this effort, 31 child care centers were created in FY 1997 and the program will expand in FY 1998. In addition, the Rural Housing Service has been forming partnerships with other federal programs (including Head Start) and the private sector to help provide child care in rural America.
- **Providing Child Care in Urban Communities.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is supporting working families and those moving to work by providing both quality child care for their children and opportunities for parents to become self sufficient. Community Development Block Grants fund initiatives that include education/training opportunities, on-site after-school child care and construction of child care and youth centers. The Ounce of Prevention Program enhances efforts already underway in Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities with summer and after-school education/recreation activities and mentoring and tutoring programs. In 1997, the Department awarded \$550 million in urban revitalization (HOPE VI) funds which will be used to physically revitalize communities and fund initiatives such as on-site day care centers and transportation services that provide access to employment centers and health care facilities. In 1997, the Administration funded \$42 million for the Family Economic Development and Supportive Services (EDSS) program that will include child care services, youth leadership and mentoring skills and family/parental development counseling.
- **Serving Children with Special Needs.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Justice has worked hard to make sure that children with disabilities have access to child care along with non-disabled children. For instance, the Justice Department has entered into agreements regarding children with disabilities with the two largest child care companies in the country -- KinderCare has agreed to do "finger-prick" tests as requested by doctors and parents for children with diabetes and, in another agreement with KinderCare, the company has agreed to develop a model policy to enable a child with mental retardation to attend one of its centers with a state-funded personal care attendant. In addition, La Petite Academy has agreed to do the same "finger-prick" tests, to keep epinephrine on hand for severe and possibly-life-threatening allergy attacks, and to make changes to some of its programs so that children with cerebral palsy can participate. The Justice Department also provides information through its ADA information hotline (1-800-514-0301, 1-800-514-0383 TDD) and produces *Commonly Asked Questions about Child Care Centers and the ADA* for distribution. Additionally, the HHS Child Care Bureau has launched a special initiative to assist ten states to develop and implement effective plans aimed at improving and expanding their child care service delivery system. The project, "Map to Inclusive Child Care," will expand to other states over the next three years.
- **Easing the Commuting Dilemma for Families.** The President is fighting for welfare-to-work transportation grants to assist states and local communities in moving individuals from welfare-to-work -- including helping parents with small children obtain transportation to their jobs and to child care. Proposed legislation is included in the transportation authorization bills currently before Congress. In addition, as a part of the Transportation Department's Livable Communities Initiative, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has provided opportunities

for on-site community services -- Head Start facilities, a health clinic, and child care centers -- at transit facilities across the country to help parents obtain child care for their children on their commuting routes to work or training.

ENSURING HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN CHILD CARE

- **Improving Health and Safety with Healthy Child Care America.** In an effort to improve the health and safety of child care programs and to provide child health education to child care providers and parents, in 1995, the Clinton Administration launched the Healthy Child Care America initiative. This effort has established partnerships between child care providers and health care services in 46 states, helping to ensure that children in child care are in safe and healthy environments.
- **Ensuring that Children in Child Care Settings Are Properly Immunized.** In July 1997, President Clinton proposed new child care regulations to ensure that children in child care receive the immunizations they need on time. The proposed rule would require that all children in federally subsidized child care be immunized according to state public health agency standards. This proposed regulation will particularly affect those children in child care arrangements that are legal but exempt from state licensing requirements.
- **Providing Quality Nutrition to Children in Child Care.** President Clinton has maintained the commitment to providing quality nutrition in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federal program that provides healthy meals and snacks in child and adult day care facilities. In 1997, the program provided meals to about 2.5 million children and almost 50,000 adults in approximately 35,000 child care centers (including after-school centers), 195,000 family and group day care homes, and 1,500 adult day care centers. Child care providers in the CACFP must serve meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines, and must offer free or reduced-price meals to those eligible. The General Accounting Office identified CACFP as one of the most effective vehicles for reaching family child care providers and enhancing the care they provide because of its unique combination of resources, training, oversight and peer support. Notably, 87 percent of family child care homes that are considered to be providing good quality child care are participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, according to the Families and Work Institute's *Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care*.

