

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. draft	HRC draft column [partial] (1 page)	05/15/1996	b(6)
002. fax	re; personal stories (1 page)	05/03/1996	b(6)
003. fax	re: personal story and SSN and DOB [Personally Identifiable Information] (1 page)	05/08/1996	b(6)
004. paper	re: personal stories (2 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)
005. fax	re: list of adoptees and relatives (1 page)	05/03/1996	b(6)
006. fax	re: personal story and SSN and DOB [Personally Identifiable Information] (1 page)	05/08/1996	b(6)
007. draft	re: draft HRC Column [partial] (1 page)	05/15/1996	b(6)
008. draft	re: draft HRC Column [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
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Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12073

FOLDER TITLE:

Column - Adoptions 5/16/96

2017-1164-S

rc2360

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The woman visited her new daughter in the hospital every day, reaching into the incubator to stroke her foot. The receiving blanket seemed heavier than the one who was being fed by a tube in her stomach.

The woman is not the baby's birth mother, but she is her mother in every way that matters.

She and her husband already had a 3-year-old adopted son when they heard about a premature 1-pound baby girl whose birth parents could not take care of her. The couple decided to adopt the tiny baby. Her start was rocky, but now the child is a healthy 3-year-old.

"She was just like a little flower that blossomed," the mother says. "She is a burst of energy."

Now, the couple, who are African-American, are in the process of adopting a 12-year-old girl who was abused. They also are encouraging more African-American families to open their homes to children in need.

Last summer, I wrote about this important issue. I'm writing about it again because so many children's lives would be better if they could only find a home. Today, 21,000 children are ready and waiting for families to nurture and care for them. Tens of thousands of others will be eligible for adoption in the coming months and years.

Not all these children are healthy, white babies. Many are physically and developmentally disabled. Many are minorities. Many suffer from emotional traumas wrought by abuse, neglect and unstable living arrangements. And many are teen-agers who already have been shuffled from home to home.

Fortunately, some steps have been taken in recent years to make adoption easier. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which became law three years ago, ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child without fear of losing their jobs. The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of the adoptive parents' race, color or national origin. Over the past three years, adoption subsidies have helped an increasing number of families cope with the costs of adopting and raising children with special needs.

TALKING IT OVER 5/14/96

Page 2

The President is supporting legislation in Congress that will give tax credits to families that adopt. The House, for example, just approved a bill that would give adoptive families a \$5,000 tax credit. The Senate, meanwhile, is considering a \$7,500 credit for families who adopt children with special needs. This may not be enough to cover medical and emotional health care costs for special needs kids, or even education, but it's a step in the right direction.

Not only is adoption good for children, it saves taxpayers a lot of money. As one woman said at a recent adoption discussion at the White House, by adopting several special-needs children, her family has saved the state and the federal government in excess of \$1 million.

In addition to government, the private sector also has a role to play. Wendy's, the hamburger chain founded by adoption advocate Dave Thomas (who himself was adopted), gives workers paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs.

Margaret Fitzgerald, who participated in our gathering, said her employer, AT&T, gave her six weeks of unpaid leave when she and her husband adopted a son four years ago. The company also reimbursed her legal fees.

~~These public and private efforts are making a difference. But the most~~
important thing is to give every child, regardless of age, disability, race or ethnic origin, the chance to be part of a loving family.

Just ask Julie Stinger, a teacher with five adopted children -- four biracial and one white -- several of whom had health problems. She told us how, as a white woman, she had to fight to adopt her first two black children, even though the birth parents agreed to the adoption and she had cared for them as a foster parent for 18 months. "I fought tooth and nail," she said.

Later, she had similar trouble when she wanted to adopt her fifth child, who is white. Authorities were concerned about placing a white boy with four non-white brothers and sisters.

"Even though we went through some traumas in the adoptions, I would do it again, I would do it 10 times over," she said. "Adopting a child is the most gratifying thing that ever happened to me."

After Julie recounted her story, I asked her oldest son, Joey, if he had anything to add. He nodded.

"I just want to thank my mother," he said.

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draft #2

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN FOR RELEASE MAY 15, 1996
TALKING IT OVER/CREATOR'S SYNDICATE

The woman visited her new daughter in the hospital every day, reaching into ^{her} ~~her~~ incubator to stroke her foot. The receiving blanket seemed heavier than the baby. She was being fed by a tube in her stomach.

Although the woman is not the baby's birth mother, she is her mother in every way that matters. The woman and her husband already had a 3-year-old adopted son when they heard about a premature one-pound baby girl whose birth parents could not take care of her. The couple decided to adopt the tiny baby. Her start was rocky, but now the child is a healthy three-year-old.

"She was just like a little flower that blossomed," the mother says. "She is a burst of energy."

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Today, 21,000 children are ready and waiting for families to nurture and care for them. Tens of thousands of others will be eligible for adoption in the coming months and years.

Unless we change our mind-set about adoption, many of these children will not find permanent homes. That's because not all

no white babies
children awaiting adoption are healthy, nor are they all babies.
~~Today,~~ Children of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances need
~~the nurturing and care of~~ loving families.

Half of the children languishing in foster care are minority children. Thousands of other children haven't been adopted because they suffer from physical and developmental disabilities and emotional traumas wrought by abuse, neglect and unstable living arrangements. And still others cannot find placements because they're teenagers who already have been shuffled from home to home for years.

Collapse

~~There is no easy solution to the adoption crisis. That's why~~
government, businesses, civic and religious organizations, all racial and cultural communities and individual citizens must unite to create conditions that enable more parents to adopt children, especially those with serious problems.

