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Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Sarah Bianchi
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FOLDER TITLE:

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments

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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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- 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]
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BACKUP

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Supporting Women and Families

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Protecting Families.** The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.
- **Cutting Taxes for 15 Million Working Families** by extending the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 1997, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people, including 2.2 million children, out of poverty -- double the number of people lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993.
- **Increasing the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15**, giving six million women a raise.
- **Narrowing the Wage Gap.** In 1996, the median earnings of women working full-time increased 3 percent. In 1997, the median earnings of women represented 74 percent of the median earnings for men, the narrowest gap ever.
- **Fighting for Paycheck Equity.** Called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination.
- **Highest Homeownership Rate in History.** There are more than seven million new homeowners since the President took office. Women's homeownership has increased 14% with 1.9 million new women homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.
- **Providing Incentives to Save.** The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.
- **Increasing Pension Security.** Fought for legislation that has expanded pension coverage, made pensions more secure for 40 million American workers and retirees, and simplified pension plan administration. Promoting new efforts to encourage retirement savings.
- **Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits.** In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.
- **Saving Social Security First.** In 1999, nearly 60 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries will be women. Social Security will be the major source of retirement income for a majority of these women. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century and has urged that budget surpluses be reserved for a bipartisan plan to strengthen Social Security.

CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN:

- **Extending Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).** This is the single largest investment in Health Care for children since 1965. The President fought to ensure that the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to millions of uninsured children.
- **Fought for and Won \$500 Child Tax Credit for 26 Million Families with Over 40**

Million Children under Age 17. Twelve million children from families with income below \$30,000 will receive the child tax credit as a result of the President's efforts.

· **Largest Four-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s.** Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 19.9 percent -- the biggest four-year drop in nearly 30 years (1965-1969). While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

· **Helping 7.4 Million Women and Children with WIC.** In FY99, 7.4 million women, infants and children will receive health and food assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), one million more than in 1994.

· **Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families.** Issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.

· **Held First-Ever White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning and the White House Conference on Child Care.** In April 1997, the President and First Lady held the White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning to highlight the benefits of early nurturing by parents. And in October 1997, the White House Conference on Child Care began a dialogue on the child care challenges facing parents today -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.

· **Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History.** In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

· **Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act.** This law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.

· **Signed the Comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative.** Thanks to President Clinton, immunization rates among two-year-olds have reached historic highs.

· **Took Steps to Ensure Children Have Safe Medications.** Unveiled an FDA regulation that protects children by requiring manufacturers to study appropriate dosage levels of drugs for pediatric populations.

· **Launched New Strategies to Reduce the High Rate of Teen Pregnancies.** Teen (aged 15 to 19 years) births have fallen six years in a row, by 12 percent from 1991 to 1996.

· **Increased Child Support Collections by 80%.** Signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history.

· **Imposed Strict Measures to Keep Cigarettes out of the Hands of Our Children** by restricting youth-targeted advertising; and the FDA made 18 the minimum age to purchase tobacco products nationwide, requiring photo I.D.s for anyone under the age of 27. And the President is fighting to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

· **Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years.** Maintaining his longtime commitment to

education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

- **Providing Early Education to 835,000 Children with Head Start.** More than 200,000 additional children are enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992.
- **More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Class Sizes.** Won a down payment on the President's new initiative to hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers, helping school districts reduce class size in the early grades.
- **Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade.** More than 1000 colleges have committed Work Study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. Won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.
- **Striving for Excellence with National Education Standards.** Seeking high national standards for all students, the President has proposed a first-ever national test in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math.
- **Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public School.** Supported increase of public charter schools, from one charter school in the nation in 1993 to more than 1,000 charter schools in 1998, on track toward 3,000 quality charter schools early next century.
- **Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children.** Created a new mentoring initiative to help up to 100,000 low income middle school children prepare for college.
- **Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year.** Expanded the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.
- **Paying for College Through Community Service.** AmeriCorps has allowed more than 100,000 young people to serve their communities while earning money for college or skills training.
- **Fought for Passage of Education Tax Breaks to Promote Lifelong Learning.** Representing the largest single increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included a \$1,500 Hope Scholarship to make the first two years of college universally available, and a 20-percent tuition tax credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and working Americans pursuing lifelong learning.
- **Expanded Work Study.** This year, nearly one million students will be able to work their way through college because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program.
- **Largest Maximum Pell Grant Award Ever.** In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the largest one-year increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years. In 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever.

IMPROVING OUR NATION'S HEALTH:

- **Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting the 22 Million American Women Enrolled in Medicare.** Extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits, including more affordable annual mammograms for all beneficiaries, cervical cancer

screening, and tests to help detect osteoporosis. The President also put forth a proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

- **Increased Funding for Breast Cancer Research.** Since the President took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has doubled, from \$283 million in FY93 to \$550 million in FY98 (Health and Human Services' discretionary funding). In addition, the President has implemented the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure the quality of mammograms. Women can now find a certified mammography facility by calling 1-800-4-CANCER.

- **Providing Protection with the Patients' Bill of Rights.** The President has called on Congress to pass Federally enforceable consumer health care protections that include: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists including direct access to an OB-GYN; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to ensure that patients' care will not abruptly change if their provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process for consumers to resolve their differences with their health plans; a limit on financial incentives to doctors to limit care and assurances that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options. Women are particularly vulnerable without these health care protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs that are directly addressed by a patients' bill of rights.

- **Preventing Discrimination Based on Genetic Information Both by Health Plans and Employers.** The Administration has urged Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to prohibit health plans from inappropriately using genetic screening information to deny coverage, set premiums, or to distribute confidential information. The President also has supported legislation that ensures that employers do not use genetic information to discriminate against employees.

- **Fought for Greater Health Security for America's Families.** The President signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which helps millions of Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions keep their health insurance.

- **Endorsed Legislation That Would Ban Drive-thru Mastectomies,** allowing women to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours following a mastectomy.

- **Ended Drive-Thru Deliveries.** Proposed and signed into law legislation requiring insurers to cover at least 48 hours of a post-natal hospital stay (72 hours for a Cesarean).

MAKING OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES SAFER:

- **Violent Crime at Lowest Level Since 1973.** Violent crime fell 7 percent in 1997 and 21 percent since 1993. The murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

- **Putting 100,000 New Police on the Street.** In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities.

- **Signed the Assault Weapons Ban, the Brady Bill and an Extension of Brady into Law.** The Brady Law has already kept handguns away from more than 250,000 persons including felons, fugitives and other prohibited purchasers (including individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or who are under restraining orders). The President signed into law the extension of the Brady Law, which prohibits anyone convicted of a

domestic violence offense -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm.