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CARING FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

- **Convened the 1997 School-Age Child Care Forums.** The Child Care Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services convened ten regional conferences to share promising initiatives for school-age children among child care, education, and community based organizations from nearly every state. These conferences spurred additional dialogue among participants and stimulated planning to address "out of school time" in states and communities across the country.

- **Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers -- A Guide.** In May 1997, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton released *Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers: Extending Learning in a Safe, Drug-Free Environment Before and After School*. The Department of Education, along with the National Community Education Association, Policy Studies Associates, and the American Bar Association, wrote the step-by-step guidebook on how school facilities can be used for after-school programs.
- **Providing After-School Activities Through 21st Century Learning Centers and Title I.** The Clinton Administration's Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This law included a new statutory requirement that encourages schools receiving funding to enhance their instruction with such programs as extended school years, before- and after-school programs, and summer programs -- effectively giving "teeth" to after-school options. For instance, Title I -- which is funded by the Improving America's Schools Act and provides extra help with basic and advanced skills to disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools -- has been successful in helping Title I funded schools provide after-school programs. In addition, under this law, the 21st Century Community Learning Center program has been developed -- a program that once fully implemented will benefit urban and rural schools and their communities, allowing schools to stay open beyond the normal hours, offering expanded learning opportunities to children after-school. The President's current budget request includes \$50 million to fund 350 21st Century Community Learning Center programs in FY 1998.
- **Supporting Positive After-School Choices with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.** Because children unsupervised after school are more likely to engage in risky behaviors like substance use, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds before and after-school programs. In the 1994-95 school year, over 2,700 school districts used these funds to support before- and after-school activities.
- **Staying Safe After School with Community Schools.** In the Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Initiative, the President has called for 1,000 new after-school initiatives across the country. Schools that stay open longer and are open on weekends and during the summer can provide students, parents and communities with access to valuable resources. Turning schools into after-hour safe havens can help to prevent violent crime and violent behavior while boosting our children's academic achievement.
- **Helping Children Through Service.** As co-chair of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, President Clinton helped bring businesses, nonprofits, states and communities, and volunteer groups to Philadelphia in April 1997 to focus on service and to ensure that every child in America has five key resources -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and a chance to serve. Many of the hundreds of corporations and nonprofits that made commitments at the summit pledged to become involved in after-school and mentoring programs. America's Promise, the nonprofit organization founded to follow up on the summit promises, is now working with these organizations to ensure that they do so.

- **Enhancing Child Care and After-School Care with the Corporation for National Service.** Established by President Clinton in 1993, the Corporation for National Service, through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and the National Senior Service Corps, is addressing the needs of children through service activities. Approximately two-thirds of the national service programs work to address the needs of children and youth often in child care and after-school settings. AmeriCorps members, college students, and senior volunteers, working alongside child care providers, are serving as tutors and mentors, health and nutrition educators, in both child care and after-school programs across the country.
- **Aiding the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.** The Clinton Administration is providing resources to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to establish and enhance more clubs throughout the United States. These Clubs are situated in at-risk communities and reach thousands of kids through violence prevention and reduction, educational health programs and youth leadership development. For instance, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America was awarded an AmeriCorps grant to provide education awards to 100 full-time and 800 part-time AmeriCorps members in up to 100 clubs early next year. The AmeriCorps members will be either older (17 and 18 year-olds) Boys or Girls Clubs members or club member alumni who will serve as tutors, mentors, and recreation activity coordinators in after-school programs.