Real progress in the adoption arena may be on the horizon. The President is supporting legislation in Congress that will give families who adopt a child a \$5,000 tax credit. The bill will strengthen the anti-discrimination prohibition against parents who want to adopt children across racial lines.

for Some steps have been taken in recent years to make adoption easier. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which became law three years ago, ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fear of losing their jobs. The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of the adoptive

parents' race, color or national origin. Over the past three years, adoption subsidies have helped an increasing number of families cope with the costs of adopting and raising children with special needs.

Now we have the promise of a long overdue tax credit for parents who adopt. This is crucial. Adopting healthy children is expensive enough, and it becomes even more costly when children require extra care.

With so many children in desperate need of loving homes, the private sector has a role to play as well. Wendy's, the hamburger chain founded by adoption advocate Dave Thomas (who himself was adopted), gives workers paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs.

Margaret Fitzgerald, who participated in ~~our~~ recent adoption discussion at the White House, said her employer, AT&T, gave her six weeks of unpaid leave when she and her husband adopted a son four years ago. The company also reimbursed her legal fees.

These public and private efforts are making a difference. Now we just need more prospective mothers and fathers to

appreciate that, regardless of age, disability, race, or ethnic origin, every child has the capacity to bring great love and joy to a caring family.

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already passed in the House & Senate will consider \$7,500 credit

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Quote

Not only saves us \$, it's good for child.

But most up to us to give every child.

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received groups in re-
sidents Irene
and Loretta
engaged in "finan-
practices that have se-
vally damaged the unions,"
the lawsuit says. [Page 1b]

Nation/World

Journal: Mennonites and
land in Paraguay. [Page 2A]
2 Marine helicopters collide,
killing 14. [Page 4A]
Colby died of drowning, hy-
pothermia. [Page 4A]
33 N.Y. cabdrivers become
entrepreneurs. [Page 4A]
Make-A-Wish bear hunt
creates uproar. [Page 5A]
India's prime minister re-
signs. [Page 7A]
U.S. will not impose sanc-
tions on China. [Page 7A]

Maryland

Pete Imrie's theory on edu-
cation. [Page 1b]
George Balog, 2 staff mem-
bers go to Paris. [Page 1b]
Cannonball Run to Ocean
City is scuttled. [Page 1b]
New air system needed at
Deer Park school. [Page 1b]
Kane: Emerge tells sad story
of a drug addict. [Page 1b]

Today

Allan Prell the man, Allan
Prell the horse. [Page 1b]
TV: Prequel to "Lonesome
Dove" arrives. [Page 1b]
Kasper: Never enough time
for those chores. [Page 1b]



Walters have seen it all: the
coyness, the protests, the
questioning looks, the long-
ing glances, a whole litany of
responses to the presenta-
tion of the dessert tray. Din-
ers do a subtle dance check-
ing out the chocolate and the
pastry, then frequently ask-
ing for one dessert — and
several forks. [Page 1b]

Sports

Pimlico Special field petite
but elite. [Page 1c]
Division I men's lacrosse
field wide open. [Page 1c]
Bandits stave off elimina-
tion, 5-4. [Page 1c]
SuperSonics put Rockets in
3-0 hole. [Page 1c]
Rosenthal: Son's autism
guides Surhoff. [Page 1c]

Business

Insurance alliance to cut
city rates. [Page 13c]
Minority business program
to be cloned. [Page 13c]
Drought will drive up food
prices. [Page 13c]

Opinion

time for city alternatives



White House: Jeremy Lincicome, 8, of Catonsville gets a laugh from first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (right), and Margaret Fitzgerald (second left) were recognized for adopting children.

House approves bill on adoption

Measure gives tax aid,
removes obstacles
to interracial families

'We're a great match'

**Clintons back effort
by GOP; Md. mothers,
children are invited**

By KERRY A. WHITE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WASHINGTON — On the day that the House approved a bill to encourage adoptions, a half-dozen women who have surmounted unusual barriers to adopt children met yesterday with Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House to highlight the issue in time for Mother's Day.

The women — three of them from Maryland — were brought together to spotlight some of those who would benefit from the bill, which would grant tax credits to middle-class families who adopt children. The measure would also remove many barriers to interracial adoptions. As a result, its supporters say, it could help speed adoptions of some of the 450,000 children, nearly half of them minorities, in foster care.

"The president and I are committed to encouraging and easing the adoption process," the first lady said. "We need to do more to make it possible for thousands and thousands more children to be adopted by Mother's Day next year."

The meeting follows President Clinton's announcement this week that he would throw his support behind the Republicans' adoption bill. [See Adopt, 4A]

Scenic drawbr seasonal draw

■ **Traffic:** Spring boating regularly ties up commuters along a key Annapolis route, but many residents consider the delays just a passing annoyance of living in a sailing haven.

By SCOTT WILSON
STAFF

It is, quite literally, an Annapolis rite of passage. Not to mention a ritual frustration for residents of the nation's self-proclaimed sailing capital.

The Eastport Bridge, a

two-lane landmark linking the city's prime tourist area with a peninsula of Cape Cod-style cottages and waterfront condominiums, has started its seasonal rise and fall to allow sailors passage from harbor slip to Chesapeake Bay for evening regattas. And in water-carved Annapolis, boats more often than not have the right of way over just about anything else.

"If I see a boat and I think he's really trying to make it, I'll hold it up," operator Dudley G. Dixon Jr., who becomes a controversial figure after Spa Creek thaws, said of the drawbridge. "I mean, what's a couple more minutes?"