- **Held the First-Ever White House Conference on School Safety.** On October 15, 1998, the President hosted the White House Conference on School Safety. The participants explored solutions to this national challenge: How do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school in America.
- **Signed Megan's Law and the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act.** Requiring states to set up sex offender registration systems and allows community notification when sex offenders move into neighborhoods.
- **Championed and Signed the Violence Against Women Act,** the cornerstone of the President's efforts to fight domestic violence, bolstering local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address these crimes. Created the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. Won \$283 million in FY99 budget to continue the Administration's efforts to combat gender-based crime.
- **More than Quadrupled Funding to Domestic Violence Shelters** and signed the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996 which makes it a Federal crime to cross state lines intending to injure or harass another person.
- **Established Nationwide 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline.** The hotline (1-800-797-SAFE) provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need. Since the hotline opened, there have been more than 230,000 calls -- averaging 8,000 calls a month -- from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN:

- **Reversed the "Gag Rule"** limiting the information federally funded family planning clinics could give to women.
- **Increased Funding for Family Planning.** The FY99 budget increased Title X Family Planning grants by \$12 million -- a 24 percent increase since FY93. And in 1998, successfully defeated parental consent restrictions on contraceptives services for minors.
- **Provided Contraceptive Coverage to More than a Million Women.** The FY99 budget requires the 300 Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans (FEHBP) to cover contraceptive drugs and devices, providing coverage to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age.
- **Protected FDA's Role in Testing RU-486.** In 1993, reversed the ban on the importation of Mifepristone or RU-486. In 1998, successfully fought for removal of a provision that would prohibit the FDA from testing, developing or approving RU-486, thereby usurping the Agency's role in making scientific determinations about the effect of drugs on the safety and health of the American people.
- **Signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act,** establishing a safety-zone around women's health clinics.

STRENGTHENING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS:

- **Increasing Funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).** The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

GENERATING MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN:

- **Women Are Starting Businesses at Twice the Rate of All Businesses.** Women own nearly 40 percent of all firms in the United States. These eight million women-owned firms employ 18.5 million -one in every five U.S. workers - and contribute \$2.3 trillion to the economy. The Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership is working to foster this growth.
- **Expanded Small Business Opportunities for Women.** In the FY99 budget, doubled the funding for SBA Women's Business Centers which provides resources to foster increased entrepreneurship among women.
- **Tripled the Number of Small Business Loans to Women Entrepreneurs.** Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 50,000 loans to women entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 10,000 loans, worth \$1.67 billion, to women small business owners, triple the number of loans granted in 1992.

WOMEN AS PARTNERS IN DECISION MAKING:

- **Appointed More Women than Any Other President** -- 40 percent of Administration appointees are women.
- **Women Hold 28 Percent of the Top Positions** -- 28 percent of the positions requiring Senate confirmation (PAS) are held by women. Additionally,
 - 34 percent of Presidential appointments, including boards and commissions, are held by women.
 - 41 percent of non-career Senior Executive Service positions are held by women.
 - 58 percent of Schedule C positions are held by women.
- **Appointed the First Women Ever to Serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno, and Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.** Including the Attorney General and Secretary of State, women make up 32 percent of the Clinton Cabinet: Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Janet Yellen, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; and Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative all serve in the President's Cabinet.
- **30 Percent of All of the President's Judicial Nominees Are Women.**
- **Nominated the Second Woman to Serve on the Supreme Court.** During his first year in office, President Clinton nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the United States Supreme Court. Justice Ginsburg is only the second woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments by Issue

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The Clinton-Gore Administration

A Record of Progress for Gay and Lesbian Americans

"Discrimination or violence because of race or religion, ancestry or gender, disability or sexual orientation, is wrong, and it ought to be illegal. Therefore, I ask Congress to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act the law of the land."

-- President Clinton, State of the Union Address to Congress, January 19, 1999

"It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests -- they are matters of basic human and civil rights."

-- Vice President Gore, September 15, 1997

Working for Basic Fairness and Against Hate

Fighting For Hate Crimes Legislation. In 1997, the President announced his sponsorship of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act during the historic White House Conference on Hate Crimes. This crucial legislation would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department to prosecute hate crimes by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes. And for the first time in history, it would give Federal prosecutors the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability.

On April 6, 1999, the President urged Congress to pass this pending legislation and announced a new public-private partnership to focus attention on issues of hate, tolerance and diversity in schools. President Clinton also called on the Departments of Justice and Education to include hate crimes in their annual report card on school safety and to report on hate crimes and bias on college campuses. The President and Vice President continue to push Congress to pass this important legislation and to speak out against hate. As the Vice President said on September 19, 1998: "If we allow even a small number of Americans to harbor and act upon malice and intolerance, we all feel the bitter sting of injustice. Let us send a clear message to those would commit crimes of hate: it is wrong, it is illegal, and we will punish you with the full force of our laws... Crimes of hate against all people -- including gays and lesbians -- should carry a punishment that is swift and severe."

Additionally, as part of the 1994 Crime Act, President Clinton signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, providing for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime based on sexual orientation.

Appointed the First --Ever Openly Gay United States Ambassador. On October 6, 1997 and again on January 6, 1999, the President nominated **James C. Hormel** to be U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg. Although Mr. Hormel's qualifications were never in question, and it was generally agreed that his nomination would have easily won a floor vote, a handful of conservative Senators blocked the nomination. Because of this, on June 4, 1999, President Clinton announced the recess appointment of James Hormel. This appointment makes Mr. Hormel the first-ever openly gay United States Ambassador.

Ending Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Civilian Workforce. President Clinton issued an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal civilian workforce. This makes the Federal Government the largest employer in the world (1.8 million civilian employees) with a non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation. The Federal government recently released a guidebook on this non-discrimination policy for its employees and personnel managers. And the President, working with a bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives, successfully

defeated an attempt to overturn the policy. The President also issued an Executive Order mandating that security clearances no longer be denied based on sexual orientation.

Endorsing Legislation that Outlaws Discrimination in the Workplace. President Clinton said in his 1999 State of the Union Address, "I ask Congress to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act... the law of the land." President Clinton and Vice President Gore endorsed and continue to fight for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill outlawing discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions based on sexual orientation. This makes them the first U.S. President and Vice President ever to back civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians. The legislation would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace, extending basic employment protections to gay and lesbian Americans.

Issuing the First-Ever Gay and Lesbian Pride Month Proclamation. In June 1999, President Clinton issued the first Gay and Lesbian Pride Month proclamation. This historic action marked, as the President said, "the Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement." In the proclamation, President Clinton encouraged "all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate our diversity, and to remember throughout the year the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life."

Standing Up for Basic Fairness, Protecting Adoption Rights. President Clinton blocked Republican efforts to pass legislation prohibiting unmarried couples from jointly adopting children in the District of Columbia and legislation which would have denied certain Federal funds to localities with domestic partnership laws.

Working to Stop Discrimination Against People With AIDS. President Clinton supports the Supreme Court's decision in *Brigdon v. Abbott*, which reinforces the protections offered by the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS. The President directed the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to vigorously prosecute those who discriminate against people with AIDS, leading to actions against health care providers and facilities that violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Opposing Anti-Gay Ballot Initiatives. President Clinton strongly opposed anti-gay ballot initiatives in Colorado and Oregon. His two nominees to the Supreme Court voted to overturn Colorado's Amendment 2, declaring such initiatives unconstitutional violations of the Equal Protection clause of the Constitution.

Fighting Discrimination Against People with AIDS in the Military. President Clinton successfully fought for the repeal of the Dornan amendment, which required the expulsion of all HIV-positive military service members regardless of their ability to do their jobs. Prior to its repeal, President Clinton took the highly unusual step of unilaterally declaring the law unconstitutional and instructing the Department of Justice not to defend it in court, becoming the first president since Franklin Roosevelt to take such action.

