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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 23, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: J. TERRY EDMONDS

'00 JAN 23 PM 3:36

SUBJECT: REVISED SOTU DRAFT

Please find attached a revised draft of your 2000 State of the Union Address. This latest version reflects thematic, structural and editing changes recommended by our team of consultants, including Bob Shrum, Mark Penn, Don Baer, Sid Blumenthal and others.

We have added a central theme that runs through the speech: a "21<sup>st</sup> Century Revolution" of Opportunity, Responsibility and Community. We felt that this would provide a way to give lift to the speech and a connecting frame to your policy agenda, your theory of governing and your vision of what America should look like in this century. Per Mark Penn's suggestions, we moved the crime and guns suggestion of the speech up higher. As you directed, we have also reworked the conclusion to include ideas from your Millennium speech.

While we have worked to tighten the draft, the speech is still about 1,500 words too long. After we receive your edits to this draft, we will continue to revise and shorten.

- 369 words / net

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Draft7e 01/23/00 3:10pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS  
UNITED STATES CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
January 27, 2000

'00 JAN 23 PM 3:36

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: ~~Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.~~

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. ~~Never have our values of freedom and democracy been more ascendant around the world.~~ <sup>before</sup> Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams, <sup>by.</sup>

~~We ended the 20th Century, and now begin the 21st at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to act on our hopes for our children. No better moment to dream new dreams for our nation.~~ <sup>There is</sup> ~~and acting on them.~~

<sup>58</sup> ~~We are achieving an economic revolution.~~ <sup>We begin the new century of our</sup> <sup>in the last 75 years.</sup> Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

02/13/93

Next month, ~~as we mark the 107<sup>th</sup> month of this economic expansion~~, America will achieve the longest period of <sup>Ec growth</sup> prosperity in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit. ~~Who would have thought that we could cut~~ <sup>in 25%</sup> crime ~~by one quarter~~, to its lowest level in

more than 30 years? ~~Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible~~

social trend of the last few decades, sending ~~teen births down~~ <sup>have dropped</sup> seven years in a row and adoptions ~~up by 30 percent?~~ <sup>on</sup>

~~Seven million of our fellow citizens have broken the bonds of poverty. Seven million Americans have moved from welfare to work.~~ <sup>and</sup>

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My fellow Americans, ~~I stand before you tonight to report that~~ the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You work ~~every day to pay your taxes,~~ <sup>hard to</sup> raise your families and live your dreams. ~~Thanks to you,~~ <sup>you have</sup> ~~our nation~~ <sup>our nation</sup> is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. ~~I thank you.~~

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to ~~the longest economic expansion in our history.~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a~~ <sup>our present majority</sup>

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key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and ~~always~~ a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

9 But in the best traditions of our nation, ~~from the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts,~~ America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans. [Role of Gov't]

102 That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by discarding government but by reinventing it, and moving forward with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating prevention or punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by pursuing both.

8 Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – ~~by offering new approaches, like~~

reopening up a lot of protection healthy communities for children and making sure in Chicago, they work really.



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Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. <sup>and winning a lot of credit for it</sup> That's how we are opening the doors <sup>to all</sup> - ~~with~~ HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more

Pell Grants, ~~and~~ more affordable college loans. <sup>change, about 5%</sup> That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service - building One America, one community at a time, through

AmeriCorps. That's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era - with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products. <sup>while pushing to expand to uncharted waters in the global arena.</sup> And that's how we are

meeting the threats to peace by standing against ethnic and religious hatred, <sup>extension</sup> and standing ~~up~~ for ~~our~~ interests and values around the world. <sup>not relying on the poor countries and help to countries with work for peace, we need to do as equidistant, step forward from the rest of the world.</sup>

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More important,

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. <sup>we have the chance of a lifetime to be the future of our country...</sup> ~~But we have work to do and great goals to reach. We will get there only if we stay on the path that got us~~

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here. ~~Building on our progress~~ ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But

~~But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. Because you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. <sup>Let's begin with them.</sup> So let's get moving.~~

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I ask you again this year to set aside the surplus to pay down the debt. To save social security, and extend its life the next 50 years. ~~Ask you~~ To secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. <sup>And</sup> ~~And~~ to provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. Pass common-sense gun-safety legislation.

Pass meaningful hate crimes legislation. And ~~ask you~~ again to raise the minimum wage.

5 ~~We must lead beyond even the important crises lefting~~ But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights ~~and~~ to take what

Theodore Roosevelt at the dawn of the last century called "the long look ahead."

6 We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are ~~and the people we are becoming.~~ <sup>urgently commited to take care our people across the world.</sup> We have not only

~~passed a point in time,~~ <sup>7 My fellow Americans</sup> we have crossed ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> bridge ~~into~~ <sup>we trust to</sup> the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We must now shape a

24 21<sup>st</sup> century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community, ~~equal to the~~ challenges of our times. <sup>8</sup> America is an ongoing revolution. We ~~are~~ <sup>must be</sup> as we were in the beginning,

a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom ~~has not been~~ <sup>was not</sup> accomplished with one march ~~but requires constant commitment and sacrifice.~~ And always with our eyes on the prize.

7 The dreams that drive us on are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years <sup>towards them.</sup> is that we make great strides, step by step, <sup>with our eyes always on the prize.</sup>

**OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION**

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[Our first steps into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century must be the right steps] We need [first and foremost] a  
21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that all our children can learn ~~and that~~  
~~all our people can succeed.~~

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For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet  
demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly  
every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of  
connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. ~~And~~ <sup>for two years</sup> Congress has supported  
~~our effort to hire~~ <sup>hire</sup> 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, ~~and to~~  
~~raise a row.~~ <sup>any year</sup> This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse  
backgrounds are taking the test. ~~And~~ some of the most impressive academic gains are happening  
in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

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Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. ~~Classified~~ (five years  
ago) <sup>as</sup> one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher  
academic standards, ~~and started~~ <sup>with</sup> afterschool and summer school programs to help students to  
meet ~~these standards.~~ <sup>them</sup> Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local  
parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. The  
principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all  
our children can do.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there <sup>still</sup> are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons – schools where, year after year, children fail to <sup>learn enough</sup> ~~get the knowledge and skills~~ they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

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Last year, ~~from this podium~~, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally <sup>change</sup> the way the federal government invests in our schools – to support what ~~we know~~ works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress ~~to~~ not only ~~to~~ pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

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~~1<sup>st</sup>, let's double the investment Congress made last year to fund ~~of proven~~ We know that many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-  
efforts by ~~state and district~~ <sup>efforts by state and district</sup> performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress ~~passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment.~~ And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up [across the board]~~

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~~2<sup>nd</sup>, let's double our investment in <sup>that</sup> We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs <sup>boost academic</sup> achievement. They also keep children off the street <sup>and out of trouble,</sup> ~~in the hours before parents get home from~~ work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for ~~afterschool and summer school.~~ If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.~~

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We know that children who learn early learn best. ~~And~~ since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in the ~~successful~~ Head Start ~~pre-school program~~, and improved <sup>it</sup> the quality of ~~Head Start~~. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. <sup>Doing this will lay our long term goal:</sup> If ~~we do this, we can build~~ the foundation for <sup>[3+]</sup> universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

7 We know ~~that if we want our children to learn~~, we need <sup>more</sup> good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to reward good teachers, and to ensure that bad ones leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion <sup>program</sup> to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. [And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.]

<sup>explain</sup>  
→ 60 We know ~~public school choice works if parents have a real choice~~. That's what charter <sup>helps provide</sup> schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000, ~~and giving parents a real choice~~. <sup>let's guarantee real choice</sup> so that when parents choose a public school they have real choice.

3 We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we <sup>must</sup> have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, <sup>toward</sup> to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE

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5 scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of ~~students who~~ <sup>graduate</sup> graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of middle-class families ~~are feeling~~ <sup>feel</sup> the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

25 ~~In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education.~~ <sup>& program</sup> My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, ~~to help millions of middle-class families pay for college.~~ <sup>MC</sup> It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships <sup>a Pell Grant increase</sup> and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

-8 ~~We must do more to prepare young students~~ We must also ~~say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that it is for them.~~ <sup>for college and convince them they can go. Last yr, Congress closed party lines to make the GSA up program, enabling college students to mentor</sup> My budget doubles to 1.4 million the number of at-risk middle school students, who receive mentoring by college students. <sup>& program to double the number of clubhouses, to 1.4 million;</sup> ~~It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams, and it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged~~ <sup>provide grants to help</sup>

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If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: the thirty percent increase in the number of children adopted out of foster care. The first real increase in thirty years. And it happened because a bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen. And we are improving foster care for the children it serves and supporting those who turn 18 and leave foster care without a permanent home. Tonight, I want

to honor the person who has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

### REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

23 We need a 21<sup>st</sup> Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, <sup>which</sup> ~~That has been~~ <sup>the basic goal of so much of what we have done - from reforming welfare to raising the</sup> ~~the basic goal of so much of what we have done - from reforming welfare to raising the~~ <sup>of all it's making children,</sup> ~~minimum wage. When you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded. From~~ <sup>your standard of living to your self-respect.</sup> ~~your standard of living to your self-respect.~~

3 One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. <sup>In my first address to you</sup> ~~As one of my first actions as President,~~ I asked ~~the~~ Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class - double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. ~~We should~~ reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They're working hard to reach the middle class. And we should help them.