Real estate agents gently

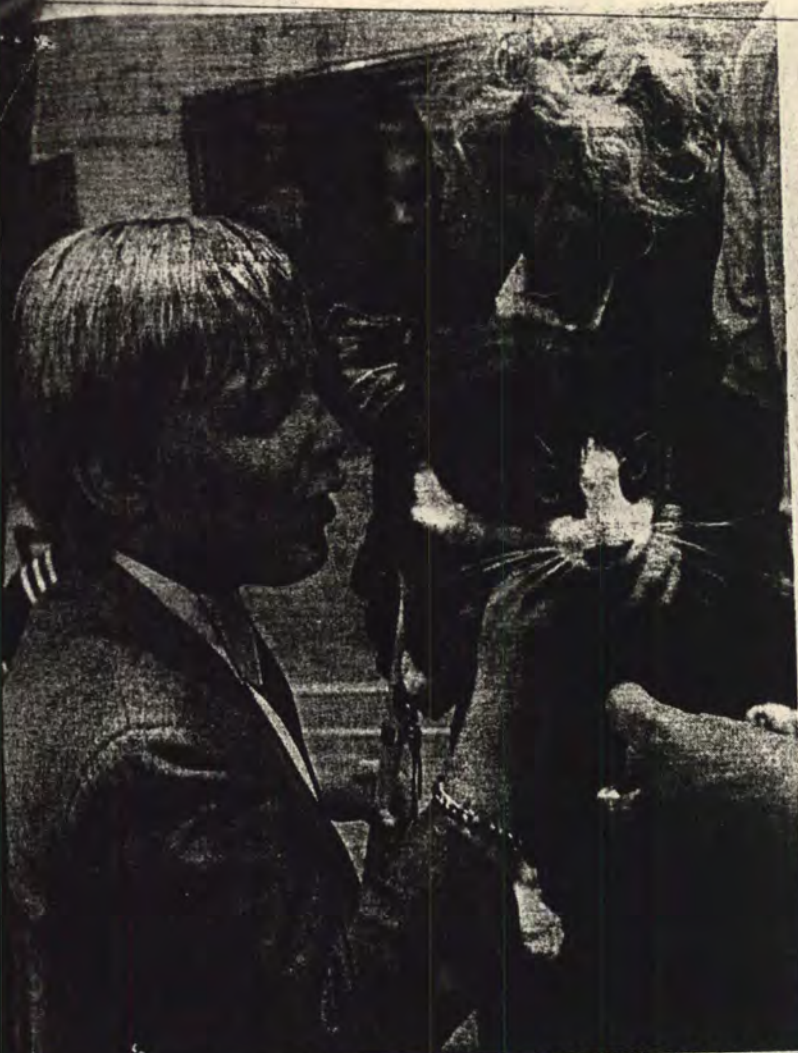


Jammed span: Annapolis' increasing traffic — road, pedestrian delays at the Eastport drawbridge, a two-lane landmark.

Office seekers disappear on

Election rules bar use of candidate's voice or picture on the air

of Israel's official election campaign, when politicians vanish from their usual perches on the nightly news. For three weeks before the election newscasters



First cat: Jeremy Lincicome, who is blind, meets the first family's cat, Rocks, as William Fitzgerald, 4, of Prince George's County watches.

Bill boosts adoptions, but faces opposition

[Adopt, from Page 1A]

element in their "Contract with America."

That statement was in step with an election-year drive by the White House to align itself with politically popular issues relating to children and families. In recent months, Mr. Clinton has endorsed school uniforms, curbs on tobacco ads that target teen-agers and television "V-chips" that would let parents screen out offensive programs.

The six mothers who met with the first lady yesterday have all overcome unusual obstacles, from curbs on interracial adoptions to children with mental or physical disabilities. Under the bill approved yesterday, on a vote of 393-15, adoptive parents would receive tax credits of up to \$5,000 to help defray the cost of adoptions, some of which can cost as much as \$20,000.

Sitting on antique chairs and sofas in the Roosevelt Room, the mothers related their stories to Mrs. Clinton as a phalanx of cameras and reporters watched.

Perhaps the most dramatic tale came from a Catonsville mother, Jude Lincicome, accompanied by her 8-year-old son, Jeremy. A single mother and a nurse, Lincicome has adopted four children — all of them physically disabled.

"These children have all accomplished so much with so little," Lincicome said of Jeremy; Sarah and Daniel, both 10; and Rebecca, 16, all of whom attend Baltimore County schools. "Their disabilities are more a nuisance than a handicap."

She noted that it was cheaper in the long run for the government to increase adoptions than to have children languish for years in foster care at government expense. "Children in foster care can get very expensive. We can't afford not to get children in forever homes."

Jeremy, a gregarious honor-roll student who is blind, charmed the crowd by complimenting his mother for her proficiency in Braille.

"We're a great match," Jeremy said, adding that he "can't wait" for the arrival of his new 2-year-old sister, Kelly Ann — Lincicome's fifth adopted child — who will join the family in a few weeks.

"Jeremy, she's lucky to be getting a big brother like you," Mrs. Clinton replied.

Mrs. Clinton, who has long made children's issues a personal concern, most recently in her book, "It Takes a Village," stressed the importance of placing thousands of children in loving, supportive homes like Lincicome's.

In response to a question, she said that before she became pregnant with her daughter, Chelsea, she and her husband had seriously considered adoption.

New York taxi licenses give immigrants chance at dream

3 budding entrepreneurs buy medallions in rare sale

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Fifty-three cab drivers, nearly all of them born half a world away, became entrepreneurs yesterday as the winning bidders in New York City's first sale of new taxi medallions since the Depression.

To the drivers, the prize was nothing short of the essential promise of America: the chance to go into business for themselves after years of working for others.

The successful bidders, most from India, Pakistan or Bangladesh, had offered up to \$177,000 for the right to work mind-numbing, 70-hour weeks for an income that rarely exceeds \$30,000 a year.