Helping Those Fleeing Persecution Because of Their Sexual Orientation. President Clinton's Administration is the first ever to grant asylum for gays and lesbians facing persecution in other countries. The President sent gay human rights activist Keith Boykin to Zimbabwe as part of an official United States delegation. Mr. Boykin investigated human rights abuses of gays and lesbians there.

Banning Insurance Discrimination. President Clinton fought for and signed the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which bans insurance discrimination against people with pre-existing medical conditions including HIV/AIDS. In addition, President Clinton issued a directive that ensures that all providers of Federal health insurance abide by non-discrimination rules including sexual orientation.

Fighting Harassment of Students Based on Sexual Orientation. President Clinton's Department of Education has issued landmark guidance that explains Federal standards against sexual harassment and that prohibits sexual harassment of all students regardless of their sexual orientation. At the White House Conference on School Violence last October, the President ordered the Education Department's civil rights office to step up its enforcement of anti-discrimination and harassment rules. That effort has resulted in, among other things, a groundbreaking guide for use by school administrators and teachers titled: *Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crime*. The Guide provides practical guidance for developing a comprehensive approach to protecting all students, including gays and lesbians, from harassment and violence.

An Administration that Includes All Americans

President Clinton Has Created an Administration That Is Highly Talented and the Most Inclusive in History. Creating the most diverse Administration in history, the President has appointed openly gay men and lesbians to all levels government, including judicial appointments and top Executive Branch positions requiring Senate confirmation. In fact, President Clinton is the first President to appoint an openly gay or lesbian person to an Administration post. The President has appointed more than 150 openly gay and lesbian appointees, including:

- **Virginia Apuzzo**, the former Assistant to the President for Management and Administration (the first openly gay or lesbian Assistant to the President); **Karen Tramontano**, Assistant to the President and Counselor to the Chief of Staff; and **Sean Maloney**, Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary. They are the highest-ranking openly gay or lesbian people ever to serve in the Federal Government;
- **Fred Hochberg**, Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the first openly gay person to be appointed Deputy in an U.S. cabinet-level agency;
- Former Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office **Bruce Lehman**, the first openly gay man to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate;
- Former Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development **Roberta Achtenberg**, the first open lesbian confirmed by the U.S. Senate, served in this position from 1993 to 1995;
- **Gail Shibley**, the Director of External Communications for the Federal Highway Administration;
- **Vic Basile**, the Director of Private Sector Cooperation and International Volunteerism for the Peace Corps;
- **Romulo Diaz**, Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management at the Environmental Protection Agency;
- **John Berry**, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for the Department of Interior;
- **Robert Raben**, nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice;
- **Harold Creel, Jr.**, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission;
- **Todd Dickinson**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Deputy Commissioner, Patent and Trademark Office;
- **Elaine Kaplan**, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel;
- **Jesse White, Jr.**, Federal Co-Chairman, Appalachian Regional Commission;
- **Todd Summers**, Deputy Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy; and
- **Daniel C. Montoya**, Executive Director of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Reaching Out to All Communities. This Administration is committed to a policy of inclusion. President Clinton named the first Presidential Liaison to the gay and lesbian community, **Marsha Scott**. Later, he named the first openly gay senior policy adviser on civil rights issues, **Richard Socarides**.

The First President and Vice President to Speak before Gay and Lesbian

Organizations. In January 1999, President Clinton advocated for gay and lesbian issues in his State of the Union remarks, the first president ever to do so. On November 8, 1997, he also became the first sitting president to speak before a gay and lesbian organization when he delivered the keynote address to the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner. In September 1997, the Vice President addressed the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the first vice president to speak at a gay rights event. In 1998, the Vice President spoke before the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C., and the Empire State Pride Agenda in New York City. Both the President and the Vice President regularly meet with gay and lesbian leaders. And notably, the work of the Administration "for outstanding contributions to lesbian and gay youth" was recognized last year by The Hetrick-Martin Institute with the Emery S. Hetrick Award. The President delivered videotaped remarks to this group, which advocates for gay and lesbian youth.

Improving Health Care Quality and Increasing Access

Providing National Leadership. President Clinton has worked hard to invigorate the response to HIV and AIDS, providing new national leadership, substantially greater resources and a closer working relationship with affected communities. During his administration, funding for AIDS research has increased by over 57 percent at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and funding for HIV prevention has increased 36 percent. Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act has increased by over 290 percent. Although much work remains to find a cure, progress has been made. In 1996, for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined. And between 1996 and 1997, HIV/AIDS mortality declined 47 percent, falling from the leading cause of death among 25-44 year olds in 1995 to the fifth leading cause of death in that age group. There has been a decline in the number of AIDS cases overall and a sharp decline in new AIDS cases in infants and children.

Protecting Medicaid and Social Security Coverage. The President fought for and won the preservation of the Medicaid guarantee of coverage which serves more than 50 percent of people living with AIDS -- and 92 percent of children with AIDS -- who rely on Medicaid for health coverage. He also revised eligibility rules for Social Security Disability Insurance to increase the number of HIV+ persons who qualify for benefits.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Focusing National Efforts on an AIDS Vaccine. On May 18, 1997, the President challenged the nation to develop an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. He announced a number of initiatives to help fulfill this goal, including: dedicating an AIDS vaccine research center at the National Institutes of Health and encouraging domestic and international collaboration among governments, medical communities and service organizations.

Dramatically Increasing Overall AIDS Funding. The Clinton Administration has responded aggressively to the significant threat posed by HIV/AIDS with increased attention to research, prevention and treatment. President Clinton has increased overall funding for major HIV/AIDS programs by 122 percent (within HHS), funding for the Ryan White CARE programs has increased 290 percent and support for AIDS-related research

has increased by over 57 percent.

Increasing AIDS Drug Assistance and Accelerating AIDS Drug Approvals. Funding for AIDS drug assistance has increased from \$52 million per year to \$461 million per year during the Clinton Administration. This program provides new life-prolonging drugs to people with HIV and AIDS. In addition, President Clinton convened the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, and removed dozens of bureaucratic obstacles to the effective and decent treatment of people with AIDS. Since 1993, the Food and Drug Administration has approved dozens of new AIDS drugs, new drugs for AIDS-related conditions and new diagnostic tests.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color. Racial and ethnic communities make up the fastest growing portion of HIV/AIDS cases (more than 50 percent of all new HIV cases). As part of the FY99 budget, the Clinton Administration fought for and won a comprehensive new initiative that invests an unprecedented \$156 million to improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting-edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Making Research a Priority. In one of his first acts in office, President Clinton signed the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, placing full responsibility for planning, budgeting and evaluation of the AIDS research program at NIH in the Office of AIDS Research. The Administration has increased NIH AIDS research funds by 50 percent in six years.

Promoting Lesbian Health Issues. Under President Clinton's leadership, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have commissioned scientific panels to study lesbian health issues and to suggest research methods for scientists who want to study specific lesbian health issues. This is the first time a U.S. Government agency has commissioned an examination into this subject. On January 14, 1999, the Institute of Medicine, an independent research organization commissioned by the Administration, released *Lesbian Health: Current Assessment and Directions for the Future*, a significant new study that includes suggested areas of additional research and recommendations for improving the understanding of lesbian health issues.