More jobs?

Two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved funds for 110,000 more working families to live closer to the workplace. This year, lets more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Who is working day after day directly with homeless people: Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

~~to better the state~~  
Reward work and family require

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From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. <sup>We're on our way to</sup> Our goal is to cover up ~~of~~ 5 million <sup>we can meet it by enrolling them when we're well on our way.</sup> The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: <sup>the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.</sup> <sup>lamie</sup>

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~~But there are too many far too many uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we~~

~~should go where they're found - schools, churches, child-care centers, and do it there. And let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what Vice President Gore suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new coverage for all families. Many of the uninsured, about 9 million, are parents of children who are eligible for CHIP. <sup>UP Gore's suggestion and make their parents eligible for the coverage that covers their kids</sup>~~

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And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

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We must also do more ~~to care~~ <sup>citizen</sup> for the caregivers – the record numbers of Americans families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. ~~This year~~ <sup>THIS year</sup>, let's triple that – to \$3,000. ~~That would cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs.~~ <sup>And this year, let's triple it!</sup> Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

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should give stuff

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~~Reversing work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work.~~ <sup>and women get equal pay for work.</sup> Working women have made significant strides: ~~more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in almost 50 years.~~ <sup>The female unemployment rate is the lowest in 40 years, the highest unemployment rate the lowest in over 50 years.</sup> But women ~~earn~~ <sup>still</sup> less than 77 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. ~~My budget also provides much needed~~ <sup>and the</sup> resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and ~~to~~ train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

This year, I again propose a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines.

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As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

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This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, ~~step by step~~, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Explain

## RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

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Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline ever recorded. ~~It happened because we took more responsibility for helping~~ <sup>For seven years, we've helped</sup> ~~America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers.~~ ~~Last fall, Congress agreed to support~~ <sup>at</sup> my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. ~~Congress must~~ <sup>I am you to</sup> continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. ~~We have the opportunity and responsibility to~~ <sup>It's time to move on our real goal: let's</sup> make America the safest big country in the world.

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after the Columbine tragedy

~~We must do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles.~~ Last year, Congress considered ~~common-sense~~ gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will finally follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

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We've all seen

~~Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw~~ what can happen when guns are allowed to

fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. ~~His father, Tom, has been~~ <sup>like all parents who love their children,</sup> ~~unable to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel.~~ <sup>his father Tom has been torn by an unbearable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming his grief</sup> But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to ~~advocate~~ <sup>fight</sup> for tougher gun safety laws. ~~His presence here is an inspiration.~~ <sup>& pray that his courage & wisdom will move this Congress to make</sup> Passing common-sense gun safety legislation should be ~~the very next action of this Congress.~~ <sup>the very next action of this Congress.</sup>

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We must do more.

~~But we can and must do more.~~ States require hunters and automobile drivers to have

~~licenses.~~ <sup>to reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands,</sup> tonight I propose

~~that states~~ <sup>to</sup> require licenses for handgun purchasers as well.

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To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books, I say: we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today

than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. I thank those gun manufacturers who have worked on this. And I invite all manufacturers to help us keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Handwritten note: *Handwritten scribbles and initials*

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. The entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them

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with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so that they can become responsible citizens, family members, and employees. L-00

### OPENING NEW MARKETS

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, we need a 21<sup>st</sup>

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Century revolution to open new markets, <sup>start</sup> ~~It is vital that businesses find~~ <sup>run</sup> ~~new opportunities~~ and new workers. <sup>hire</sup> ~~I believe they exist~~ right here in America – in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations – places ~~that have~~ not yet ~~been~~ blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in America's new markets.

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<sup>At last</sup>

~~Now, more than ever,~~ we can expand the circle of opportunity ~~to include the men and women at its margins,~~ so that no one who's willing to work is left behind ~~as our nation moves ahead.~~ For business, it's the smart thing to do. ~~And~~ <sup>and</sup> for America, it's the right thing to do. <sup>and</sup> If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

<sup>ask Congress to give</sup>

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Businesses ~~should have~~ the same incentives to invest in America's new markets ~~as~~ they have to invest in foreign markets, ~~In this year's budget, I call on Congress to~~ <sup>119</sup> double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase <sup>we must</sup> ~~funding~~ to help large ~~and~~ businesses expand or relocate to our

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our

Empowerment Zones, *with USAID's help, have been bringing prosperity to  
outward areas for last 20 years now (S?)*

*This is not a hard or a Rep issue; it's an American issue.*

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work ~~with my administration~~ <sup>ally to</sup> on common ground for New Markets legislation. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

*I hope we can also agree to ~~support~~ make special efforts to support  
on justice education, where unemployment is highest, as soon as we can, 10%.*

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans -- Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad -- especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must change the Farm Bill <sup>my</sup> and strengthen <sup>9</sup> the Farm Safety Net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the "digital divide" -- between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods

198  
40  
259  
74 to  
Congress  
H-P 100-658

across our land – connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Every American must have the tools to succeed.

## GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

4

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead ~~in~~ <sup>and shape</sup> the revolution that is ~~reshaping~~ <sup>reshaping</sup> ~~the global economy~~ <sup>our world: globalization</sup> and indeed the entire globe.

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~~At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization – a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures, so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live. And it is our open, creative society that stands to benefit more than any other.~~

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~~Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.~~

*driven especially by the explosion in information technology. Change this proposal*

*is both liberating and threatening. Our open creative society, with its economic and military might stands to benefit more than any other, if we understand and act on the new realities of interdependence. We cannot lead alone. We cannot keep going forward by holding other democracies, especially from our back, we cannot lead without being at the center of every vital network, being good neighbors and good partners, we cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs, and without recognizing that this is about more than economics*

International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and growing fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. ~~What we seek is~~ <sup>his is what</sup> a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

~~When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. ~~so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.~~~~ <sup>but for the rest of the world, <sup>5 million</sup> ~~the poorest nations~~ <sup>of them</sup></sup> <sup>By keeping ~~it~~ <sup>as you did last time,</sup></sup> <sup>economic and his new partnerships for a new team, new ~~business work,~~</sup> <sup>their own future.</sup>

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to

power or waging war on their neighbors. ~~History teaches that big wars start small. And when~~ human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, ~~this~~ our common humanity ~~that~~ suffers, ~~and if not stopped, it can affect our Union directly.~~

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace ~~from~~ Northern Ireland, <sup>We should be proud of our efforts from Bosnia</sup> to East Timor, to Africa . . . ~~to~~ promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unloosed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

> in the way for the world to be better - US is on the way  
> the world? > the world -

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror - chemical, biological, nuclear - easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by

strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, <sup>also</sup> we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like <sup>our neighbors</sup> Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

Explain

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget

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259  
1

invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines.

Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry: if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them and, together, <sup>save</sup> ~~fix~~ millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

~~The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the~~

~~fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great~~  
<sup>clearly,</sup> ~~nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently, and without reservation. Because~~  
<sup>a clear understanding of the world</sup>  
~~freedom is always in America's interest.~~  
<sup>globalization and security, which requires of us.</sup>

2 ~~That's why~~ We have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st-Century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it

again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

## **RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. ~~For~~<sup>As</sup> our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

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Outline

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

chlr

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows <sup>with in more light and</sup> that keep out four or five times as

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much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop ~~which~~ which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

?  
7.  
To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. ~~It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger~~

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the Earth. Nations <sup>can now achieve</sup> that long for the level of prosperity <sup>without</sup> we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming. *We should help them do it.*

## THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. ~~Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project~~ will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

~~Consider the implications:~~ if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion <sup>ay</sup> in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins

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that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research, <sup>and</sup> ~~We will also help propel~~ NASA's never-ending quest in space. ~~NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President~~

~~Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."~~

7 It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment, ~~The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.~~ <sup>reflecting on most cherished</sup>

First and foremost, we must ensure that <sup>citizen's</sup> ~~our~~ privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

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If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

### COMMUNITY

7 ~~In the ~~past~~ ~~era~~ of globalization, we must work harder than ever to strengthen the bonds of our local communities, our national community, reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities.~~ The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government – in our homes, our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems – from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Our differences suddenly become less important when you are working side-by-side with your neighbors to rebuild a church, battle a flood or feed the hungry.

3 We ~~must~~ ~~begin~~ ~~with~~ So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America, ~~And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater~~ <sup>a we have supported</sup> ~~partnerships with private citizens, ~~this~~ a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends.~~ Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients, <sup>Start?</sup> Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To

Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the AmeriCorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Should?