PROVIDING INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Providing Child Care Information.** In 1995, the Clinton Administration established the Child Care Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to streamline child care program operations and improve the quality and efficiency of service. In addition, HHS launched the National Child Care Information Center to disseminate child care information, publications and resources to help providers start up child care centers, parents locate child care in their communities, and researchers and policy makers attain access to policy information. Through the Technical Assistance Project, HHS has brought states together to share promising practices and has held special forums on school-age care, consumer education, Tribal child care programs, and a range of other topics.
- **Promoting Public/Private Partnerships.** The Child Care Bureau has launched a nationwide effort to promote public/private partnerships in child care by providing technical assistance to states on promising initiatives going on across the country.
- **Providing a Resource and Referral Clearinghouse for Working Families.** The Department of Labor Women's Bureau recently published a report entitled: *What Works! The Working Women Count Honor Roll Final Report* which highlights employers who have made real change in the areas that working women and their families care about most -- pay and benefits, family friendly workplaces (including child care) and respect and fair treatment on the job. Hundreds of employers accepted this challenge to deliver real change -- especially in child care. This guide was a result of the Working Women Count national questionnaire which surveyed 250,000 working women -- the largest questionnaire of working women ever. Notably, child care was identified as a top issue for working women. In addition to this guide, the Labor Department has expanded its resource and referral clearinghouse for employers and working

families. The agency has established a toll-free number (1-800-827-5335) and provides materials like the *Work and Family Resource Kit* and *Care Around the Clock: Developing Child Care Before 9 and after 5*.

- **Training Caregivers -- a Nationally Acclaimed Program.** The Education Department's Office of Educational Research and Improvement supports the regional laboratory in San Francisco, California called WestEd. WestEd has developed a nationally acclaimed Infant/Toddler Caregiver Training Program which teaches caregivers how to provide nurturing and stimulating environments to promote quality child care. Research-based videos and printed materials are available in Spanish, Chinese, and English. Eight thousand caregivers have been trained in California and the program has been expanded across the nation.

LEARNING LESSONS FROM THE MILITARY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- **Providing High Quality Child Care -- The Military Model.** Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Defense (DoD) has made important strides to improve the quality of child care for the children of the men and women who serve our country. The DoD Child Care System serves over 200,000 children (age zero to 12) daily making the U.S. military system the largest employer-sponsored child care program in the nation. The DoD Child Care System, known as the Child Development Program, includes Child Development Centers, Family Child Care homes, School Age Care programs, and Resource and Referral services. Through this system, the military offers full-day, part-day, and hourly child care, part-day preschools, before- and after-school programs for school age children, and extended hour care which includes nights and weekends to accommodate shift workers. Because of the Department of Defense's commitment to excellence in child care, 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 353. Currently, over 75 percent of military child care programs are accredited, as compared to only 7 percent of other child care facilities nationwide. Since the early 1990s, the DoD has focused on improving the quality, availability, and cost of child care for military families.
- **Sharing the Military's Expertise.** Because of the DoD's high quality, comprehensive child care programs, in April 1997, President Clinton directed the Secretary of Defense to share the expertise and lessons learned from the Military Child Development Programs with Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, as well as with private and nonprofit groups, that are responsible for providing child care. In his Directive the President stated, "The Military Child Development Programs have attained a reputation for an abiding commitment to quality in the delivery of child care. The Department of Defense's dedication to adequate funding, strict oversight, improved training and wage packages, strong family child care networks, and 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." In response to the President's directive, the Pentagon is implementing a plan to reach out to states and civilian child care centers to share its expertise.

SUPPORTING A FAMILY-FRIENDLY FEDERAL WORKPLACE

- **Promoting Family-Friendly Initiatives.** Under President Clinton's leadership, the federal government, striving to be a model employer for other private and public employers, has implemented family-friendly leave initiatives that enhance the ability of employees to balance family and employment obligations. In addition to leave initiatives, the federal government offers compressed or flexible work schedules to many workers so that they may spend more time with their families.
- **Providing Child Care for Federal Workers.** In addition to the Department of Defense's model child care program, there are more than 230 child care centers for civilian government employees in federal buildings in as many as 36 states. The General Services Administration (GSA) oversees 108 of these centers, making GSA the largest civilian sponsor of work-site child care in the nation. Under this Administration, the emphasis on quality has continued -- with 73 percent of GSA sponsored centers accredited by the independent National Association for Education of Young Children, and with a goal of reaching 100 percent accreditation within two years. Striving to meet the needs of parent workers, 89 percent of GSA centers have infant care, 74 percent have drop-in/emergency care, and 42 percent provide summer programs for school aged children. In addition, more than 80 percent of centers are open 11 or more hours per day. Nearly 70 percent of the child care center directors have ten or more years of experience in early childhood education.