"It's not really a good job, but it's hard to find another job, and this way, I work for me," said Jaswant Singh Ghoti, 34, who has had to lease medallions in his five and a half years as a cabbie. "This is independence."

With a sealed bid of \$175,114.99, Ghoti, who grew up in India and lives in the Bronx, became the proud owner of a newly minted medallion. His brother, Balbir Singh, of Queens, bid a dollar more and also left a winner.

The two men, both husbands and fathers, stood side by side, beaming, after the bids were opened, and admitted to no doubts about the wisdom of going into the taxi business and spending a

the Taxi and Limousine Commission's sale of 53 medallions for owner-drivers, and 80 others for taxi fleets, was a success. Doubters had said that expanding the number of yellow cabs in the city for the first time since 1937 would lower the value of the medallions.

But the sale drew slightly higher prices than the commission had predicted, earning \$26 million for the city.

The city plans to hold two more sales over the next two years, selling a total of 400 new medallions. Last year, when Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani proposed the sale of new medallions after a 59-year lull, it was to help close a city budget deficit. But many drivers saw deeper meaning in what happened yesterday.

"This is America," said Farooq Bhatti, president of the Pak Brothers Yellow Cab Drivers Union, which had many members among the bidders. "This is why you come here. This is how you get ahead."

Over the last two decades, as the price of medallions has soared, many medallion buyers have treated them more as investments to be sold at a profit than as keys to the taxi business. But not the drivers at yesterday's sale.

Trading whispers, the drivers at yesterday's session listened as their sealed bids were opened, occasionally oohing in unison at a high one or laughing at a low one.

Sotheby's it was not. The setting was a drab city hearing room in Soho. But for those involved, it lacked none of the heart-pumping excitement of a high-stakes art auc-

draft #1

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN FOR RELEASE MAY 15, 1996
TALKING IT OVER/CREATOR'S SYNDICATE

Last summer I wrote a column about the crisis of adoption in America. While not everybody agreed with what I had to say, the response was overwhelming -- and passionate.

I'm writing about adoption again because real progress may be on the horizon. The President supports legislation in Congress that will give families who adopt a child a \$5,000 tax credit. *rather than continue the efforts*
The bill will also make it easier for parents to adopt children of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

These are positive steps, but much more still is required. Why? Because 21,000 children are ready and waiting today for families to nurture and care for them. Tens of thousands of others will be eligible for adoption in the coming months and years.

Unless we change our mind-set about adoption, many of these children will not find permanent homes. That's because not all children awaiting adoption are healthy, nor are they all babies. Today, children of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances need the nurturing and care of loving families.

There are minority children languishing in foster care until parents of the same race come forward. Thousands of other children haven't been adopted because they suffer from physical

a # 6 Black & white

Last week, in honor of Mother's Day, I spoke with six mothers and their adopted children about the joys and challenges of adoption. These women have given the most important gift an adult can give to a child -- loving parents and a healthy, stable home. Their children have given them all of the rich rewards -- not to mention plenty of the worries -- that come with raising children.

Each woman had very typical stories to tell. Lorraine Gray remembered a time that all of her children missed their curfew on the same night. She also remembered that they never did it again. Pat Antrobus -- who adopted her sons Keith and Larry as teenagers -- said that while other new mothers were worrying about diapers and midnight feedings, she found herself worrying incessantly about sex and drugs.

They also each had stories that were not so typical. Margaret Fitzgerald spoke lovingly about visiting her newborn son, whose birth mother had abused drugs and alcohol during pregnancy, as he lay in an incubator weighing just over a pound. She would come to the hospital each day simply to stroke his foot. Today, William is a healthy and energetic four year old who seemed most interested in the discussion when Socks arrived for a visit.

Jude Lincicome, a single mother and nurse, talked about raising four multi-handicapped adopted children and preparing to adopt her fifth next month. When doctors said that one of her daughters would never walk and would not prescribe leg braces, Jude went to a nearby hardware store and built them herself. "The doctor was right," Jude told us. Her daughter "runs, not walks." When a member of my staff commented that what she has done for these children is extraordinary, she told us that, instead, it is her children who are extraordinary.

I have also spoken with children who are not as lucky as the sons and daughters of these mothers. Today, there are about [450,000 children] in the United States who need permanent families to love and nurture them. Almost half of these children have been waiting more than two years. More than half have some special need. They are disabled, older, have siblings who also need to be adopted, or are minority.

These children deserve what the children I met with last week have. That is why the President and I are committed to easing and encouraging the adoption process. We have increased by 60% the number of children with special needs who have been adopted because their adoptive families can get critical support for large medical bills or other expenses. We have supported programs to recruit and educate adoptive families. We launched a public awareness campaign on adoption. We championed the Family and Medical Leave Act -- which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or their health insurance.

But we should and can do more. The President has given his strong support to legislation in Congress that will give families who adopt a child a \$5,000 tax credit. This will allow middle-class families, for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, to adopt children to love and nurture.

How many
time they
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needs
(Kids
an article

We must also do all we can to end the historical bias against adoptions of children of one race by families of another race. Restrictions on interracial adoptions have meant interminable waits for children -- many of whom languish in foster care or institutions in the meantime. The bill in Congress takes steps to end this discrimination, as did the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act signed by the President in October 1994. But the problem goes beyond the written law. We need to bring together child psychologists with case workers to end the culture in our social services agencies that prevents families -- many of whom have long been foster parents for the children they are seeking to adopt -- from being chosen for children of different races.