That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need you. We need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats. These interactive discussions will give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is ~~demographically~~<sup>demographic</sup> undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there is likely to be no majority race in America. We know what America will look like then. The question before us tonight is: What kind of America will we be? In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa ... from ~~Bosnia~~<sup>The Balkans</sup> to the Middle East, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark war and terror. And no country is exempt from hatred – even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In just the last year, we've seen the shootings ~~and killings~~ of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we not only tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Diversity is our greatest strength – and we must protect it. We must without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. That is why my budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember, all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent. <sup>The ~~same~~ modern ~~ancient~~</sup> Science affirms what ~~faith~~ <sup>has</sup> always taught ~~us~~: the differences between us are nothing compared to our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children: ~~that, step by step,~~

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring prosperity in reach of every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, <sup>step by step</sup> we will ensure that ~~let's make sure~~ they live healthier than ever, <sup>we</sup> ~~Let's provide~~ quality, affordable healthcare for <sup>all</sup> ~~everyone in~~ Americans, <sup>also</sup>

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, <sup>we will, step by step</sup> ~~let us~~ realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, <sup>we will</sup> let's also prove that, step by step, we can reverse climate change and <sup>we will</sup> ~~make~~ our planet <sup>for our</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>quicker</sup> livable place.

At a time of steadily falling crime, <sup>we will, step by step</sup> let's finish the job of making America the safest big nation on Earth.

*we will step by step*

At a time when more parents are working, ~~let's~~ ensure that all parents have the tools to ~~be~~  
~~will~~ <sup>in</sup> at work and ~~at the most important work of all~~ – raising their children, ~~and that none of them do~~  
~~live~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>poverty</sup>

*step by step*

At a time when knowledge is the key ~~to the new economy~~, ~~let's~~ <sup>we will be to</sup> guarantee that ~~every~~  
~~child~~ <sup>all of them</sup> will begin school ready to learn and ~~will~~ graduate ready to succeed.

*we will step by step*

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, ~~let's~~ <sup>we will</sup> continue to  
be the world's indispensable nation, ~~a strong leader~~ <sup>a better partner</sup>.

*we will attack*

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, ~~let's finally~~ become ~~what~~  
~~we've always~~ <sup>our founders</sup> pledged <sup>in 1776</sup> to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

*This is the long look ahead, unachievable in one year, but clearly within reach*

~~We know we will not be able to do this in one year alone. Or even in the decade ahead.~~  
~~of a great people of a shining dream, determined to~~  
~~But we will reach these goals, the way we always have: working together, <sup>and</sup> moving ahead, step by~~  
step, as One America.

*signed*

*reflected*

When the framers ~~were crafting~~ <sup>signed</sup> our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin ~~was often seen in~~  
~~Independence Hall~~ <sup>on</sup> looking at a painting of the sun low on the horizon, ~~When, at long last, the~~  
~~Constitution finally was signed~~, <sup>he</sup> Mr. Franklin, said: "I have often wondered whether that sun was

*because each*

rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Today, ~~the sun continues~~  
~~generation has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility,~~  
~~to shine brightly on America, as each successive generation relights the fire of freedom. Even~~  
~~for us~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~born~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~warmth~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~Mr. Franklin's~~ <sup>vision</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~dreams~~ <sup>are</sup>  
~~within reach~~

~~379~~  
379  
Mimi  
Mimi  
approx 75

After 224 years, the American revolution continues - ~~and~~ We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. ~~And~~ That is our destiny. ~~And this is our magic moment,~~

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Retirement ending -

~~When this great day dawns,  
I will be gone. But my heart of  
gratitude to you. Our passion  
for ~~the~~ ~~future~~ will  
be ~~great~~. Our ~~mission~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~  
~~great~~ ~~mission~~. But the seeds  
and dreams we pass on to our  
children will endure. And on  
that day we will be held to  
a high standard indeed, because  
our chance to do good is so great.~~

So let us look to the Rising Sun.  
After 224 yrs, the Am Rev. continues.  
We remain a new nation. As long  
as our dreams outweigh our memories  
we will be forever young.

That is our destiny. And this is our  
magic moment. With open hands  
and open hearts, let us embrace it.

Direct

We went beyond the debate over whether gov't was the problem or the solution to a gov't dedicated to ~~being~~ giving the business people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas and a partner of Americans in all other walks of life.

\*? We refused to keep up the false claim that ~~policy~~ <sup>DC for</sup> ~~policy~~ <sup>too long</sup> With the smallest federal gov't in 37 yrs, we turned ~~the~~ record deficit into record surplus and doubled our ~~the~~ investments in Education. We cut crime, notably through prevention or punishment but also through both, with ~~the~~ 100,000 commies ~~prisoned~~ - and 50,000 more to come - and the Brady law, we got kept gun out of the hands of half a million criminals. We protected the environment not by pitting 2e growth vs environmental progress but by cleaning water, air, cleaner air, safer water & food, and record auto of pollution and protection.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: J. TERRY EDMONDS 

CC: JOHN PODESTA  
MARIA ECHAVESTE

SUBJECT: REVISED SOTU 2000 DRAFT

Attached please find a revised draft of your 2000 State of the Union Address. This draft reflects the edits and additions we discussed during our prep session in the Oval yesterday.

The draft is still too long, and we will have to work together to cut at least 1,500 words.

Thank you .

Fourth, I challenge the Republican leaders to make the responsible choice to allow people with disabilities to keep their health insurance when they go to work. In June, the Senate unanimously passed legislation sponsored by Sens. Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth, and Moynihan that would finally end the senseless system that says to people with disabilities: If you want to work, you have to give up your health insurance. Now it is time for the Speaker to schedule a vote on the Work Incentive Improvement Act in the House, which already has 231 co-sponsors. On this issue, I know we can all agree: No one should ever have to choose between keeping health care and taking a job.

remember this: last year we came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work.

~~last year~~


**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS  
UNITED STATES CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders’ dreams. There is no better moment to dream new dreams for our nation and act on them.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs in the last seven years. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in




half to their lowest levels in 32 years, and seven million Americans have moved off welfare and are moving into work.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. With your hard work – to raise your families and live your dreams -- you have prepared our nation for the 21st century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.



Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: “America: What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution to a government dedicated to giving the American people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner with Americans in all other walks of life.

With the smallest federal government in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We refused to keep making the false choices that paralyzed Washington for too long. We cut crime, not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of a half-million criminals. We protected the environment, not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – with cleaner air, safer water and food, and record amounts of precious land protected.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with ideas like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used for childbirth or to care for sick loved ones, and immunizing 90 percent of our children for the very first time. And that's how we are opening the doors of college to all – with more Pell grants, more affordable college loans, and already almost 5 million recipients of the HOPE Scholarship.

Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service, in building One America, one community at a time, through

AmeriCorps as they earn money to further their own college education. That's how we seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products, while pushing for an end to child labor and advances in the global economy and environment. That's how we've advanced our interests around the world – by standing up for peace from Bosnia to Ireland to the Middle East; by expanding NATO; by building new partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa; by fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, we have the chance of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the surplus for Social Security. Because we resisted the temptation to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we have had back to back surpluses and are doing something that would have

seemed unimaginable seven years ago. We are paying down our national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we now know that we can pay down the debt in 13 years and make America debt free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, when we took our first major step to put our fiscal house in order with the passage of the deficit reduction act, I asked your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, and a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentson, to lead that effort. America is better off for his service.

But beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of that debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important programs for every family in America – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bi-partisan down payment on Social Security reform by ensuring that it is strong and safe for the next 50 years. We should also use the benefits of debt reduction to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And to provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

But all of this is just a start. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt, at the dawn of the last century, called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are increasingly connected to each other and to people

around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now we must shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom was not accomplished with one march. The dreams for which we strive are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward them step by step.

## **OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION**

First and foremost, we need a 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. With the largest, most diverse group of students ever, an economy that rewards education more than ever, we must set the highest goals for education ever: Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have afterschool and summer school to meet high standards. Every child should learn from great teachers. Every student should graduate high school with a diploma that means something. And every young person in America should know that if they want to go to college, they can afford to.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, following a fundamental strategy: Invest more, but demand more in return. Since 1993, we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are now going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

I have visited schools across this country, in some of America's poorest neighborhoods, that have turned themselves around through the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to make sure children reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula, a plan that holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

But just as we must demand more than ever from our schools, tonight I propose that we invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up.

Let's double our investment in quality afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. This will lay the foundation for our long-term goal: universal pre-school for every child who needs it.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know public school choice works when parents have real choice. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000.

We know that for children today, having access to the Internet is as vital as access to a library. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and only three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. And the money is there to connect them all. The problem is that a third of all schools are in serious disrepair – not just with leaky roofs but with walls too old to wire to the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000

schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know that smaller high schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger. We must help districts convert large, factory-style high schools into smaller schools where the often-cruel forces of peer pressure can be softened by the influence of caring adults.

We must do more to prepare young students for college and convince them they can go. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle school students. I propose to double the number of children reached, to 1.4 million, and to offer disadvantaged students the same college test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable, we must make college affordable. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of families feel the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs -- providing as much as \$2,800 in

much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase and other aid, we can say that we have made four years of college available to all.

## **REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. We should help them.

Rewarding work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate

is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We must provide the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home or a dignified retirement. Every family that works hard should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and

moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. I also propose a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. We have made sure workers can keep their coverage when they change jobs or take time off to care for a sick loved one. And we passed the Children’s Health Insurance Program, so that workers who don’t have health coverage through their employers can get it for their children. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We’re on our way to our goal of 5 million. To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are: schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.

But there is more we must do – to insure not only children, but entire families that lack coverage. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore’s suggestion and make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. If we do this, not just for children but for these 6.5 million parents, we can make sure that families have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let’s give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or an inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's pass it – and triple it to \$3,000.