Focusing on Prevention: Supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Administration has increased funds for HIV prevention at the CDC by 32 percent in six years. Under the leadership of the Clinton Administration, the CDC reorganized its AIDS prevention efforts to foster greater overall coordination and enhance efforts to reduce sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis.

Educating Young People about the Dangers of AIDS. The Clinton Administration launched the Prevention Marketing Initiative, focusing on the risk to young adults (18-25) with frank public service announcements recommending the correct and consistent use of latex condoms for those who are sexually active.

Requiring the Federal Workforce to Understand AIDS. The Administration issued a directive on September 30, 1993, that requires every Federal employee to receive comprehensive education on HIV/AIDS.

Established a White House AIDS Office and Created a Presidential Advisory Council. President Clinton created a White House Office of National AIDS Policy to bring greater direction and visibility to the war on AIDS. At the same time, the Administration has sharpened the focus of its AIDS programs. The President also created the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to provide him and his Administration with expert outside advice on the ways in which the Federal government should respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Dr. R. Scott Hitt, an openly gay California physician, chairs the panel.

Convened the First Ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS. On December 6, 1995, the President convened the first White House Conference on HIV and AIDS in the history of the epidemic, bringing together more than 300 experts, activists and citizens from across the country for a discussion of key issues.

"I think if we really could create a society where there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all and we believed in a community of all Americans, we could truly meet every problem we have and seize every opportunity we have."

-- President Clinton, November 8, 1997

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments by Issue



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Clinton-Gore Administration Accomplishments:
Improving the Quality of Life for America's Working Families

Progress By The Numbers

Jobs & The Economy:

Unemployment

4.3 percent unemployment -- the lowest peacetime rate since 1957. The unemployment rate has stayed below 5 percent for 24 months in a row. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, 7/2/99]

Income

Typical family income is up \$3,517 (8.6 percent) since 1993. Median family income has increased from \$41,051 in 1993 to \$44,568 in 1997. [Money Income in the United States: 1997, Bureau of the Census, 9/24/98]

Wages

Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, real wages have risen 6.2 percent compared to declining 4.3 percent during the Reagan and Bush years. After adjusting for inflation, wages have increased almost 2.7 percent in 1998 -- the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades and the third year in a row and the longest sustained growth since the early 1970s. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, 7/2/99]

Tax Cuts

15 million working families receive additional tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. In 1997, the EITC lifted 4.3 million out of poverty -- that is more than double the number who were removed from poverty in 1993. Over half of the people removed from poverty by the EITC (2.2 million) were children under the age of 18. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

\$500 per-child tax credit

27 million families with 45 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit. [Treasury Department]

Minimum Wage

10 million Americans received an increase in wages thanks to the President's leadership. [Good News for Low Income Families: Expansions in the EITC and Minimum Wage, CEA, 12/98]

New Businesses

Over 4.1 million new businesses have been created since 1993. [New Employer Firms Business Formation, Small Business Admin. 12/98, 1997 data]

National Debt

There is \$25,000 less debt for each family of four because the national debt will be \$1.7 trillion lower in fiscal year 1999 than was projected in 1993. [internal calculations based on: FY 2000 Budget Mid-Session Review (Table 1); OMB (1993 internal projection); Bureau of the Census]

Home Ownership

There are more than seven million new homeowners since 1993 -- the home ownership rate is at the highest level ever. [Bureau of the Census, 4/21/99]

Expanding Educational Opportunity: Elementary and Secondary Schools

Teachers

30,000 new, well-prepared teachers are being hired for fall 1999, the first down payment on the President's seven-year plan to reduce class size by hiring 100,000 well-prepared teachers. [Education Department, 6/99]

After School Programs

Approximately 400,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities have safe and educational after-school opportunities this year because of the expanded 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. In his FY 2000 budget, the President proposed to increase funding to serve approximately 1.1 million students. [Education Department]

Goals 2000

47 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have set higher academic standards for public schools by adopting comprehensive Goals 2000 plans for education reform. [Goals 2000: Reforming Education to Improve Student Achievement, Education Department, 4/20/98]

Education Technology

30 million children and up to 47,000 schools and libraries are being connected to the Internet through the education rate, or E-rate, created by the 1996 Telecommunications Act. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 67]

Title I

11 million low-income students now benefit from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards. [Statement of the Secretary of Education before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 2/9/99]

Mentoring

Approximately 175,000 middle school students will be prepared for college this year through expanded mentoring efforts as part of GEAR-UP. [Education Department]

Expanding Educational Opportunity: Postsecondary Education and Training

HOPE Scholarships

5.9 million students are expected to benefit from the \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit. [Education Department, 4/2/99]

Pell Grants

3.8 million low-income students will receive a Pell Grant award to help them attend college. In the FY99 budget, the President increased the maximum Pell Grant award from \$3,000 to \$3,125 -- that is the largest maximum award ever. [Department of Education FY 2000 Budget Summary, 2/99]

Direct Loan Program

More than 3.9 million student and parent borrowers have received direct loans since the program began. [Federal Direct Loan Program, Federal Office of Student Financial Assistance, Education Department, 1/31/99]

AmeriCorps

More than 100,000 volunteers have earned money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program since the inception of the program. [National Service News (issue no. 66), 11/2/98]

Lifetime Learning Tax Credit

7.2 million will benefit from the lifetime learning tax credit, which offers a 20 percent tax credit for the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees paid by a student. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 69]

School-To-Work

470,000 high school students, 36,000 schools (K-12), and 136,000 employers, participated in school-to-work programs in 1997. [Progress Measures Survey 1997, National School-to-Work Office, Education Department]

Work Study

Nearly one million students will be able to work their way through college this year because of the President's expansion of the Work Study Program. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 69]

Dislocated Workers

An estimated 689,000 American workers will benefit this year from the dislocated worker program. In his FY2000 budget, President Clinton proposed to increase funding to serve 859,000 workers. [Department of Labor Budget Overview FY 2000, 2/99]

Crime and Public Safety

Declining Crime Rates

There has been a 21 percent drop in violent crime victimizations rate since 1993 -- to the lowest level since 1973 (the year of the survey's inception). The murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years. [1997 National Crime Victimization Survey, Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), 12/98; Justice Department Release, 1/99]

Juvenile Arrests Down

The nation has seen a six percent drop in the juvenile violent crime arrest between 1993 and 1997. [FBI's Uniform Crime Reports for the United States 1997, Justice Department]

Community Policing

The President's goal of funding 100,000 more community police officers for our streets was reached in May 1999 -- meeting the pledge ahead of schedule and under budget. [COPS program, 6/12/99]

Brady Bill

Over 400,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been stopped from buying guns. ["Presale Handgun Checks, 1997" Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 6/15/99]

"Zero-Tolerance" for Guns In Schools

6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school in one year under zero tolerance policies. [Final Report on State Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act, School Year 1996-97, Department of Education, 5/98]

Domestic Violence Hotline

More than 300,000 calls -- averaging a little more than 8,000 a month -- have been received by the nationwide, 24-hour domestic violence hotline President Clinton established. [Violence Against Women Office, DOJ, 6/99]