The private sector can do more too. When Margaret Fitzgerald and her husband Reginald adopted William, her employer at the time, AT&T, reimbursed her legal fees and gave her two-months of unpaid leave to allow her to spend time caring for her new son. We have created an honor roll of private companies like AT&T who are making adoption easier for workers and their families. The list includes Aetna Life and Casualty, which gives employees \$3,000 per adopted child, [CHECK] and Chase Manhattan Bank, which offers parents returning to work after the birth or adoption of a baby eight weeks of on-site child care, parent education, and a parent support network. [ADD MORE OF A CHALLENGE?][CUT AND PUT WITH ACCOMP?]

We should pledge to make it possible for thousands and thousands more children to be adopted by this time next year. Money, regulations and skin color should not get in the way of giving each of our children the love, attention and stability they deserve.

As a poem a friend of mine who has adopted two children gave me says, says: son, who is ..., tells her that he grew in her heart, not in her stomach.

Her

EDUCATE COMMUNITY LEADERS, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN DO TO PROMOTE ADOPTION, RECRUIT FAMILIES ETC.

new idea
of ours
46-48
states
in compliance
now Congress
proposes
a 2nd law
says lot
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1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The New York Times

May 9, 1996, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 27; Column 1; Editorial Desk

LENGTH: 504 words

HEADLINE: The Wrong Way to Encourage Adoption

BYLINE: By David S. Liederman; David S. Liederman is executive director of the Child Welfare League of America, an association of public and private groups that place children in foster care and with adoptive families.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton is supporting the House Republicans' plan to give a \$5,000 tax credit to many families that adopt a child. In flush times, such a middle-class subsidy might make sense. But today the Government would do much better to use tax dollars to help families that adopt children who are otherwise unlikely to find a permanent home.

Few healthy infants of any race "languish" in foster care. Most are adopted straight from the hospital. So few healthy American infants are available that prospective adoptive parents frequently go abroad to find a child. With infertility on the rise, we don't need tax incentives to encourage people to adopt healthy infants.

But there are 21,000 children with special needs waiting to be adopted, and about 65,000 more are in the care of welfare agencies and awaiting legal clearance to be made available. Most have been placed in foster care because of parental neglect and abuse. Many have serious emotional and physical disabilities. Some have been exposed to drugs or infected with H.I.V. by their mothers. Most are of school age, and many are part of sibling groups that must be adopted together.

Fortunately there are people who want to adopt many of these children -- usually the foster parents, nurses and special education teachers who have fallen in love with the children they have been caring for.

But such children, especially those with physical disabilities, are often very expensive to raise. The small state and Federal adoption subsidies do little to offset the costs.

In Ohio, for example, the typical family that adopts a child with special needs has an annual income of less than \$40,000, has several children in the household, and the mother works at least part time. The average monthly adoption subsidy for such families in Ohio is only \$250.

The Government should use the \$1.7 billion that the tax-credit plan would

The New York Times, May 9, 1996

cost over the next seven years to help families that adopt children with special needs. This would mean increasing their monthly adoption subsidies, guaranteeing health coverage for as long as the child needs it and broadening services like day care and transportation.

The Government could spend a lot more money on these children, and it would still be cheaper than keeping them in foster care. In 1993, the average monthly subsidy for a child in foster care was \$468, while the average adoption assistance payment nationwide was only \$292.

The Government should also encourage adoption of children with special needs by running public-service announcements, counseling good foster parents and helping churches and other community groups find suitable families among their members.

A simple tax credit has the advantage of being easily understood by voters. Unfortunately, the problems that children and adoptive families confront are complex. Congress and President Clinton deserve praise for their attempt to help adoptive families. Now they should direct Federal aid to the children who need it most.

GRAPHIC: Drawing.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 9, 1996

draft #1

Last summer I wrote a column about the crisis of adoption in America. While not everybody agreed with what I had to say, the response was overwhelming -- and passionate.

I'm writing about adoption again because real progress may be on the horizon. The President supports legislation in Congress that will give families who adopt a child a \$5,000 tax credit. The bill will reinforce efforts to help parents who want to adopt children of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

These are positive steps, but much more still is required. Why? Because 21,000 children are ready and waiting today for families to nurture and care for them. Tens of thousands of others will be eligible for adoption in the coming months and years.

Unless we change our mind-set about adoption, many of these children will not find permanent homes. That's because not all children awaiting adoption are healthy, nor are they all babies. Today, children of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances need the nurturing and care of loving families.

There are minority children languishing in foster care until parents of the same race come forward. Thousands of other children haven't been adopted because they suffer from physical

disabilities and emotional traumas wrought by abusive or negligent birth parents. And still others cannot find placements because they're teenagers who already have been shuffled from home to home for years.

There is no easy solution to the adoption crisis. That's why government, businesses, civic and religious organizations and individual citizens must unite to create conditions that enable more parents to adopt children, even those with serious problems.

I'm thinking of parents like the ones who came to the White House last week to talk about the challenges and rewards of adoption.

One couple already had a 3-year-old adopted son when they heard about a premature one-pound baby girl ~~whose birth mother had abused drugs and alcohol~~. They decided to adopt the baby. Until she was ready to leave the hospital, they visited her every day, reaching into her incubator to stroke her foot. "I think the receiving blanket was heavier than she was...She was being fed by a tube in her stomach," the mother said.

Today, the little girl is three years old. "She was just like a little flower that blossomed...She is a burst of energy."

Now the couple, who are African-American, are in the process of adopting a 12-year old girl who was abused by her birth family. They also are encouraging more African-American families to open their homes to children in need.

Some steps have been taken in recent years to make adoption easier. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which became law three

years ago, ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fear of losing their jobs. The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of the adoptive parents' race, color or national origin. Over the past three years, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted has increased by 60 percent because families now get critical support for large medical bills and expenses.