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare. We owe it to our people to make that investment this year.

Let's make another pledge: let's improve mental health care. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. And I want to thank someone who has waged this battle on all fronts, fighting for the mentally ill homeless, working to break down the barriers that keep people from the help they need: Tipper Gore.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, like

booting their cars and denying them passports. And we should require fathers to work – while helping them find work – so they can pay the child support they owe.

We know this can make a difference. Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota enrolled in a father's program in 1996 when he was not making enough to keep up with his child support payments to his 13-year-old son, Ricardo. Since continuing his education and graduating from technical school, Carlos has landed a good job and is able to better support his son, both financially and emotionally. Contrary to conventional wisdom, many fathers, like Carlos, want to do right by their children, and we should help them. Carlos is with us tonight. And we should let him know that we support his commitment to support his child.

If you have any doubt that we can reach across party lines to reward work and strengthen families, remember this: Last year, we came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. And we have come together to improve foster care; to support those who leave it at age 18; and to greatly increase the number of foster children who find loving families in permanent homes. A bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen; and I thank you. Of course, I am also grateful to the person who has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children and families as long as I have known her: my wife, Hillary.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME**

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline on record. For seven years, we've helped wage the fight -- from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Our nation is safer, but no one believes America is safe as it can be. Let's set a higher goal. Let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support this year.

Last year, after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage -- and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President -- the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine High School. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business.

We must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. It is long past time for states to require licenses for handgun purchasers as well.

We've shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

[Let me say something else. I think it is important that the gun industry take more responsibility in changing the way it designs, markets and distributes firearms. There are responsible citizens in the gun industry who want to work with us to make sure the guns they sell don't wind up in the wrong hands and that kids aren't killed accidentally with them. Part of the answer may be in new technologies that could reduce accidents.]

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations--combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I thank the gun manufacturers who are developing these smart guns, and ask all other manufacturers to join them. And I ask Congress to help by increasing funds for research in these technologies to keep our kids safer.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. We need to give parents more tools to raise their kids right in today's culture. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I challenge the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. To keep our communities safe, we must do more to monitor ex-offenders and give them the support they need to become responsible citizens. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are far less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

## **OPENING NEW MARKETS**

We need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America – in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations – places not yet blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in these communities. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity. They're eager to work. I say: let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit that is more than twice the size of what I proposed last year. With this and other new incentives, we can spur [\$TK billion] in private-sector capital to create new businesses and to help firms expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones – which, with Vice President Gore's leadership, have been bringing prosperity to distressed areas for five years now.

I thank the business leaders who are not just seizing these opportunities – but creating them. I challenge every business to do the same.

This is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it's an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with us. I thank you for your commitment and I look forward to working with you.

I hope we can also agree to make special efforts to support our Indian reservations, where unemployment is extreme – as high as 70%. My budget increases our investment in health care,

education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans – Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well only in good times and not in bad – especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must strengthen the farm safety net and invest in farm conservation. The Freedom to Farm Bill cannot become a “freedom to fail” bill.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the disturbing gap between those who have the tools to succeed in the new economy, and those who don't. That “digital divide” exists along lines of education, income, region, and race. It is one of the great civil rights challenges of this Information Age.

[We are now on track to meeting our goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet.] But now, we must connect all our citizens to the Internet – everywhere they live and work. My budget helps to train more teachers, wire more classrooms, and connect more communities to the economic mainstream. If America closes this digital divide, we can open a new era of opportunity for all.

## **GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP**

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead and shape the revolution that is sweeping our world: globalization. It is the central reality of our time – a process tearing down barriers and building new connections between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures.

Globalization is irreversible, driven even faster by the explosion in information technology. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand and act on the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. But we cannot lead alone. And we cannot keep going forward by holding other countries, especially poor ones, back. We cannot lead without being at the center of every vital network, being a good neighbor and good partner. We cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and growing fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about the dignity of work and the quality of life. And it means a global economy based on the rule of law.

We must also reach out to developing economies. I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives. This will help Americans economically, and build new partnerships for a more secure, more democratic world.

But mastering globalization means more than economics. It means seizing an unprecedented opportunity to build a future of security, prosperity and freedom, while dealing with the dangers that still imperil our national interests. Tonight I ask: What are the critical challenges we face in the coming century?

One will be to encourage our former adversaries Russia and China to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States. Both countries are being held back from reaching their potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian soldiers serving with ours to keep peace in the Balkans; Russian people democratically electing their leaders for the first time. And in China, a society more open to the world than at any time in its history. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. We can make sure that we do everything in our power to see that both are on the inside of the global community, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations. If we do, America's companies and workers gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market, but China gains no new access to ours. This agreement is good for America and will promote the cause of change in China.

Another critical challenge will be to protect our security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions. Our modern world is still bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by cynical leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. When human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, our common humanity suffers. Left unresolved, such tragedies can throw entire regions into turmoil, overwhelm the world's capacity to help the innocent, and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace. We should be proud of our work in building peace in Northern Ireland. We should be proud of our efforts from East Timor to Africa; in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey; in working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan, and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Captain Cherrey, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

Another critical challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses, and force us to live in fear again. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by helping Russia keep its arsenal secure and reducing both our nuclear arsenals; restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors. We are increasing our preparedness against biological attack and developing a system to defend against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

We must also strengthen global standards against proliferation. I hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which will eventually lead to its ratification. America must remain a leader in the struggle for a safer world.

Another critical challenge is to keep global stability from being threatened by a gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Part of the answer is expanded trade. A bigger part is the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting for its people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drugs. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I ask for your support. And if we want to put the drug barons out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

In a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must also reduce the debts of impoverished countries. I ask Congress to continue to support that effort.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. It is unacceptable that last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in an initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry: if you develop vaccines for

diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS, we will help pay for them, and together save millions of lives.

And I will ask Congress to increase our support for international family planning by \$170 million. That money will help families live healthier lives, and it will save the lives of thousands of women and children.

All this comes down to a central challenge, the most important of all: will America continue to lead? In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them. Clearly, America must lead boldly and consistently and with a clear understanding of what globalization and increasing interdependence require of us.

To lead, we must remain strong. We have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. It raises salaries for our men and women in uniform and ensures America's veterans the thanks and honor they have so richly earned.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember: building a stronger global community will only strengthen our community here at home.

## RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. As our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families, and taken unprecedented steps to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't

sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving farms and other precious open spaces ... and for helping the major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

As we work to protect our natural resources, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – the source of more than a quarter of the oxygen on earth. Yet these lush sanctuaries of life are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, deadly heat waves, droughts, and floods will become more frequent with each passing year.

But thanks to remarkable new technologies, we can meet this challenge – and we can do it in ways that produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, automakers unveiled cars that use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique partnership the Vice President has led. We've helped develop windows that drastically cut energy bills by

keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We're helping to bring the benefits of advanced space research into our homes with solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution at all. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help spur these new technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for producing clean power from crops, wind, or sun ... and to families for buying energy-efficient homes and appliances. And when new super-efficient cars hit the showroom floor, we should provide people who buy them with up to \$3,000 in tax credits, effectively cutting their sticker price and ensuring even greater appeal.

But we have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. So tonight, I call on auto industry leaders to join us in designing a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet the worldwide challenge of global warming by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. Nations can now achieve prosperity without following the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming. Let's help them follow a better, more modern path.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of our environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, improvements in the quality of our lives.

In the last century, the life expectancy for the average American increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better.

Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. This will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS. If we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America.

Research at the intersection between biomedical research and engineering will also lead to amazing breakthroughs. Scientists are already working on an artificial retina to treat certain kinds of blindness, and methods of directly stimulating the spinal cord to allow people who are paralyzed to walk.

Scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they will soon begin to test elegant therapies that will turn off these faulty genes for good.

Tonight, I want to thank these scientists for their brilliant work. I also want to salute Michael J. Fox – the talented actor, director, and producer who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s nine years ago. Michael, on behalf of the million young and older Americans struggling with Parkinson’s, I thank you for giving so much of yourself to accelerating the hunt for a cure.

Advances in science and engineering are also the engine of our economic growth. Consider the impact of information technology. Because of our early investments in developing microprocessors, satellite communications, and the Internet, America now leads the world in information technology – an industry that accounts for one third of our economic growth and that generates jobs that pay almost 80 percent more than the private sector average wage.

In the future, we will have devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak, enabling anyone to tap into the world’s knowledge instantly – from anywhere ... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... unimaginably powerful computers made with DNA strands rather than silicon chips. These and other breakthroughs may enhance our economy and our society even more profoundly than the Internet does today.


For all these reasons, my budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50-year history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, university-based research, and NASA’s never-ending quest in space.

It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment, reflecting our most cherished values.

First and foremost, we must ensure that citizens' privacy – financial and medical – is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.




If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing our lives, and the lives of our children, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

## COMMUNITY

In the era of globalization, we must work even harder to strengthen the bonds of our local communities and our national community.

We should begin with ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with revolutionary new partnerships between government and private citizens.



Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens.

Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing. To help our young people serve.

But there is much more to be done, we need more citizen servants.