...

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

If you're a working parent, chances are that you have struggled to find affordable, quality child care. Like millions of others, you know just how important child care is to your family's well being and to your ability to work without worry. Yet for too long, parents across our country have struggled with too little information, too few choices and too much anxiety.

For far too long, America's families have faced this problem alone. Now it is time to move this issue to the top of our country's agenda. We have a special opportunity to do that when the President and I host a White House conference on child care on October 23. We hope that this conference will begin an honest national discussion about child care and build on promising efforts already underway in states and communities.

Here are some of the questions we need to answer -- as individual parents and as a nation: How can we ensure that children in care are safe from harm? What are the best ways to make the hours children spend in care as stimulating and nurturing as possible? How can we do a better job of valuing the important work of child care professionals? How can we encourage employers to provide child care benefits to their employees, a practice that makes sense not just for children, but for the corporate bottom line, as well? How can we put into practice what research tells us -- that when children participate in good after-school programs, they do better in school, don't engage in risky behavior and thrive? And how can we genuinely support parents who choose, often at significant economic cost, to stay at home with their children?

When I was a working mother with a young child, my friends and I shared these concerns. Today, when families are under even greater stress, I continue to worry about how we can meet the challenge of strengthening child care for American families. The President and I believe it will take parents, businesses, child care providers, experts, advocates, and officials at all levels of government working together to ensure that children get the care they need to learn and grow, that parents have peace of mind while on the job, and that employers can count on responsible, attentive workers. I hope you will join in this important discussion.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Child Care for Young Children: Quality

"Recent brain research suggests that warm, responsive child care is not only comforting for an infant; it is critical to healthy development."

*- Rethinking the Brain: New Insights into Early Development
Families and Work Institute (1997)*

● **Higher quality child care for very young children (0 to 3) was consistently related to high levels of cognitive and language development.** "Mother-Child Interaction and Cognitive Outcomes Associated with Early Child Care", NICHD Early Child Care Research Network (1997)

● **Studies have raised concerns about the quality of care:**

- A four-state study of quality in child care centers found **only one in seven (14%) were rated as good quality.** *Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers, (Executive Summary)* University of Colorado at Denver (1995)
- **Thirteen percent of regulated and 50 percent of nonregulated family child care providers offer care that is inadequate.** *The Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care*, Families and Work Institute (1994)
- **"The quality of services provided by most centers was rated as barely adequate."** *The National Child Care Staffing Study (Executive Summary)*, National Center for the Early Childhood Workforce (1989)

● **"[M]any children living in poverty receive child care that, at best, does not support their optimal development and, at worst, may compromise their health and safety."** *New Findings on Children, Families, and Economic Self-Sufficiency*, National Research Council, Institute of Medicine (1995)

What Works to Improve the Quality of Child Care

● **Children who receive warm and sensitive caregiving are more likely to trust caregivers, to enter school ready and eager to learn, and to get along well with other children.** . . . To ensure that child care settings nurture children, protect their health and safety, and prepare them for later school success, better qualified staff are essential." *Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children*, Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children (1994)

● **"[S]maller group sizes, higher teacher/child ratios and higher staff wages result in quality child care.** Outcomes for children are also better when they attend programs that include a curriculum geared to young children, well prepared staff and where parents are involved in programming." *Early Childhood Care and Education: An Investment That Works*, National Conference of State Legislatures (1997)

● **Any child care setting will benefit from a health consultant.** . . . to advise on potential infectious diseases, explain symptoms and treatments to families, plan health alert procedures when infectious disease occurs, and assist with public health reporting requirements. *Caring for Infants and Toddlers in Groups, Zero to Three*, National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families (1995)

● **States with stronger licensing requirements had a greater number of good-quality centers** according to recent research. *Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers*, University of Colorado at Denver (1995)

● **Voluntary conformity to higher standards through professional center accreditation or through meeting another set of quality standards also increased the likelihood of higher classroom quality.** *Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers*, University of Colorado at Denver (1995)

For additional information, contact the National Child Care Information Center at (800) 616-2242 or visit the Web site at <http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/nccic/nccichome.html>

A Profile of the Child Care Work Force

Approximately three million child care teachers, assistants, and family child care providers in the U.S. care for 10 million children each day.