Families

Patients' Bill of Rights

85 million people covered by Federal health plans received patient protections -- protections included in the President's Patients' Bill of Rights legislation that Congress has yet to pass -- by executive action taken by President Clinton. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 85]

Health Insurance Reform

As many as 25 million people will benefit from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 83]

Welfare to Work

6.5 million fewer people are receiving welfare benefits today than in 1993, a 46 percent decrease and the largest decline in the welfare rolls in history. The welfare rolls are the smallest in 30 years. [HHS Administration for Children and Families, 4/99]

Family & Medical Leave

About 91 million workers are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act -- about 70 percent of the American labor force. Millions of Americans have taken job-protected leave. [Five Years of Success: Report on FMLA,

Department of Labor, 8/98 (updated number provided 7/99)]

Children's Health Care

As many as 5 million more children will receive health insurance under President Clinton's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Already 2.5 million uninsured children have enrolled in CHIP. [FY 2000 Budget, p. 85; FY 1999 Budget, p. 69]

Head Start

More than 200,000 additional children are enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992. Head Start now reaches a total of 822,316, and will serve one million children and their families by the year 2002. [Head Start 1998 Fact Sheet; Administration of Children and Families, HHS]

WIC

1.7 million more woman, infants, and children are now served by WIC than in 1993 -- currently reaching 7.4 million participants. [Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 12/98]

Child Care

Child care funding has increased by 70 percent under the Clinton Administration, helping pay for the care of an additional 1 million children. An average of 1.25 million children were served by states under the child care block grant in FY 1997 -- a 25 percent increase from the estimated 1 million children served in FY 1996. The 1996 welfare law increased child care funding by \$4 billion over six years. [Administration for Children and Families Fact Sheet, HHS, 11/12/98]

Immunization

90 percent or more of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996 and again in 1997 -- surpassing the President's childhood vaccination goal. [Budget of the United States Government FY 2000, p. 91-92]

Child Poverty

Under President Clinton the child poverty rate has dropped from 22.7 percent in 1993 to 19.9 percent in 1997 -- the biggest four-year drop in the child poverty rate in nearly 30 years. [Poverty in the United States: 1997, Bureau of the Census, 9/98]

Teen Pregnancy

There has been a 13.8 percent decrease in the teenage birth rate -- from 60.7 in 1992 to 52.3 in 1997. [Decline in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-97: National and State Patterns, CDC, 12/98; Revised 4/99]

Infant Mortality

There has been a 15.2 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate -- to the lowest level in history -- from 8.5 in 1992 to 7.2 in 1997. [America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, NIH, 7/8/99]

Child Support Collections

There has been a 80 percent increase in child support collections from FY 1992 to FY 1998. [Administration for Children and Families, HHS]

Government That Works Better

Less Regulation

16,000 pages of Federal regulations have been eliminated by President Clinton and Vice President Gore as part of the Vice President's National Performance Review. [Accomplishments fact sheet, National Performance Review]

Smaller Government

There are 365,000 fewer employees in the Federal government workforce than in 1993 -- giving us the smallest Federal workforce since the Kennedy Administration. [Budget of the U.S. Government FY 2000, "Historical Tables" (table 17.1); Budget of the U.S. Government FY 2000, "Analytical Perspectives," (table 10-1) p. 248]

Lower Government Spending

At 19.5 percent, Federal Government spending as a share of the Gross Domestic Product is at its lowest level in 25 years. [FY 2000 Budget Mid-Session Review (Table 1) p. 3; FY 2000 Budget Historical Tables (Table 1.3) p.23-24]

Motor Voter

28 million new voters registered to vote -- and voting was made easier for millions more Americans -- since 1995 because of the National Voter Registration Act. [FEC, 6/99; FEC, 6/97]

Environment

Toxic Waste Sites

448 toxic waste dumps were cleaned up during the first six and one-half years of the Clinton Administration -- nearly three times more than the 155 dumps cleaned up in the previous twelve years. ["Superfund NPL Construction Completions Since 1/20/93 to 6/22/99," EPA]

National Parks

Over 3.2 million acres have been protected as national parks or monuments by President Clinton. The President has also created 13 new national park areas. [Department of Interior]

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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of Asian Pacific Americans

Economy

Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits -- in 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs. Since President Clinton took office, the economy has added 17.7 million new jobs -- 1.7 million more new jobs in 71 months than were created during the entire 96 months of the Reagan Administration (17.7 million under Clinton vs. 16.0 million under Reagan).

Unemployment Down To 4.3 Percent in December -- A 29-Year Low. In 1992, the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. In December, the unemployment rate was 4.3 percent -- its lowest level in 29 years. For 1998 as a whole, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent -- its lowest level since 1969. The unemployment rate has been below 5 percent for 18 months in a row.

Inflation -- Lowest Since 1961. In the third quarter, the GDP price index rose 1.0 percent at an annual rate. Over the past year, inflation rose just 1.0 percent -- the smallest increase in 37 years.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

The Median Household Income for Asian Pacific Americans Increased 2.2 Percent in 1997. Income for the median, or typical, Asian Pacific American household rose \$980 in 1997, from \$44,269 in 1996 to \$45,249 (adjusted for inflation). This is an increase of 2.2 percent over 1996.

Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026.

Minimum Wage Increased. Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour --increasing wages for 10 million workers.

Asian Pacific American Poverty Down More than 8 Percent since 1993. The poverty rate of Asian Pacific Americans has declined from 15.3 percent in 1993 to 14.0 percent in 1997. While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Over the past five years, (FY93-97) the Small Business Administration (SBA) has backed more than 16,760 loans worth \$5.2 billion in loans to Asian Pacific American businesses. From FY98 through FY 2000, the Administration expects to deliver another \$4.7 billion in loans to Asian Pacific American-owned businesses. That means that during the eight years of the Clinton Administration, the SBA will have delivered almost \$10 billion in loan capital to

Asian Pacific American entrepreneurs. In FY 2000, SBA expects to back more than \$1.6 billion in loans to Asian Pacific American businesses, almost triple the amount loaned in FY92. In the SBA's 8(a) Minority Enterprise Development Program, Asian Pacific Americans own 1,341 of the 6,100 participating businesses. Those firms received about \$1.7 billion in federal contracts in FY97. Almost 19,000 Asian Pacific Americans received business counseling and training under SBA's Small Business Development Center program, and SBA's SCORE program counseled more than 9,000 Asian Pacific Americans last year.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women-owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the next round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The FY99 budget included a \$15 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$95 million), a 19 percent increase.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers. Congress approved the President's full request for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work.

Providing Incentives to Save. The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education, or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda.

Highest Homeownership Rate in History. There are more than 7 million new homeowners since the President took office.

Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative. The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative.

Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98.

International Business Affairs

Facing the Challenges of the Global Economy. The President's strategy of fiscal discipline, investment in our people, and open trade is working for America. For the U.S. economy to continue to prosper, the economies of the world need to rebound from their recent difficulties. The United States, along with other leading nations, are working together to intensify efforts to speed economic recovery in Asia.