Now we have the promise of a long overdue tax credit for parents who adopt. This is crucial. Adopting health/children is expensive enough, and it becomes even more costly when children require extra care.

With so many children in desperate need of loving homes, the private sector has a role to play as well. Wendy's, the hamburger chain founded by adoption advocate Dave Thomas (who himself was adopted), gives workers paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs.

Margaret Fitzgerald, who participated in our recent adoption discussion at the White House, said her employer, AT&T, gave her six weeks of unpaid leave when she and her husband adopted a son. That was before leave was required under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The company also reimbursed her legal fees.

Aetna Life and Casualty gives employees \$3,000 per adopted child and Chase Manhattan Bank offers temporary on-site child care, parent education and a parent support network for all new

parents, including those who adopt.

These public and private efforts are making a difference. Now we just need more prospective mothers and fathers to appreciate that, regardless of age, disability, race, or ethnic origin, every child has the capacity to bring great love and joy to a caring family.

As Margaret Fitzgerald said of her four-year-old adopted son, William: "Even though there is no blood between us, he is the highlight of my life."

###

Adoptive Parents Deserve Proposed Tax Break

To the Editor:

In "The Wrong Way to Encourage Adoption" (Op-Ed, May 9), David S. Liederman makes a worthy claim by suggesting that a tax credit for adoptive parents could be better spent on families that adopt special-needs children. However, he glosses over the financial burden imposed on adoptive families, dismissing the proposed \$5,000 credit as a middle-class subsidy.

The cost of adoption runs from \$15,000 to \$30,000. That is for only one child. Heaven forbid you want a second! Having spent their life savings or taken out loans for the adoption process, adoptive parents who have nothing left to raise their children and send them to college would find a tax break welcome relief.

Further, Mr. Liederman suggests that there is a shortage of healthy infants to adopt and that prospective parents go abroad. Prospective parents turn to international adoption for many reasons, including the very real fear of birth parents who change their minds or a desire to respond to the plight of children who languish in overcrowded, underfinanced orphanages.

How many people want to risk loving a special-needs child who may be taken away in favor of a drug-addicted or abusive birth parent? Indeed, the Federal Government should encourage adoption of such children. But the bill should not be paid by adoptive parents any more than by parents with child-care, medical or other tax-deductible expenses.

BEN GUTKIN
Forest Hills, Queens, May 9, 1996

To the Editor:

David S. Liederman argues that the proposed tax credit for couples who

adopt children is "the wrong way to encourage adoption" (Op-Ed, May 9). He may be right. But the encouragement of adoption is only a debatable byproduct of such a tax credit.

The main reason is to offer adopting parents the financial breaks that biological parents receive. For a couple who are able to have their own biological children, the heavy medical expenses of prenatal care and delivery are offset by health insurance and could be in part tax-deductible.

But for an adopting couple the costs and fees for adoption are not



Gloria Carmi

defrayed by either means. The proposed tax credit would rectify this imbalance.

RUFUS HALLMARK
Brooklyn, May 10, 1996

To the Editor:

Your May 11 editorial and David S. Liederman's May 9 Op-Ed article summarize the issues concerning the proposed tax credit for adoptive parents passed by the House last week.

Faced with inadequate resources for older, disabled, special-needs and hard-to-place children, the child welfare community must question this proposed reallocation of scarce resources.

Children dismissed as "unadoptable" have in the past languished in temporary placements. But the cycle of drugs and abuse into which they were born can be broken. For instance, therapeutic foster homes, community-based care and adoption assistance made possible through Federal support has provided thousands of children with a second chance at life.

These children can have stable and healthy families to nurture them, but it takes work, commitment and resources.

Rose, 10, and her brother, Phil, 8, were physically and sexually abused by drug-addicted parents. Tormented by rage and an inability to attach or trust, they went from temporary placement to temporary placement.

Christopher was born to a teenage, drug-addicted mother who abandoned him. He lived with neighbors for 18 months and then moved into temporary placements.

The impulsive behavior and neediness of these children sabotaged every placement. But after intensive treatment in pre-adoption group homes, they are ready to accept life with a family.

Public resources are well used to stabilize emotionally wounded adoptive children. These investments are a fraction of the alternative costs of residential placement, psychiatric care or the criminal justice system.

ROBERT B. JONES
President and Chief Executive
Children's Aid and Family Services
Hackensack, N.J., May 11, 1996

6246

Carol Williams

Tune Shift

260-9345

PHONE 

5

I can be reached at

~~202~~ 456-5640

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

phone 202-456-6266
fax 202-456-6244

TO

Anita Tobias & Katherine Searcy

FROM

Lissa Muscatine

FAX #

310-337-7625

PHONE #

OF PAGES (including cover)

6

COMMENTS

Mrs. Clinton has not seen
draft

202-260-9345

Carol Williams

205-8622

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

phone 202-456-6266 5640
fax 202-456-6244

TO

Adrienne Ward

FROM

June Shih

FAX #

215-224-3433

PHONE #

OF PAGES (including cover)

5

COMMENTS

I can be reached at 202 456-5640

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

13-May-1996 02:59pm

TO: Alison Muscatine
FROM: Jennifer L. Klein
Domestic Policy Council
SUBJECT: Adoption

Most recent data on special needs kids -- in 1993, there were approximately 86,000 foster children in the country for whom adoption agencies had determined that adoption was the appropriate goal. Approximately 21,000 of these children were legally free to be adopted and were waiting to be adopted. More than half of these children had special needs.