Who are the child care teaching staff?

97% are female
41% have children
10% are single parents

● Child care teaching staff earn an average of \$6.89 per hour or \$12,058 per year (based on 35 hours per week and 50 weeks per year) (data from *Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers*, Technical Report 1995, salary data are in 1993 dollars).

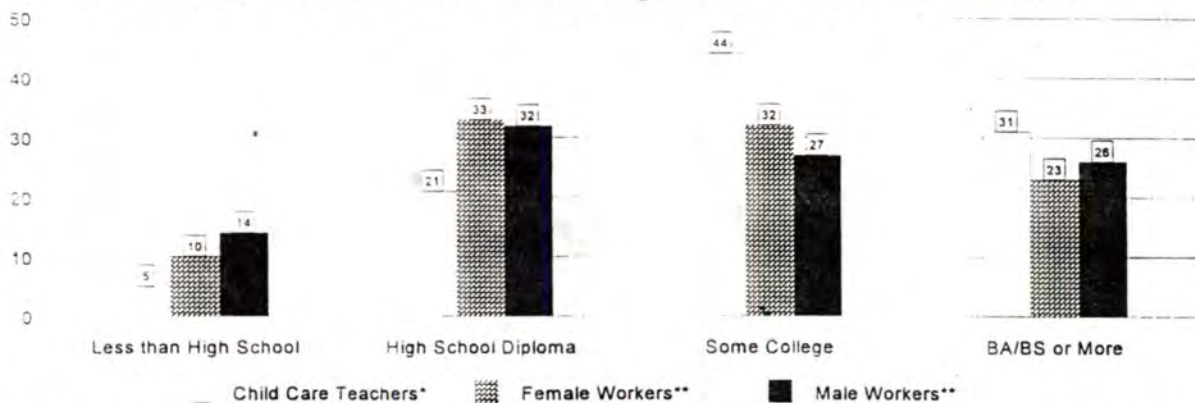
● Only 18 percent of child care centers offer fully paid health coverage to teaching staff.

● Although they earn lower wages, child care teachers are better educated than the general population.

● One-third of all child care teachers leave their centers each year.

● Family child care providers who care for and educate young children in their homes also have very low earnings. Providers earn \$9,528 annually after expenses (data from *The Economics of Family Child Care Study*, a forthcoming publication from Wheelock College, earnings in 1996 dollars). Unregulated providers, who care for fewer children and are offered fewer supports; earned just \$5,132 after expenses.

Education of Child Care Teaching Staff Versus All Workers***



Annual Wages of Child Care Teaching Staff Versus All Workers***



***These charts only provide information on center-based teaching staff.

Child Care for Young Children: Demographics

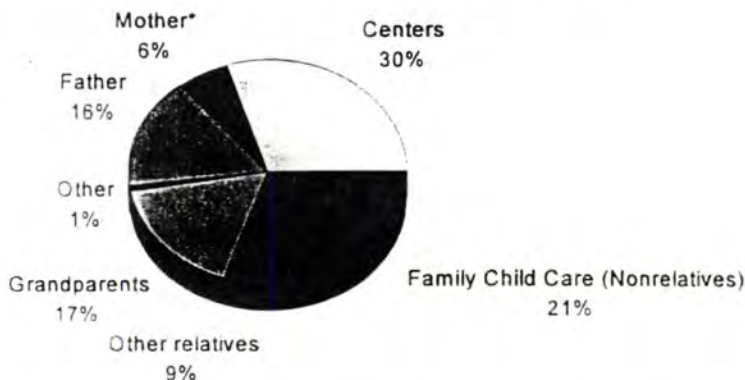
● According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 1995 there were approximately 21 million infants, toddlers, and preschool children under the age of six in the U.S., more than 12.9 million of these children were in child care.[†]