Opening Markets Abroad: Trade Agreements Have Helped Expand American

Exports and Create American Jobs. Since President Clinton took office, the Administration has concluded 270 new trade agreements.

Created Three Major Global Trade Agreements In the World Trade Organization. In 1998, this Administration completed a "trifecta" of three major global trade agreements in the World Trade Organization: the Information Technology Agreement covering \$500 billion in global trade and more than \$100 billion in U.S. exports, the global telecommunications services agreement (which will create more than a million jobs in the next ten years) and the financial services accord (which covers 95 percent of the global financial services market). Together, these initiatives cover trade totaling more than \$1 trillion annually.

Eliminated Barriers To Open Trade In Asia Pacific Nations From Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. Secured commitments from Asia Pacific nations to eliminate barriers to open trade in the region by 2020 for developing countries and 2010 for industrialized countries. Over the next two years, a number of sectors will be identified for tariff reductions, including energy products and services, environmental technologies and services, natural resources, medical equipment, telecommunications, gems and jewelry.

Fighting For Equal Opportunity

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. Angela Oh served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue.

Creating an Administration That Looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse

Administration in history. The Clinton Administration has more than tripled the number of Asian Pacific American appointees as the previous Administration including Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice; Nancy Ann-Min Deparle, Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Robert Gee, Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, Department of Energy; Paul Igasaki, Vice Chair, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Rose Ochi, Director, Office of Community Relations, Department of Justice; Donna Tanoue, Chair, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Jeanette Takamura, Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health & Human Services; T.S. Chung, Director Advocacy Center, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; Barbara Chow, Associate Director for Human Resources, Office of Management and Budget; Dr. Isi Siddiqui, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture; Maria Haley, Member of the Board, Export-Import Bank of the U.S.; and Shirley Sagawa, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady.

Increasing the Number of Judicial Appointments. Nominated more Asian Pacific Americans to the federal bench than any other Administration. Appointments include the Honorable A. Wallace Tashima, Judge, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court and District Court judges Denny Chin, Anthony Ishii, George King, and Susan Oki Mollway.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit women and minorities, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for Asian Pacific Americans and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed *amicus* briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and is currently opposing an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on languages other than English have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Increasing Voter Registration. During 1995 and 1996, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law registered nearly 14 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. Notably, 1996 saw the highest percentage of voter registration since 1960. [FEC, 6/97]

Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

Working for Fair Housing. To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, HUD will double the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. HUD has also committed \$15 million to 67 fair housing centers around the country to assist in fighting housing discrimination. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The final budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory "Redlining" Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Working to Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 2.3 percent of Asians Pacific Americans were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

Children and Families

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Sixty-seven million Americans -- over half of all workers -- are covered by the FMLA and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. Currently, for example, Vietnamese women suffer from cervical cancer at nearly five times the rate of white women. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the

President's multi-year proposal.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. The President has also put forth a new proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children, with Asian Pacific American children making up 15.8 percent of all uninsured children. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 3 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were Asian Pacific American children.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Of the estimated 830,000 children enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 3 percent are Asian Pacific American children. The President proposed and won an increase of \$313 million to Head Start in FY99, meaning Head Start funding will be 68-percent higher in 1999 than in 1993. The President is committed to meet his goal of enrolling one million children in Head Start.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for A Quarter of A Million Children Each Year. In the FY99 budget, the President and Vice President proposed and won \$200 million for after-school programs, expanding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers

program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 250,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities each year.

Education

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship credits and a 20 percent tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 33 percent of all Asian Pacific American students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Fostering Diversity. The White House awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

Reducing Class Size. In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that minorities, and low-income students in particular, benefit academically from smaller classes.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Help for limited-English proficient children. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. In the 1994-95 school year, 3 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were Asian Pacific American students. The FY99 budget provides a \$301 million boost to the Title I program.

Establishing the GEAR-UP: College Mentoring Initiative To Help Up to 100,000 Students Prepare for College. The President won \$120 million to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a

program that incorporates the President's "High-Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare up to 100,000 students at high-poverty middle schools for college.

Helping to Assist Schools with More Foreign Language Programs; Opposing English Only. The Administration has restructured Foreign Language Assistance Programs to assist local schools in establishing programs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn English as adults.

Addressing Minority Needs. Hosted Asian Pacific American Education Forums to address the needs of Asian Pacific American students and their teachers.

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Asian Pacific Americans comprising 3 percent of all participants (1996 data). In 1998 alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Protecting Bilingual and Immigrant Education. The President is committed to ensuring that students with limited English skills get the extra help they need in order to meet the same high standards expected for all students. The Clinton administration fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual and immigrant education in the 1997 budget deal. For FY99, the Administration fought for and won a doubling of the investments in bilingual teacher training. Bilingual education funding helps school districts teach English and other academic subjects to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program helps more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals.

Opposed Gallegly Amendment. The Administration opposed the Gallegly Amendment which would have ended the guarantee of public education for all children. It would have shifted immigration enforcement from the borders and work sites to classrooms and made children susceptible to gangs and violence.

Fighting Crime

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover

crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth --about hate crimes.

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

Falling Crime Rates. Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years.

Won Passage of the Most Comprehensive Crime Bill Ever. In 1994, after more than six years of gridlock, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the toughest, smartest Crime Bill in the nation's history. Among other provisions, the new law now provides: a targeted "Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out" provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life; an expanded death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons; and funding for 100,000 more prison cells to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration will meet its commitment of 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

Championed and Signed the Violence Against Women Act. This law is the cornerstone of the President's efforts to fight domestic violence, bolstering local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address these crimes. The President created the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice and won \$283 million in FY99 budget to continue the Administration's efforts to combat gender-based crime.

Safe and Clean Environment

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation. The Administration approved new clean air standards for smog and soot that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment. This Administration has cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Brownfields grants have leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to

strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming. The Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way; and secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Committed to Preserving Our Land. The Clinton Administration has protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. And the Administration has reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

Immigration

Fairness for Immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted in 1996.

Restoring Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. In June 1998, the President signed the Agricultural Research Act into law, which restores food stamp benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lawfully resided in the U.S. as of August 22, 1996, and lost assistance as a result of cuts in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. It restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship. This law funds a significant part of the President's 1999 budget proposal to restore food stamp benefits to 730,000 legal immigrants, but the President's budget proposal would go further by covering families with children regardless of the date they entered the U.S. This restoration builds on the President's success last year in restoring SSI and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform (see below).

Reversing Unfair Cuts; Protects Legal Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 restored \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the BBA does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions that have nothing to do with welfare reform, such as cutting off benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997 and again in 1998, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won many of the changes he sought in the 1996 law.

Strengthening the Naturalization Process. The Administration made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. For instance, over one million individuals were naturalized in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America. In FY99, the Administration won an infusion of new resources to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and improve customer

service.

Defended Immigrant Rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

American Leadership

Deepening Cooperation with Japan. President Clinton signed new Defense Guidelines that will strengthen and deepen our most important security relationship in the Pacific.

Seeking Peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Administration is leading efforts to freeze North Korea's nuclear plutonium production capability and is seeking a permanent peace on the peninsula through deterrence, diplomacy and non-proliferation.