Veterans of AmeriCorps, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are a pool of know-how and can-do. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

Our senior population represents a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve. So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups. [TK Specific examples to come]

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's why we're proposing to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants. That's why in this year of the census, every one of us must not only stand up and be counted. We must also stand up and be heard.


So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

We are going to use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to open new doors to the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats--- interactive discussions to connect more Americans to our democracy.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.


In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa...from the Balkans to the Middle East...racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity--we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.




The work of building One America must be the work of all Americans. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – to religious leaders, to corporate leaders, to the legal community to enlist the help of American in building the One America of our dreams.



This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember: all human beings are genetically 99.9 percent the same. Modern science affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.




So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring opportunity to every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.



At a time when our people are living longer than ever, we will, step by step, ensure that they live healthier, with quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, we will, step by step, realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, we will, step by step, reverse climate change and secure our planet for our grandchildren.

At a time of steadily falling crime, we will, step by step, make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more parents are working, we will, step by step, ensure that all parents have the tools to succeed at work and in raising their children...and that none of those children are raised in poverty.


At a time when knowledge is the key to our children's future, we will, step by step, see to it that all of them begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, we will continue to be the world's indispensable nation – a strong leader and a better neighbor.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, we will become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago -- one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

This is the long look ahead, unreachable in one year, but clearly within reach of a great people with big dreams, determined to work together and move ahead, step by step.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon, hanging in Independence Hall. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility, we bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun. Now it is our time. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass to our children.



And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great. After 224 years, the American revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our magic moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.





**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS  
UNITED STATES CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders’ dreams. There is no better moment to dream new dreams for our nation and act on them.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs in the last seven years. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.


Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in




We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution to a government dedicated to giving the American people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner with Americans in all other walks of life.

With the smallest federal government in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We refused to keep making the false choices that paralyzed Washington for too long. We cut crime, not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of a half-million criminals. We protected the environment, not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – with cleaner air, safer water and food, and record amounts of precious land protected.



We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with ideas like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used for childbirth or to care for sick loved ones, and immunizing 90 percent of our children for the very first time. And that's how we are opening the doors of college to all – with more Pell grants, more affordable college loans, and already almost 5 million recipients of the HOPE Scholarship.



Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service, in building One America, one community at a time, through

AmeriCorps as they earn money to further their own college education. That's how we seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products, while pushing for an end to child labor and advances in the global economy and environment. That's how we've advanced our interests around the world – by standing up for peace from Bosnia to Ireland to the Middle East; by expanding NATO; by building new partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa; by fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, we have the chance of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the surplus for Social Security. Because we resisted the temptation to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we have had back to back surpluses and are doing something that would have

around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now we must shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom was not accomplished with one march. The dreams for which we strive are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward them step by step.

## **OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION**

First and foremost, we need a 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. With the largest, most diverse group of students ever, an economy that rewards education more than ever, we must set the highest goals for education ever: Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have afterschool and summer school to meet high standards. Every child should learn from great teachers. Every student should graduate high school with a diploma that means something. And every young person in America should know that if they want to go to college, they can afford to.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, following a fundamental strategy: Invest more, but demand more in return. Since 1993, we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are now going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

I have visited schools across this country, in some of America's poorest neighborhoods, that have turned themselves around through the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to make sure children reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula, a plan that holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

But just as we must demand more than ever from our schools, tonight I propose that we invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up.

Let's double our investment in quality afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. This will lay the foundation for our long-term goal: universal pre-school for every child who needs it.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know public school choice works when parents have real choice. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000.

We know that for children today, having access to the Internet is as vital as access to a library. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and only three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. And the money is there to connect them all. The problem is that a third of all schools are in serious disrepair – not just with leaky roofs but with walls too old to wire to the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000

needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase and other aid, we can say that we have made four years of college available to all.

## **REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. We should help them.

Rewarding work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate

is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We must provide the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home or a dignified retirement. Every family that works hard should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and

moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. I also propose a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. We have made sure workers can keep their coverage when they change jobs or take time off to care for a sick loved one. And we passed the Children’s Health Insurance Program, so that workers who don’t have health coverage through their employers can get it for their children. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We’re on our way to our goal of 5 million. To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are: schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.

But there is more we must do – to insure not only children, but entire families that lack coverage. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore’s suggestion and make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. If we do this, not just for children but for these 6.5 million parents, we can make sure that families have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let’s give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or an inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's pass it – and triple it to \$3,000.

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare. We owe it to our people to make that investment this year.

Let's make another pledge: let's improve mental health care. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. And I want to thank someone who has waged this battle on all fronts, fighting for the mentally ill homeless, working to break down the barriers that keep people from the help they need: Tipper Gore.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, like

booting their cars and denying them passports. And we should require fathers to work – while helping them find work – so they can pay the child support they owe.

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If you have any doubt that we can reach across party lines to reward work and strengthen families, remember this: Last year, we came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. And we have come together to improve foster care; to support those who leave it at age 18; and to greatly increase the number of foster children who find loving families in permanent homes. A bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen; and I thank you. Of course, I am also grateful to the person who has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children and families as long as I have known her: my wife, Hillary.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME**

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline on record. For seven years, we've helped wage the fight -- from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Our nation is safer, but no one believes America is safe as it can be. Let's set a higher goal. Let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support this year.

Last year, after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage -- and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President -- the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine High School. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business.

We must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. It is long past time for states to require licenses for handgun purchasers as well.

We've shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

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DOJ's Version of Legislation Proposals for State of UnionSafety Certification Requirement

*We don't necessarily recommend "Licensing."*

It shall be a violation of federal law to possess any firearm without a Safety Certificate; provided, however, that anyone who possesses a firearm at the time of enactment has up to three years from enactment to acquire a Certificate, if such person does not acquire any other firearm during that time. (Anyone who acquires a firearm after the time of enactment must have a Certificate prior to acquisition.)

*This proposal is consistent with one of the Treasury options to their primary proposal. The primary Treasury proposal would require a license only for those who receive a gun from an FFL after the date of enactment.*

*We also submit that a different type of certificate may be appropriate for different types of guns - such as rifles, handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons.*

Safety Certificates will be issued by the states; provided, however, that the federal government shall issue such certificates where states opt not to do so. (A qualifying certificate under this statute must, at a minimum, be based on submission of evidence of completion of an approved firearms safety course and passage of a background check.)

*This is consistent with Treasury's proposal, although we do not believe that States should be encouraged to issue certificates through the conditioning of current grants.*

FFLs can transfer firearms, or complete a background check for a transfer by a non-FFL, [see proposal #2, Universal Background Checks], only upon presentation of a valid Safety Certificate by the transferee.

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Universal Background Checks

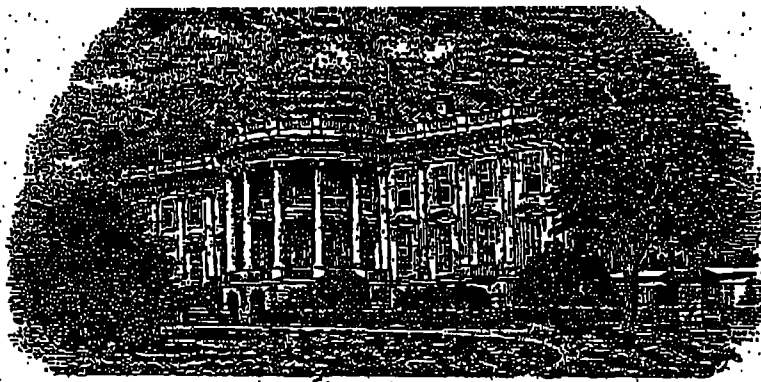
For any transfer of a firearm by a non-FFL, an FFL must conduct a background check and keep required records; provided, however, that intra-family transfers are exempted from this requirement.

*This is materially different from Treasury's proposal in that our proposal would cover all types of firearms.*

*We strongly support Treasury's proposal that the required recordkeeping include submission of used gun information to the National Tracing Center.*

It shall be a violation of federal law to transfer or receive a firearm without complying with this requirement.

*Treasury had offered, as possible variations on this suggestion: 1) that there be a numerical threshold of a number of guns that a seller had to meet before being required to run a background check and 2) the creation or imposition of civil liability for those who did not run a background check. The DPC staff suggested a third variation: restricting the background check requirement to those persons who transfer firearms after advertising them. We believe Treasury's first alternative to be unworkable, and its second to be unnecessary. We believe DPC's suggestion would be difficult to implement, and would fail to cover many dangerous black market transactions. (OLC is also reviewing it for constitutional issues.)*



The White House  
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

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Date: 1/24  
To: Josh Gottheimer / Terry Edmonds  
Fax: 6-2505  
From: Setti Warren  
Pages: 3 (Including this cover sheet)  
Comments:

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS  
UNITED STATES CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders’ dreams. There is no better moment to dream new dreams for our nation and act on them.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs in the last seven years. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in

half to their lowest levels in 32 years, and seven million Americans have moved off welfare and are moving into work.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people.

With your hard work – to raise your families and live your dreams, you have prepared our nation for the 21st century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans.

We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution to a government dedicated to giving the American people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner with Americans in all other walks of life.