● Forty-five percent of children under age one were in child care on a regular basis.[†]

● While use of center-based care increased from 1988 to 1993, most young children are still in a home-based setting, including family child care.^{**}

Primary Child Care Arrangements Used by Families with Employed Mothers for Preschoolers: 1993

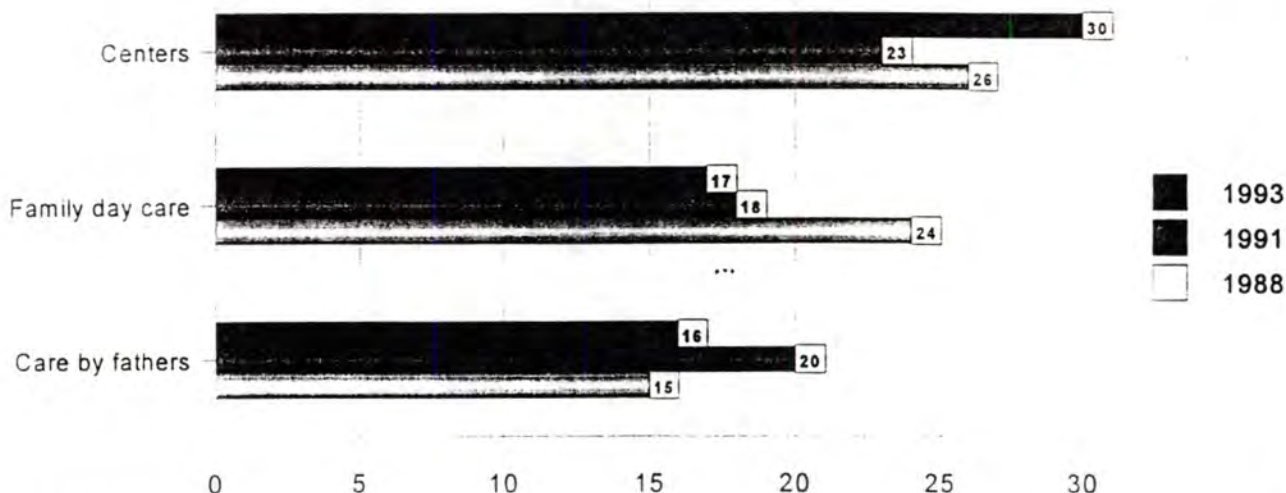
(Percent of preschoolers of working mothers in selected arrangements)



* Includes mothers working at home or away from home. Source: Casper, L.M. *Who's Minding Our Preschoolers?* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P-70, no. 53, Washington, DC 1996

Changes in Selected Child Care Arrangements: 1988 to 1993

(Percent of preschoolers of working mothers in selected arrangements)



Source: Casper, L.M. *Who's Minding Our Preschoolers?* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P-70, no. 53, Washington, DC 1996

This profile of child care demographics has been excerpted from information provided by the [†] National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education and the ^{**}U.S. Bureau of the Census.

For additional information, contact the National Child Care Information Center at (800) 616-2242 or visit the Web site at <http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/nccic/nccichome.html>

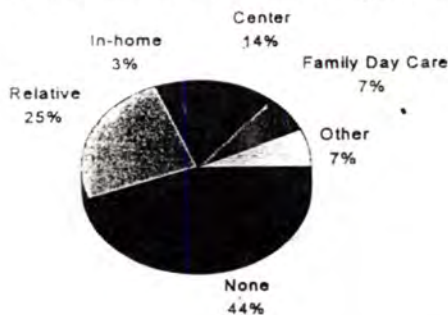
Out-of-School Time School-Age Care

According to the Bureau of the Census, in 1997 there were 38.8 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 years living in the U.S. There are approximately 24 million school-age children with parents in the workforce or pursuing education (based on 1993 SIPP data from the Bureau of the Census).