Renewed Bipartisan Consensus for Engagement with China. The Administration has renewed the bipartisan consensus for engagement with China to advance U.S. interests and draw the world's most populous nation more fully into the international community -- building a more constructive relationship through engagement and frank dialogue on human rights, religious freedom and Tibet.

Led International Efforts Against Terrorism. The Administration has led international efforts against terrorism, including signing domestic anti-terrorism legislation that ensures strong penalties for convicted terrorists and working with our allies to develop common approaches. The Clinton Administration is also addressing new threats to our infrastructure like cyberterrorism and biological and chemical weapons.

Secured Bipartisan Senate Ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Start II Treaty. The convention bans the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Start II, together with Start I, will reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals two-thirds from their Cold War heights. In 1996, President Clinton became the first world leader to sign the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**.

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments by Issue



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CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION LABOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"We have to continue in Washington to fight for the right to organize and to function in a union that will permit you to have a life you enjoy."

-- President Bill Clinton, March 18, 1998

Creating More Jobs and a Stronger Economy

· **Nearly 18 Million New Jobs Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore --**

Since President Clinton took office, the economy has added 17.7 million new jobs -- 1.7 million more new jobs in 71 months than were created during the entire 96 months of the Reagan Administration (17.7 million under Clinton vs. 16.0 million under Reagan).

· **Fastest Real Wage Growth in More Than Two Decades --** Over the past year, average hourly earnings have risen 3.8 percent -- more than twice the rate of inflation. After adjusting for inflation, wages have increased at about a 2.5 percent pace in the past 12 months -- the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades.

· **Unemployment Down To 4.3 Percent in December -- A 29-Year Low.** In 1992, the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. In December 1998, the unemployment rate was 4.3 percent -- its lowest level in 29 years. For 1998 as a whole, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent -- its lowest level since 1969. The unemployment rate has been below 5 percent for 18 months in a row.

· **Construction Jobs Are Coming Back.** Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, construction and manufacturing jobs are coming back: after losing 662,000 jobs in construction during the previous four years, more than 1.6 million new construction jobs have been added since January 1993 -- a faster annual rate than any other Administration since Harry S Truman was President.

· **Manufacturing Jobs Are Up Under President Clinton.** After losing 2.1 million manufacturing jobs between 1981 and 1992, the economy has created 459,000 new manufacturing jobs since January 1993. Manufacturing jobs are up under President Clinton, but are being hurt by the financial crisis in Asia.

· **World Leader in Auto Production Four Years in a Row --** After losing 46,000 jobs in the auto industry during the Bush years, we have 148,000 new auto jobs during the Clinton-Gore Administration. And for the first time since the 1970s, America has led the world in auto production for four years in a row.

· **Highest Homeownership Rate in History --** there are more than 7 million new homeowners since the President took office.

· **Closing The Book on A Generation of Deficits --** in 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be at least \$76 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Creating Better Jobs

· **Increased the Minimum Wage** from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million. For an average full-time minimum wage worker this amounts to a \$1,800 raise. President Clinton also proposed an additional minimum wage increase in 1998.

· **Saving Social Security First --** The President is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a

bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

- Signed the **Family and Medical Leave Act** into law -- allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. Millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

- **Fighting for Critical Education Investments** -- maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. In 1998, the President won passage of a number of his education priorities, including funding for his initiatives to recruit quality teachers, reduce class size and to increase early child literacy.

- **More School-to-Career Opportunities with School-To-Work** -- the Clinton Administration is providing hundreds of thousands of students with school-to-career opportunities; students experience work-based learning and gain access to pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education.

- **Expanded Job Training To Help 666,000 Dislocated Workers** -- the FY99 budget includes \$1.4 billion for the dislocated worker program which will help some 666,000 dislocated workers get the training and reemployment services they need to return to work as quickly as possible. This represents an increase of \$55 million compared to FY98. Since 1993, dislocated worker funding has been expanded by 171 percent.

- **Fighting for Paycheck Equity** -- called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination.

- Expanded **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief for **15 million working families**.

- **\$500 Per-Child Tax Credit** -- 26 million families with 40 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit.

- **Increasing Pension Security** -- Fought for legislation that has expanded pension coverage, made pensions more secure for 40 million American workers and retirees, and simplified pension plan administration. Promoting new efforts to encourage retirement savings.

- **Signed the Bipartisan Workforce Investment Act** --- reforming America's job training system for the 21st Century.

- Opposed the creation of **company unions**.

- Blocked efforts to undermine **prevailing wage** laws.

- Revitalized **enforcement at the Labor Department** by adding more **front-line enforcers**.

- Signed **Hatch Act reform** into law -- allowing federal civil servants to more actively participate in the political process.

- **Rescinded** Reagan Administration Executive Order **prohibiting the rehiring of PATCO strikers**.

- **Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965** providing health care coverage for up to five million children.

- **Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights** -- Called on Congress to

pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need.

- **Signed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform** which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.
- Supported the comprehensive **Occupational Safety and Health Reform Act** and opposed efforts to make the workplace less safe.

Established Better Labor Relations

- Appointed a National Labor Relations Board that is **fair to workers and their unions** for a change. And placed in all levels of government Presidential appointees who are dedicated to fighting for the issues that matter most to working men and women.
- Issued an Executive Order **prohibiting federal agencies from doing business with employers that permanently replace striking workers.**
- Supported **anti-"striker replacement"** legislation -- which would have prohibited companies from permanently replacing striking workers.
- **Preserving the Collective Bargaining Process** -- the Administration has played an activist role in helping to resolve tough disputes, bringing parties together to reach agreement. These collective bargaining disputes have included: Northwest Airlines, American Airlines, Long Island Rail Road, UPS, Teamster national trucking contract, Amtrak, Mineworkers and Bituminous Coal Operators Association.
- **Opposed Republican So-called "Paycheck Protection" Measures** -- which would have limited organized labor's political activity.
- Created the **National Partnership Council** for Federal government unions.
- Created the **Task Force on Excellence in State and Local Government through Labor Management Cooperation** for non-federal public workers.
- **Rescinded** Bush Administration Executive Orders **prohibiting pre-hire agreements** on federal construction projects and requiring all government contractors to post a notice telling workers they have a right not to join a union. In sharp contrast, **President Clinton authorized agencies to use Project Labor Agreements** where they serve the best interests of the government and the people.
- **Supporting the Right of All Workers to Organize** -- The President recently proposed, for the first time ever, up to \$25 million to create a new arm of the International Labor Organization, to work with developing countries to put in place basic labor protections, safe workplaces, and the right to organize, so that workers everywhere can enjoy the advantages of a strong social safety net.

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments by Issue



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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of the Hispanic Community

Economy

Closing the Book on A Generation of Deficits. In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget surplus to be \$99 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security. Earlier this year, the President outlined his plan to save Social Security and extend the life of the Social Security Trust Fund. The President would lock away the Social Security surpluses to prevent them from being used to fund other programs. In addition, his plan would transfer the interest savings from reducing the national debt to the Social Security Trust Fund and increase the return on Social Security funds through private investment. The President has put forth a balanced budget that maintains our sound economic strategy and invests the budget surplus in our long-term goals: saving Social Security and securing Medicare for the 21st Century.