<sup>AND</sup> We refused to keep making the false choices that paralyzed Washington for too long, with the smallest federal government in 37 years, We turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime, not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of a half-million criminals. We protected the environment, not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – with cleaner air, safer water and food, and record amounts of precious land protected.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with ideas like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used for childbirth or to care for sick loved ones, and immunizing 90 percent of our children for the very first time. And that's how we are opening the doors of college to all – with more Pell grants, more affordable college loans, and already almost 5 million recipients of the HOPE Scholarship.

Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service, in building One America, one community at a time, through

AmeriCorps as they earn money to further their own college education. That's how we seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products, while pushing for an end to child labor and advances in the global economy and environment. That's how we've advanced our interests around the world – by standing up for peace from Bosnia to Ireland to the Middle East; by expanding NATO; by building new partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa; by fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, we have the chance of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the surplus for Social Security. Because we resisted the temptation to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we have had back to back surpluses and are doing something that would have

seemed unimaginable seven years ago. We are paying down our national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we now know that we can pay down the debt in 13 years and make America debt free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, when we took our first major step to put our fiscal house in order with the passage of the deficit reduction act, I asked your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, and a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentson, to lead that effort. America is better off for his service.

But beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of that debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important programs for every family in America – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bi-partisan down payment on Social Security reform by ensuring that it is strong and safe for the next 50 years. We should also use the benefits of debt reduction to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And to provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food..

But all of this is just a start. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt, at the dawn of the last century, called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are increasingly connected to each other and to people

around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now we must shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom was not accomplished with one march. The dreams for which we strive are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward them step by step.

## OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. ~~As we look ahead the map~~ *and* ~~They will~~ *enter an economy that rewards education more than ever, we must set a goal for our nation:*

~~That is why,~~ for seven years, we have worked harder than ever to improve our schools, by following a fundamental strategy: Invest more, but demand more in return. Since 1993 we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are now going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Still, too many schools are a long way from where they need to be. We are doing too little for these schools, and expecting too little of them. We must not let another generation of children languish, when we know how to help. Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have afterschool and summer school to meet high standards. Every child should learn from great teachers. Every student should graduate high school with a diploma that means something. And every young person in America should know that if they want to go to college, they can afford to.

*Across this border*

~~We know this can be done.~~ I have visited schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods, that have turned themselves around through the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to make sure children reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula, a plan that holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

But just as we must demand more than ever from our schools, tonight I propose that we invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up.

Let's double our investment in quality afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. This will lay the foundation for our long-term goal: universal pre-school for every child who needs it.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know public school choice works when parents have real choice. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000.

We know that for children today, having access to the Internet is as vital as access to a library. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and only three percent of classrooms were connected

Today, 67 percent of high school graduates go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of families feel the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus ~~Hope Scholarships~~ <sup>and Pell</sup> grant increase, and other aid, we can say that we have made four years of college available to all.

## **REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would

provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They're working hard to reach the middle class. We should help them.

Rewarding work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We must provide the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home or a dignified retirement. Every family that works hard should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. <sup>I also propose</sup> ~~And we should go further. We should pass~~ a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

<sup>Www</sup>  
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~~Working together, we have changed that by providing family and medical leave, by that they can keep full coverage when they change jobs, and that, that when workers don't have health insurance, that is something that if the workers don't have to pay, they can~~  
protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We're on our way to our goal of 5 million. To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are:

schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.

But there is more we must do – to insure not only children, but entire families that lack coverage. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore’s suggestion and make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. If we do this, not just for children but for these 6.5 million parents, we can make sure that families have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let’s give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I <sup>proposed that we</sup> ~~called on Congress to~~ let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

~~We must also do more for citizen caregivers – the~~ <sup>R</sup> record numbers of Americans <sup>are</sup> providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or an inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let’s pass it – and triple it to \$3,000.

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare. We owe it to our people ~~to pass it this year.~~ <sup>the package</sup> <sup>will that my intent</sup>

Let’s make another pledge: let’s improve mental health care. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. And I want to thank someone

who has waged this battle on all fronts, fighting for the mentally ill homeless, working to break down the barriers that keep people from the help they need: Tipper Gore.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, like booting their cars and denying them passports. And we should require fathers to work – while helping them find work – so they can pay the child support they owe.

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Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. We need to give parents more tools to raise their kids right in today's culture. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I challenge the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. To keep our communities safe, we must do more to monitor ex-offenders and give them the support they need to become responsible citizens. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are far less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

## **OPENING NEW MARKETS**

to the Internet. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. And the money is there to connect them all. The problem is that a third of all schools are in serious disrepair – not just with leaky roofs but with walls too old to wire to the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know that smaller high schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger. We must help districts convert large, factory-style high schools into smaller schools where the often-cruel forces of peer pressure can be softened by the influence of caring adults.

We must do more to prepare young students for college and convince them they can go. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle school students. I propose to double the number of children reached, to 1.4 million, and to offer disadvantaged students the same college test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable, we must make college affordable. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut.

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We need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America -- in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places not yet blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to

many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in these communities. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity.

They're eager to work. I say: let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit that is more than twice the size of what I proposed last year. With this and other new incentives, we can spur [\$TK billion] in private-sector capital to create new businesses and to help firms expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones – which, with Vice President Gore's leadership, have been bringing prosperity to distressed areas for five years now.

I thank the business leaders who are not just seizing these opportunities – but creating them. I challenge every business to do the same.

This is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it's an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with us. I thank you for your commitment and I look forward to working with you.

I hope we can also agree to make special efforts to support our Indian reservations, where unemployment is extreme – as high as 70%. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans – Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well only in good times and not in bad – especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must strengthen the farm safety net and invest in farm conservation. The Freedom to Farm Bill cannot become a “freedom to fail” bill.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the disturbing gap between those who have the tools to succeed in the new economy, and those who don't. That “digital divide” exists along lines of education, income, region, and race. It is one of the great civil rights challenges of this Information Age.

~~[Back in 1994, when only 3 percent of classrooms were wired, Vice President Gore and I set a goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet. The public and private sectors have risen to the challenge. We are now on track to meet our goal by this time next year.]~~ But now, we must connect <sup>in</sup> every classroom & library, <sup>to</sup> ~~new~~ <sup>we must</sup> connect all our citizens to the Internet, – everywhere they live and work. My budget helps to train more teachers, wire more classrooms, and connect more

communities to the economic mainstream. If America closes this digital divide, we can open a new era of opportunity for all.

## **GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP**

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead and shape another revolution that is sweeping our world: globalization. It is the central reality of our time – a process tearing down barriers and building new networks between nations, peoples, economies and cultures.

Globalization is irreversible, driven even further by the explosion in information technology. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand and act on the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. But we cannot assure our well being without also being an essential part of every vital global network, as a good neighbor and good partner. We cannot keep going forward by holding other countries, especially poor ones, back. We cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

Clearly, one thing we can and must do is to keep international trade growing, and growing fairly. Trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and growing fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means a global economy based on the rule of law. It means making

international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to public concerns. We will not build our prosperity on the sweat of children, or the ruin of our environment.

We must also reach out to developing economies; and I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives. This will help Americans economically and forge new partnerships for a more secure, democratic world.

But mastering the demands of globalization is about much more than economics. It is about seizing an unprecedented opportunity to build a future of security, prosperity and freedom, while dealing with the dangers that still imperil our national interests. What are the critical challenges we face in the coming century?

One will be to encourage our former adversaries Russia and China to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States. Both countries are being held back from reaching their potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian soldiers serving with ours to keep peace in the Balkans; Russian people democratically electing their leaders for the first time. And in China, a society more open to the world than at any time in its history. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. We can make sure that we do everything in our power to see that both are on the inside of the global community, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations. If we do, America's companies and workers gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market, but China gains no new access to ours. This agreement is good for America and will promote the cause of change in China.

Another critical challenge will be to protect our security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions. Our modern world is still bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by cynical leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers. And left unresolved, such tragedies can throw whole regions into turmoil, overwhelm the world's capacity to help the innocent, and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace. We should be proud of our work to bring peace in Northern Ireland; proud of our efforts in East Timor and Africa, in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey, in working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan, and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Captain Cherrey, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

Another critical challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses, and force us to live in fear again. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by helping Russia keep its arsenal secure and reducing both our nuclear arsenals; restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors. We are increasing our preparedness against biological attack and developing a system to defend against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

We must also strengthen global standards against proliferation. I hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which will eventually lead to its ratification. America must remain a leader in the struggle for a safer world.

Another critical challenge is to keep global stability from being threatened by a gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Part of the answer is expanded trade. A bigger part is the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting for its people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drugs. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I ask for your support. And if we want to put the drug barons out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

In a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must also reduce the debts of impoverished countries. I ask Congress to continue to support that effort.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. It is unacceptable that last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in an initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry: if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS, we will help pay for them, and together save millions of lives.

And I will ask Congress to increase our support for international family planning by \$170 million. That money will help families live healthier lives, and it will save the lives of thousands of women and children.

All this comes down to a central challenge, the most important of all: will America continue to lead? In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them. Clearly, America must lead boldly and consistently and with a clear understanding of what globalization and increasing interdependence require of us.