Care Arrangements of School-Age Children

- Experts estimate that **nearly 5 million school-age children spend time as latchkey kids without adult supervision during a typical week.**
- Approximately 1.7 million children in kindergarten through grade 8 were enrolled in 49,500 formal before- and/or after-school programs in 1991, according to the National Study of Before and After School Programs.
- In 1993-94, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, there were 18,111 before- or after-school programs in public schools—70% of public schools did not offer extended learning programs.
- School-age children are likely to spend time in many different care arrangements. According to the National Child Care Survey (1990), **76 percent of school-age children with an employed mother spend time in at least two child care arrangements during a typical week, in addition to their time in school.**
- According to the National Child Care Survey, children aged 5 to 12 with employed mothers use the following types of supplemental care: 7% are in family day care; 14% are in centers, 3% are cared for by in-home providers, 25% are cared for by relatives and 44% do not use supplemental care.

**Use of Supplemental Care,
Children 5 to 12 with Employed Mothers**



The Effects of Out-of-School Time on Children

- Children under adult supervision in a formal program during after-school hours have demonstrated improved academic achievement and better attitudes toward school than their peers in self- or sibling care. Miller and Marx, 1990 in *Supplement to the National Assessment of Chapter 1*
- Youth are at greatest risk of violence after the regular school day. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are most at-risk of committing violent acts or being victims between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm—a time when they are not in school. *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*, 1997

The most frequently mentioned barrier to participation is the parents' inability to pay the tuition and fees charged by programs. Other barriers include availability, quality of activities, inadequate facilities, transportation, high staff turnover, hours of the program and lack of resources.

Components of Successful Before- and After-School Programs include: linkages between after-school and regular school programs, children's participation in age appropriate learning activities, hiring of qualified staff, low student-staff ratio, involvement of parents, program evaluation and coordination with the schools and other community organizations.

For information on what states and communities are doing to meet the need for school-age care, contact the National Institute on Out of School Time (formerly the School-Age Child Care Project), Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College at (617) 283-2547 or visit the World Wide Web site at: <http://www.wellesley.edu/WCW/CRW/SAC/>. For additional information on extended learning in after-school programs in schools, contact the U.S. Department of Education, please call (800) USA-LEARN or visit the World Wide Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/PFIE>.