Also, Melanne had a few more thoughts about the column. She thinks we should say that we need to do everything (i.e., David Liederman is right, but so is the tax credit proposal in Congress). She also thinks that the part about changing the culture of social services is important to fixing the problem with transracial adoption.

mw/

? crinkle -
agreed to
because bad day.
have
medical
costs

other children
Can be miracles,
Can be extraordinary
→ help w/ costs, medical
needs

703-683-2477

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

13-May-1996 03:10pm

TO: Alison Muscatine
FROM: Jennifer L. Klein
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Adoption Again

One more thing. Here is the poem:

Not flesh of my flesh
Nor bone of my bone
But still, miraculously, my own.

Never forget for a single minute:
You didn't grow under my heart --
But in it.

-- Anonymous

(Justin, Rochann's adopted son, always explains that instead of growing in his Mommy's tummy, he grew in her heart.)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. draft	HRC draft column [partial] (1 page)	05/15/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12073

FOLDER TITLE:

Column - Adoptions 5/16/96

2017-1164-S
rc2360

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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→ special needs
→

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN FOR RELEASE MAY 15, 1996
TALKING IT OVER/CREATOR'S SYNDICATE

Last Sunday, millions of children across our country honored their mothers on Mother's Day.

But everyday in America, tens of thousands of other children have no one to call "Mom." They continue to wait for adoption and the love of a mother, a father, and a family.

When we think of adoption, we often have a picture in our minds of infants being welcomed into a family. But adoption today involves children and teenagers of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances. Adoption provides a new beginning for school-aged children; children with physical, emotional and educational disabilities; minority children, and brothers and sisters who want to stay together.

Just look at the experience of (b)(6) who [cool] are African-American and the adoptive parents of a son and a daughter. I met the (b)(6) at a White House ceremony to call attention to America's waiting children.

(b)(6) spoke about visiting the newborn (b)(6) as she lay in an incubator weighing just over a pound. (b)(6) birth mother had abused drugs and alcohol while she was pregnant. (b)(6) would come to the hospital each day simply to stroke her foot. "She was so tiny...The blanket was heavier than she was. She was being fed by a tube in her stomach," (b)(6) said.

Today, (b)(6) is three years old. "She was just like a flower that blossomed. She is a burst of energy."

The (b)(6) are also in the process of adopting a 12-year old girl who had been abused by her natural family.

Since becoming a mother, (b)(6) has worked hard to recruit more African-American families to adopt children, especially older children. "They're looking for love just like the babies," she said.

I know that adoption as it currently is can be a frustrating and emotionally-draining process. There are immense obstacles -- red-tape and expensive legal costs -- that have led many parents to despair of ever adopting children.

That is why we need to continue our efforts to reform our adoption system. The President is proposing a \$5,000 tax credit to help middle class families adopt children. The Family and Medical Leave Act ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs. And we all need to support efforts that help adoptive families take care of children born with special health care needs.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. fax	re; personal stories (1 page)	05/03/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12073

FOLDER TITLE:

Column - Adoptions 5/16/96

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003. fax	re: personal story and SSN and DOB [Personally Identifiable Information] (1 page)	05/08/1996	b(6)

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Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12073

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
330 C. STREET, SW, SWITZER BLDG., ROOM 2070
WASHINGTON, DC, 20201-0001
OFFICE***202-205-8618 FAX***(202)260-9345

*****FAX COVER SHEET*****

DATE: 5/14/96

TO: Jane Smith

ORGANIZATION: FLOTUS

RECIPIENT'S FAX NUMBER: 456-6244

301-929-8296

FROM: William

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: OFFICE****(202)205-8618
FAX***** (202)260-9345.

NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET: _____

REMARKS: _____

draft #1

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^{Cost of raising a child with special needs} Now we have the promise of a long overdue tax credit for ^{subsidy} ^{Protection of}

parents who adopt. This is crucial. Adopting health children is expensive enough, and it becomes even more costly when children require extra care. ^{This credit is not targeted to help}

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005. fax	re: list of adoptees and relatives (1 page)	05/03/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12073

FOLDER TITLE:

Column - Adoptions 5/16/96

2017-1164-S
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Possible Event Sites:*basement of a
church*

- * Center for Child Protection's Family Support Center
located in Covenant Baptist Church - MLK Blvd & South
Capitol St - contact: Joyce Thomas (202) 544-3144
- * Children's Museum
3rd and H Street, NE (202) 675-4120
- * The National Arboretum
NE- 202-245-2726
- * Somner School Museum & Archives -
17th & M Streets, NW (202) 727-3419

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. draft	re: draft HRC Column [partial] (1 page)	05/15/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 12073

FOLDER TITLE:

Column - Adoptions 5/16/96

2017-1164-S
rc2360

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN FOR RELEASE MAY 15, 1996
TALKING IT OVER/CREATOR'S SYNDICATE

Last Sunday, ~~hundreds of thousands~~ ^{millions} of children across ~~this~~ ^{our} country honored their mothers on Mother's Day.

~~At the same time,~~ ^B tens of thousands of other children in ~~cities across this country~~ ^{are children} had no one for whom they could make ~~cards or bring "breakfast in bed."~~ ^{They call now.} As they continue to wait for adoptive families, tens of thousands of American children are growing up without mothers and fathers to teach them right and wrong, to nurture their dreams, to tell them they are special.

When we think of adoption, we have a picture in our minds of infants being welcomed into a family. But adoption today involves children and teenagers of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances. Adoption ~~has provided~~ a new beginning for school-aged children; adolescents; children with physical, emotional and educational disabilities; children of different races and cultures and brothers and sisters who want to stay together.

Just look at . . . , who I met last week.