To lead, we must remain strong. We have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21<sup>st</sup> century weapons. It raises salaries for our men and women in uniform and ensures America's veterans the thanks and honor they have so richly earned.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember: building a stronger global community will only strengthen our community here at home.

### **RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. As our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families, and taken unprecedented steps to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving farms and other precious open spaces ... and for helping the major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

As we work to protect our natural resources, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – the source of more than a quarter of the oxygen on earth. Yet these lush sanctuaries of life are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to

reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, deadly heat waves, droughts, and floods will become more frequent with each passing year.

But thanks to remarkable new technologies, we can meet this challenge – and we can do it in ways that produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, automakers unveiled cars that use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique partnership the Vice President has led. We've helped develop windows that drastically cut energy bills by keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We're helping to bring the benefits of advanced space research into our homes with solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution at all. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help spur these new technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for producing clean power from crops, wind, or sun ... and to families for buying energy-efficient homes and appliances. And when new super-efficient cars hit the showroom floor, we should provide people who buy them with up to \$3,000 in tax credits, effectively cutting their sticker price and ensuring even greater appeal.

But ~~let's be frank~~: we have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. So tonight, I call on auto industry leaders to join us in designing a new strategy for

reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet the worldwide challenge of global warming by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. Nations can now achieve prosperity without following the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming. Let's help them follow a better, more modern path.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of our environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, improvements in the quality of our lives.

In the last century, the life expectancy for the average American increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better.

Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. This will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent

diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS. If we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America.

Research at the intersection between biomedical research and engineering will also lead to amazing breakthroughs. Scientists are already working on an artificial retina to treat certain kinds of blindness, and methods of directly stimulating the spinal cord to allow people who are paralyzed to walk.

Scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they will soon begin to test elegant therapies that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Tonight, I want to thank these scientists for their brilliant work. I also want to salute Michael J. Fox – the talented actor, director, and producer who was diagnosed with Parkinson's nine years ago. Michael, on behalf of the million young and older Americans struggling with Parkinson's, I thank you for giving so much of yourself to accelerating the hunt for a cure.

Advances in science and engineering are also the engine of our economic growth. Consider the impact of information technology. Because of our early investments in developing microprocessors, satellite communications, and the Internet, America now leads the world in information technology – an industry that accounts for one third of our economic growth and that generates jobs that pay almost 80 percent more than the private sector average wage.

In the future, we will have devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak, enabling anyone to tap into the world's knowledge instantly – from anywhere ...

materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... unimaginably powerful computers made with DNA strands rather than silicon chips. These and other breakthroughs may enhance our economy and our society even more profoundly than the Internet does today.

For all these reasons, my budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50-year history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, university-based research, and NASA's never-ending quest in space.

It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment, reflecting our most cherished values.

First and foremost, we must ensure that citizens' privacy – financial and medical – is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the

government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing our lives, and the lives of our children, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

## **COMMUNITY**

In the era of globalization, we must work even harder to strengthen the bonds of our local communities and our national community.

We should begin with ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with revolutionary new partnerships between government and private citizens.

Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens.

Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing. To help our young people serve.

But there is much more to be done, we need more citizen servants.

Veterans of AmeriCorps, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are a pool of know-how and can-do. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

Our senior population represents a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve. So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track.

We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups. [TK Specific examples to come]

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's why we're proposing to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants. That's why in this year of the census, every one of us must not only stand up and be counted. We must also stand up and be heard.

So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

We are going to use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to open new doors to the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats--- interactive discussions to connect more Americans to our democracy.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa...from the Balkans to the Middle

East... racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity--we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of all Americans. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – to religious leaders, to corporate leaders, to the legal community to enlist the help of American in building the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember: all human beings are genetically 99.9 percent the same. Modern science affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.


So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring opportunity to every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.


At a time when our people are living longer than ever, we will, step by step, ensure that they live healthier, with quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.



At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, we will, step by step, realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, we will, step by step, reverse climate change and secure our planet for our grandchildren.


At a time of steadily falling crime, we will, step by step, make America the safest big nation on Earth.




At a time when more parents are working, we will, step by step, ensure that all parents have the tools to succeed at work and in raising their children...and that none of those children are raised in poverty.

At a time when knowledge is the key to our children's future, we will, step by step, see to it that all of them begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, we will continue to be the world's indispensable nation – a strong leader and a better neighbor.




At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, we will become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago -- one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



This is the long look ahead, unreachable in one year, but clearly within reach of a great people with big dreams, determined to work together and move ahead, step by step.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon, hanging in Independence Hall. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility, we bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun. Now it is our time. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great. ~~So, let us look to the rising sun.~~ After 224 years, the American revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our magic moment.



Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.


**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS  
UNITED STATES CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders’ dreams. There is no better moment to dream new dreams for our nation and act on them.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs in the last seven years. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in




half to their lowest levels in 32 years, and seven million Americans have moved off welfare and are moving into work.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.


As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. With your hard work – to raise your families and live your dreams -- you have prepared our nation for the 21st century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.




Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: “America: What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.




We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution to a government dedicated to giving the American people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner with Americans in all other walks of life.


With the smallest federal government in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We refused to keep making the false choices that paralyzed Washington for too long. We cut crime, not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of a half-million criminals. We protected the environment, not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – with cleaner air, safer water and food, and record amounts of precious land protected.



We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with ideas like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used for childbirth or to care for sick loved ones, and immunizing 90 percent of our children for the very first time. And that's how we are opening the doors of college to all – with more Pell grants, more affordable college loans, and already almost 5 million recipients of the HOPE Scholarship.




Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service, in building One America, one community at a time, through




AmeriCorps as they earn money to further their own college education. That's how we seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products, while pushing for an end to child labor and advances in the global economy and environment. That's how we've advanced our interests around the world – by standing up for peace from Bosnia to Ireland to the Middle East; by expanding NATO; by building new partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa; by fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, we have the chance of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.



But you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.



Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the surplus for Social Security. Because we resisted the temptation to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we have had back to back surpluses and are doing something that would have

seemed unimaginable seven years ago. We are paying down our national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we now know that we can pay down the debt in 13 years and make America debt free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, when we took our first major step to put our fiscal house in order with the passage of the deficit reduction act, I asked your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, and a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentson, to lead that effort. America is better off for his service.

But beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of that debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important programs for every family in America – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bi-partisan down payment on Social Security reform by ensuring that it is strong and safe for the next 50 years. We should also use the benefits of debt reduction to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And to provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

But all of this is just a start. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt, at the dawn of the last century, called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are increasingly connected to each other and to people

around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now we must shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom was not accomplished with one march. The dreams for which we strive are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward them step by step.

## **OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION**

First and foremost, we need a 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. With the largest, most diverse group of students ever, an economy that rewards education more than ever, we must set the highest goals for education ever: Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have afterschool and summer school to meet high standards. Every child should learn from great teachers. Every student should graduate high school with a diploma that means something. And every young person in America should know that if they want to go to college, they can afford to.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, following a fundamental strategy: Invest more, but demand more in return. Since 1993, we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are now going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

I have visited schools across this country, in some of America's poorest neighborhoods, that have turned themselves around through the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to make sure children reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula, a plan that holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

But just as we must demand more than ever from our schools, tonight I propose that we invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up.

Let's double our investment in quality afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. This will lay the foundation for our long-term goal: universal pre-school for every child who needs it.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know public school choice works when parents have real choice. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000.

We know that for children today, having access to the Internet is as vital as access to a library. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and only three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. And the money is there to connect them all. The problem is that a third of all schools are in serious disrepair – not just with leaky roofs but with walls too old to wire to the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000

schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know that smaller high schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger. We must help districts convert large, factory-style high schools into smaller schools where the often-cruel forces of peer pressure can be softened by the influence of caring adults.

We must do more to prepare young students for college and convince them they can go. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle school students. I propose to double the number of children reached, to 1.4 million, and to offer disadvantaged students the same college test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable, we must make college affordable. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of families feel the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs -- providing as much as \$2,800 in

much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase and other aid, we can say that we have made four years of college available to all.

## **REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. We should help them.

Rewarding work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate

is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We must provide the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home or a dignified retirement. Every family that works hard should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and

moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. I also propose a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. We have made sure workers can keep their coverage when they change jobs or take time off to care for a sick loved one. And we passed the Children’s Health Insurance Program, so that workers who don’t have health coverage through their employers can get it for their children. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We’re on our way to our goal of 5 million. To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are: schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.

But there is more we must do – to insure not only children, but entire families that lack coverage. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore’s suggestion and make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. If we do this, not just for children but for these 6.5 million parents, we can make sure that families have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let’s give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

## OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. We have the largest, most diverse group of students ever. They will enter an economy that rewards education more than ever.

That is why, for seven years, we have worked harder than ever to improve our schools, by following a fundamental strategy: Invest more, but demand more in return. Since 1993 we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are now going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Still, too many schools are a long way from where they need to be. We are doing too little for these schools, and expecting too little of them. We must not let another generation of children languish, when we know how to help. Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have afterschool and summer school to meet high standards. Every child should learn from great teachers. Every student should graduate high school with a diploma that means something. And every young person in America should know that if they want to go to college, they can afford to.