Economics of Child Care

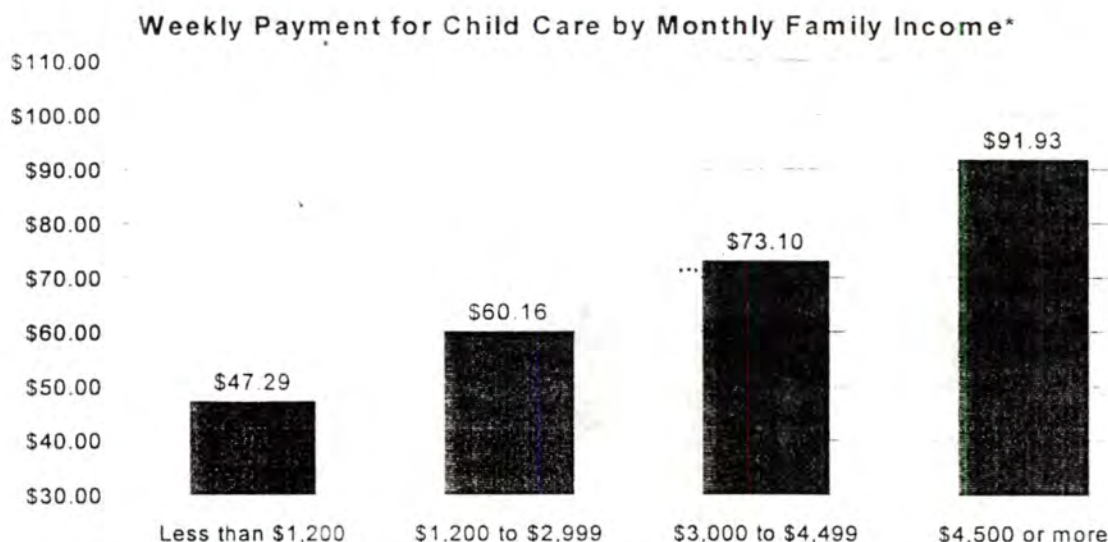
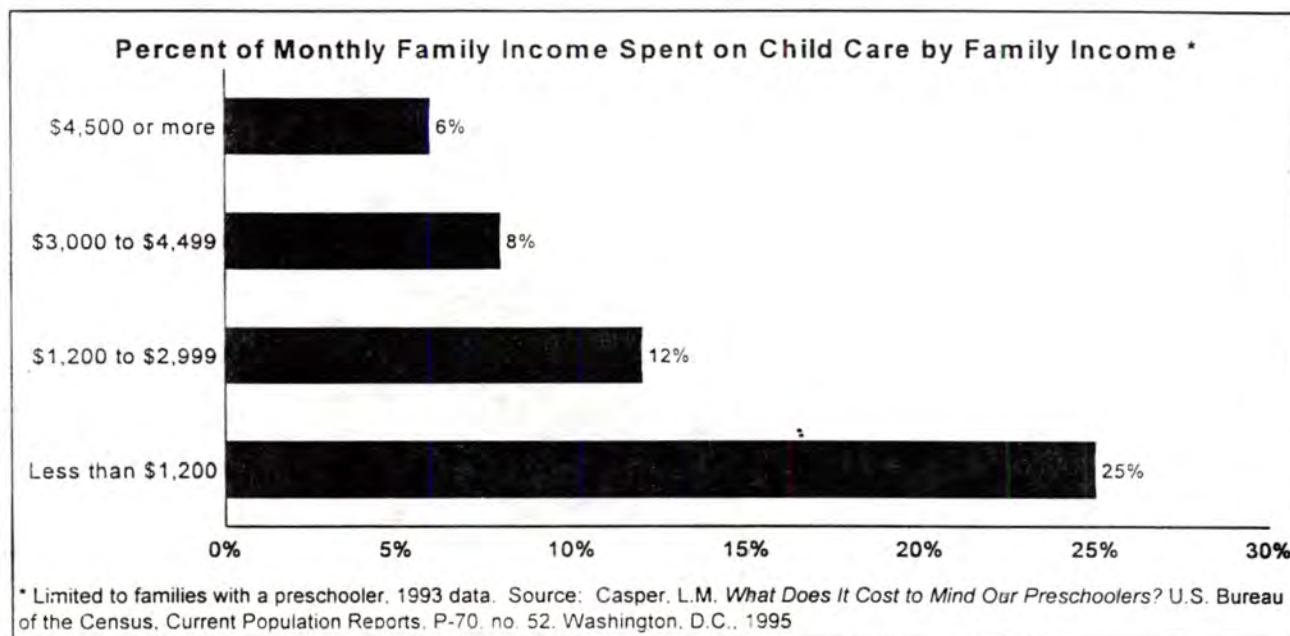
● In 1994, 62% of married mothers with a child under age six were in the workforce, compared with 30% in 1970.*

● The increased employment of mothers outside the home has led to a sharp increase in the use of child care over the past several decades. Eight of 10 employed mothers with children under six are likely to use some form of nonparental child care arrangement.†

● In 1990, 7.2 million mothers with 11.7 million children under age 15 worked full or part time during nonstandard hours.**

● In 1993, the average family with an employed mother and a child under age five spent about \$74 per week for child care for all preschoolers in the family.*

● Families with annual incomes under \$14,400 that paid for care for children under five spent 25% of their income on child care, compared with 6% for families with incomes of \$54,000 or more.*



*Limited to families paying for child care for preschoolers, 1993 data. Source: Casper, L.M. *What Does It Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P-70, no. 52. Washington, D.C., 1995

Information in this fact sheet is excerpted from † Sandra L. Hofferth, "Child Care in the United States," *The Future of Children*, vol. 6, no. 2 Summer/Fall 1996, with additional information from: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education; *U.S. Bureau of Census; **Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor.

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