Sixty percent of the children in this country who are waiting to join loving families are school-age children. ~~Four out of ten are white.~~ Four out of ten are African American. One out of 14 is Hispanic. Two out of three have special needs.

And each one of these children has the capacity to love, to bring new joy and energy into a family.

I had the privilege last week to meet six very special mothers at a White House ceremony to call attention to America's waiting children.

Margaret Fitzgerald spoke about visiting her newborn son,

(b)(6)

[002]

"Even though there is no blood between us, he is the highlight of my life," Margaret said.

*Hope in the credit - other . . .
But it's not enough.*

It's the children who are extraordinary

I know that adoption as it currently is can be a frustrating and emotionally-draining process. A newspaper column I wrote on adoption this summer generated more responses than almost any other I've written. Prospective parents wrote to tell me of the immense obstacles - red-tape and expensive legal costs - that have led them to despair of ever adopting children.

The President is committed to easing and encouraging the adoption process.

In particular, the Administration is working hard to ease the adoption of minority and special needs children. The President is committed to enforcing the Multiethnic Placement Act, which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of a child or prospective adoptive parents.

This Administration also supported the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act which ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fearing the loss of their jobs.

And the Administration has launched a public education campaign about adoption - a campaign in which I am honored to participate.

These are just some of the many initiatives designed to support the placement of children in loving homes.

But all of your efforts and all of the Administration's efforts to strengthen our families and children could be jeopardized by actions in Congress.

The government currently provides subsidies to families who adopt special needs children - those living with AIDS or cerebral palsy, for instance - since they may have large medical and other expenses.

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Many of the obstacles willing adoptive parents face are unnecessary. At the ceremony, I met Julie Stinger, who is the mother of five adopted children, (b)(6)

[008]

(b)(6)
Julie, who is white, told me that she ran into a host of problems when she tried to adopt her oldest two sons, who are African-American. Though she had already cared for them for eighteen months and their birth parents had already approved of the adoption, the process was delayed so social workers could search for African-American parents.

Several years after her first adoptions were approved, Julie tried to adopt her youngest son, who is white. That adoption was delayed because social workers hesitated about placing the boy with Julie's four black children!

Still, Julie says she has no regrets. Though they continue to struggle with health problems, all of her children are doing well in school. She encourages her children to learn more about their ethnic heritage and finds them African-American mentors who can answer the questions she cannot. "Even though we had trauma in the adoptions I would do it again, ten times over," she says. "I think adopting a child is the most gratifying thing to ever happen to me."

While there are many people like (b)(6) working to recruit more African-American families, there are simply not enough African-American parents for all of the children waiting for adoption. That's why I believe that placing a child with loving and competent parents, regardless of the race, should be our only priority. Too many children have been denied loving parents simply because of their race.

We are seeing much progress on this front through the Multiethnic Placement Act which prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin of the prospective adoptive parents.

The parents I spoke to had made tremendous differences in the lives of the children they adopted. Most were literally "rescued" from lives as the wards of the state. But adoption also makes a tremendous difference in the lives of parents.

As Margaret Fitzgerald, the adoptive mother of four-year old William, said, "Even though there is no blood between us, he is the highlight of my life."

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disabilities and emotional traumas wrought by abusive or negligent birth parents. And still others cannot find placements because they're teenagers who already have been shuffled from home to home for years.

There is no easy solution to the adoption crisis. That's why government, businesses, civic and religious organizations and individual citizens must unite to create conditions that enable more parents to adopt children, even those with serious problems.

I'm thinking of parents like ^{the mother and father} (b)(6) who [009] came to the White House last week to talk about the challenges and rewards of adoption.

The (b)(6) already had an 3-year-old adopted son when they heard about a premature one-pound baby girl whose birth mother had abused drugs and alcohol. The (b)(6) decided to adopt her.

^{the mother} (b)(6) visited (b)(6) in the hospital every day, reaching into her incubator to stroke her foot. "I think the receiving blanket was heavier than she was...She was being fed by a tube in her stomach," (b)(6) said.

Today, ^{no little girl} (b)(6) is three years old. "She was just like a little flower that blossomed...She is a burst of energy."

Now the (b)(6) ^{family,} who are ~~African-American~~, are in the process of adopting a 12-year old girl who was abused by her birth family. They also are encouraging more African-American families to open their homes to children in need.

Some steps have been taken in recent years to make adoption easier. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which became law three

years ago, ensures that parents can take time off when they adopt a child, without fear of losing their jobs. The Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 prohibits adoption agencies from denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of the adoptive parents' race, color or national origin.

Now we have the promise of a long overdue tax credit for parents who adopt. This is crucial. Adopting health children is expensive enough, and it becomes even more costly when children require extra care. Over the past three years, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted has increased by 60 percent because families now get critical support for large medical bills and expenses.

With so many children in desperate need of loving homes, the private sector has a role to play as well. Wendy's, the hamburger chain founded by adoption advocate Dave Thomas (who himself was adopted), gives workers paid leave and financial assistance with adoption costs.

Margaret Fitzgerald, who participated in our recent adoption discussion at the White House, said her employer, AT&T, gave her six weeks of unpaid leave when she and her husband adopted a son. That was before leave was required under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The company also reimbursed her legal fees.

Aetna Life and Casualty gives employees \$3,000 per adopted child and Chase Manhattan Bank offers temporary on-site child care, parent education and a parent support network for parents

who adopt. *As well as for birth parents.*

These public and private efforts are making a difference. Now we just need more prospective parents to appreciate that, regardless of age, disability, race, or ethnic origin, every child has the capacity to bring great love and joy to a caring family.

As Margaret Fitzgerald said of her four-year-old son, William: "Even though there is no blood between us, he is the highlight of my life."

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