We know this can be done. I have visited schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods that have turned themselves around through the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to make sure children reach those standards. I have sent you a plan based on that formula, a plan that holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

But just as we must demand more than ever from our schools, tonight I propose that we invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double the investment Congress made last year to fund proven efforts by states and districts to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

Let's double our investment in quality afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards. And if Congress stays on this path, we will provide access quality afterschool and summer school to every child in America.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. Doing this will lay the foundation for our long-term goal: universal pre-school for every child who needs it.

We know that children learn best in small classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported hiring 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know public school choice works when parents have real choice. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000. Let's give parents real choice.

We know that for children today, having access to the Internet is as important as having access to a library. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and three percent of classrooms were connected to the Internet. Today, with

the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. And the money is there to connect them all. The problem is that a third of all schools are in serious disrepair – with not just leaky roofs but with and electrical service so inadequate that if you plug a new computer into the wall, the circuit breaker cuts off. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms.

We know that since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger, but that smaller high schools are better at promoting learning and keeping students safe. We must help districts convert large, factory-style high schools into smaller schools where the often-cruel forces of peer pressure can be softened by the influence of caring adults. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

We must do more to prepare young students for college and convince them they can go. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle school students. I propose to double the number of children reached, to 1.4 million, and to offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of families feel the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships, a Pell grant increase, and other aid, we can say that we have opened the door of four years of college to all.

For seven

## OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Our first steps into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century must be the right steps. We need first and foremost a 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in education, guided by our faith that ~~all our children can learn and that all our people can succeed~~ *each of God's* children can learn and that *and that educat* *is the key to a life* *of success*

For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet demand more in return. ~~Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility.~~ We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are ~~happening~~ *from* in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods. *Flowing*

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to

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## **RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. As our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families, and taken unprecedented steps to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving farms and other precious open spaces ... and for helping the major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

As we work to protect our natural resources, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – the source of more than a quarter of the oxygen on earth. Yet these lush sanctuaries of life are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, deadly heat waves, droughts, and floods will become more frequent with each passing year.

But thanks to remarkable new technologies, we can meet this challenge – and we can do it in ways that produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, automakers unveiled cars that use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique partnership the Vice President has led. We've helped develop windows that drastically cut energy bills by keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We're helping to bring the benefits of advanced space research into our homes with solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution at all. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help spur these new technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for producing clean power from crops, wind, or sun ... and to families for buying energy-efficient homes and appliances. And when new super-efficient cars hit the showroom floor, we should provide people who buy them with up to \$3,000 in tax credits, effectively cutting their sticker price and ensuring even greater appeal.

But let's be frank: we have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. So tonight, I call on auto industry leaders to join us in designing a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet the worldwide challenge of global warming by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. Nations can now achieve prosperity without following the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming. Let's help them follow a better, more modern path.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of our environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, improvements in the quality of our lives.

In the last century, the life expectancy for the average American increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better.

Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. This will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS. If we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America.

Research at the intersection between biomedical research and engineering will also lead to amazing breakthroughs. Scientists are already working on an artificial retina to treat certain

kinds of blindness, and methods of directly stimulating the spinal cord to allow people who are paralyzed to walk.

Scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they will soon begin to test elegant therapies that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Tonight, I want to thank these scientists for their brilliant work. I also want to salute Michael J. Fox – the talented actor, director, and producer who was diagnosed with Parkinson's nine years ago. Michael, on behalf of the million young and older Americans struggling with Parkinson's, I thank you for giving so much of yourself to accelerating the hunt for a cure.

Advances in science and engineering are also the engine of our economic growth. Consider the impact of information technology. Because of our early investments in developing microprocessors, satellite communications, and the Internet, America now leads the world in information technology – an industry that accounts for one third of our economic growth and that generates jobs that pay almost 80 percent more than the private sector average wage.

In the future, we will have devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak, enabling anyone to tap into the world's knowledge instantly – from anywhere ... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... unfathomably powerful computers made with DNA strands rather than silicon chips. These and other breakthroughs may enhance our economy and our society even more profoundly than the Internet does today.

For all these reasons, my budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its 50-year history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, university-based research, and NASA's never-ending quest in space.

It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment, reflecting our most cherished values.

First and foremost, we must ensure that citizens' privacy – financial and medical – is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in

history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing our lives, and the lives of our children, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

## RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline on record. For seven years, we've helped wage the fight--from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Our nation is safer, but no one believes America is safe as it can be. Let's set a higher goal. Let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support this year.

Last year, after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage—and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President—the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine High School. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence to fight

for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business.

We must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. It is long past time for states to require licenses for handgun purchasers as well.

We've shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

[Let me say something else. I think it is important that the gun industry take more responsibility in changing the way it designs, markets and distributes firearms. There are responsible citizens in the gun industry who want to work with us to make sure the guns they sell don't wind up in the wrong hands and that kids aren't killed accidentally with them. Part of the answer may be in new technologies that could reduce accidents.]

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations--combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I thank the gun manufacturers

who are developing these smart guns, and ask all other manufacturers to join them. And I ask Congress to help by increasing funds for research in these technologies to keep our kids safer.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. We need to give parents more tools to raise their kids right in today's culture. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I challenge the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. To keep our communities safe, we must do more to monitor ex-offenders and give them the support they need to become responsible citizens. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are far less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.




## COMMUNITY -

In the era of globalization, we must work even harder to strengthen the bonds of our local communities and our national community.

We should begin with ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with revolutionary new partnerships between government and private citizens.

Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens.



Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing. To help our young people serve.

But there is much more to be done, we need more citizen servants.

Veterans of AmeriCorps, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are a pool of know-how and can-do. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

Our senior population represents a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve. So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups. [TK Specific examples to come]

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's we're going to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants. That's why in this year of the census, every one of us must not only stand up and be counted. We must also stand up and be heard.

So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.


We are going to use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to open new doors to the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats--- interactive discussions to connect more Americans to our democracy.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa...from the Balkans to the Middle East...racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.


We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity--we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of all Americans. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our



democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – to religious leaders, to corporate leaders, to the legal community to enlist the help of American in building the One America of our dreams.



This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember: all human beings are genetically 99.9 percent the same. Modern science affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.



**Jeffrey A. Shesol**

01/24/2000 11:41:23 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: revised work & family through but not including Rosas (Kennedy-Jeff. & adoption TK)

## **REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They’re working hard to reach the middle class. We should help them.

Rewarding work and family requires us to make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That’s just not good enough. We must provide the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that’s only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let’s take the next big step. Let’s make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that

means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home or a dignified retirement. Every family that works hard should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. And we should go further. We should pass a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We're on our way to our goal of 5 million. To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are: schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.

But there is more we must do – to insure not only children, but entire families that lack coverage. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion and make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. If we do this, not just for children but for these 6.5 million parents, we can make sure that families have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I called on Congress to let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

We must also do more for citizen caregivers – the record numbers of Americans providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or an inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's pass it – and triple it to \$3,000.

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35

years since Medicare. We owe it to our people to pass it this year.

Let's make another pledge: let's improve mental health care. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. And I want to thank someone who has waged this battle on all fronts, fighting for the mentally ill homeless, working to break down the barriers that keep people from the help they need: Tipper Gore.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father - and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. - We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, like booting their cars and denying them passports. And we should require fathers to work - while helping them find work - so they can pay the child support they owe.

[Rosas]

~~Every~~ <sup>needs and</sup> Every child deserves the love and support of both parents

~~But~~ We know this can make a difference. Carlos Rosas <sup>of St. Paul</sup> ~~enrolled~~ <sup>minn.</sup> enrolled in a father's program in 1996 when he was not making enough to keep up with his child support obligation to his <sup>13 year old</sup> son Ricardo. Since ~~starting his~~ <sup>completing</sup> ~~education~~ <sup>his education</sup> and graduating from technical school Carlos <sup>has</sup> ~~has~~ a good job and is able to <sup>support</sup> ~~support~~ his both financially and emotionally. Carlos is with us tonight and we should be proud his commitment to be a ~~better~~ <sup>father</sup> and

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world’s poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

~~At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled and our ideals are undiminished. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been.~~ <sup>21st century world is our</sup> ~~But~~ the central reality of our time is ~~globalization~~ <sup>i a world</sup> the growing

~~interdependence of our world, a world drawn closer together by new technologies like the Internet and new threats like global warming, or terrorism, that know no borders.~~ <sup>Globalization</sup> ~~Globalization~~ is irreversible. <sup>We must stand ready to shape it. And we can -- our power is unrivaled and</sup> ~~The only way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital~~ <sup>our ideals</sup> ~~global network. In a world ever changing, ever more interconnected and interdependent,~~ <sup>ascendant.</sup>

~~America~~ <sup>We</sup> will remain a strong leader by being a good partner – ~~to old allies and to new ones, and to the nations that need~~ a helping hand. We will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values. We have an opportunity, and a ~~deep~~ <sup>responsibility</sup>, to strengthen our own peace and freedom by helping others to secure theirs.

<sup>we must</sup> So ~~let us~~ look beyond our borders to the big questions that will define the 21st Century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.