Nearly 19 Million New Jobs. More than 90 percent of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

Record-Low Unemployment for Latinos. Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the Latino unemployment rate has dropped from 11.6 percent in 1992 to 7.2 percent in 1998 -- its lowest annual level ever. As of June 1999, the monthly Hispanic unemployment was even lower at 6.8 percent.

Income of Median Hispanic Households Up \$2,553 in Past Two Years. In 1997, the income of the median Hispanic household, adjusted for inflation, increased from \$25,477 in 1996 to \$26,628 in 1997 -- an increase of \$1,151 or 4.5 percent. Over the past two years, the income of the typical Hispanic household has risen \$2,553 -- or nearly 11 percent -- the largest two-year increase in Hispanic income on record.

Real Wages Are Rising for Hispanics. The real wages of Hispanics have risen rapidly in the past two years, up 4.2 percent for Hispanic men and 2.7 percent for Hispanic women since 1996.

Inflation -- Lowest Since 1950s. Inflation remains non-existent at 1.6 percent for the beginning of 1999. In 1998, the GDP price index rose 1.0 percent at an annual rate -- its lowest level since the 1950s.

Strong Private Sector Growth. In the first quarter, private-sector GDP growth was up 4.4 percent. Since President Clinton took office, the private sector of the economy has grown an average of 4.0 percent per year -- compared to 3.0 percent under President Reagan and 1.3 percent under President Bush.

Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted more than 1.2 million Hispanics out of poverty.

Largest Hispanic Poverty Drop In Two Decades. In 1997, the Hispanic poverty rate dropped from 29.4 percent to 27.1 percent -- the largest one-year drop in Hispanic poverty since 1978. Since President Clinton took office, Hispanic poverty has dropped from 30.6 percent to 27.1 percent. While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will

continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefiting 1.6 million Hispanic workers.

Fighting for Paycheck Equity. The President has called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. In 1997, the median earnings of Hispanic women represented 56 percent of the median earnings for all men.

Two and a Half Times More Small Business Loans to Hispanic Entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 15,000 loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In 1997 alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 3,300 loans, worth \$615 million, to Hispanic small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Building on the efforts of the SBA, Vice President Gore unveiled aggressive plans to increase lending and business services to the Hispanic and African American business communities nationwide. SBA has entered partnership agreements with national leadership organizations, and engaged its national network of field offices and resources in the effort. SBA also licensed the first Hispanic-managed venture capital fund. In addition, the Vice President announced an unprecedented agreement between SBA and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers to increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years -- a 50 percent increase over current levels.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women-owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. The Clinton Administration has announced 105 EZs and ECs across the country. This effort was proposed by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, and passed by Congress in 1993. The EZ/EC effort has generated more than \$2 billion of new private sector investment in community development activities. The President has also signed into law a second round of EZs -- 15 new urban and 5 new rural zones -- which will include tax incentives, small business expensing, and private activity bonds. In FY99, President Clinton and Congress provided first-year funding of \$55 million for the new EZs, and \$5 million in first-year funding for 20 new rural Enterprise Communities announced in January. The FY 2000 Budget proposes mandatory funding for ten years: \$150 million a year for urban EZs and Strategic Planning Communities; \$10 million a year for rural EZs; and \$5 million a year for rural ECs.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). Proposed and signed into law by the President in 1994, the CDFI Fund, through grants, loans and equity investments, is helping to create a network of community development financial institutions in distressed areas across the United States. In FY99, funding was increased 19 percent to \$95 million from \$80 million. The FY 2000 budget proposes to expand funding for the CDFI Fund to \$125 million--a \$30 million increase from 1999.

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is

working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. Between 1993 and 1998, direct lending to these groups has nearly doubled -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$91 million in FY98.

Moving from Welfare to Work. With the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and unemployed non-custodial fathers into jobs and provided tax credits for employers to hire and retain long-term welfare recipients. The FY 1999 Welfare-to-Work competitive grants will support innovative strategies to address specific challenges to employment including limited English proficiency. The President's budget seeks \$1 billion to extend the Welfare-to-Work program to help more long-term recipients and low income fathers in high poverty areas go to work and support their families.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work. The President's Budget proposes to double funding for FY 2000, bringing the program to the authorized level of \$150 million.

Assisting Families with Housing Vouchers. In 1999, the President proposed and Congress approved \$283 million for 50,000 new housing vouchers for welfare recipients who need housing assistance to get or keep a job. Families will use these welfare-to-work housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing that will eliminate emergencies which keep them from getting to work every day on time. The President's FY 2000 Budget provides \$430 million for 75,000 welfare-to-work housing vouchers, including \$144 million in new funds for 25,000 additional vouchers.

Providing Incentives to Save. The President signed into law a five-year, \$125 million demonstration program for Individual Development Accounts, providing incentives for low income families to save for a first home, higher education or to start a new business, effectively completing his 1992 community empowerment agenda. The FY99 budget includes \$10 million to launch this initiative, and the President has proposed to double the commitment to \$20 million in FY 2000.

Increasing Homeownership. The Clinton Administration launched a program to increase the homeownership rate of Hispanics in the U.S. through advertising, education and counseling programs and working with lending institutions to better serve the Hispanic community. Progress has been made, four million Hispanics now own their homes, one million more Hispanic homeowners since the first quarter of 1994.

Helping More Families Become Homeowners with the "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative. The FY99 budget included \$25 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start this new initiative that will make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home; 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting will benefit from this initiative. The FY 2000 budget proposes a second round of \$15 million for this initiative.

Expanding Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to build 75,000-90,000 housing units each year. President Clinton has proposed to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion would mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

Fighting for Equal Opportunity

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue. President Clinton also appointed Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America, a new office the President created to follow up on the work of his Initiative on Race.

An Administration That Looks like One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez are members of the President's Cabinet. Federico Peña and Henry Cisneros previously served in the President's Cabinet.

Judicial Appointments. Six percent of all President Clinton's judicial appointments are Hispanics including the Honorable Jose Cabranes, Judge, Second Circuit U.S. Circuit Court, The Honorable Carlos Moreno, Judge, Central District of California, U.S. District Court and the Honorable Hilda Tagle, Judge, Southern District of Texas, U.S. District Court.

Senior Level Administration Appointments. President Clinton has appointed more Hispanics to senior level positions than any President in American history. Eight percent of Presidential appointments, including boards and commissions, are held by Hispanics. These Presidential appointees include Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) President George Muñoz; Norma Cantu, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education; Saul Ramirez, Jr., Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary; Albert Jacquez, Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Department of Transportation; Eluid Levi Martinez, Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of Interior; Ida L. Castro, Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Patricia T. Montoya, Commissioner for Children, Youth & Families at the Department of Health and Human Services; and John U. Sepulveda, Deputy Director at the Office of Personnel Management. White House appointees include: Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste; Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Mickey Ibarra; and Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs Janet Murguia.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for Hispanics and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed amicus briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and opposed an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and

economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit Hispanics, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years. The President's FY2000 budget request provides \$312 million for the EEOC, a 12 percent increase over 1999.

Working to Ensure Fairness and Remove Barriers to High Quality Education. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education is working to eliminate discriminatory educational practices within schools that contribute to deficiencies in minority student achievement. These priorities included the inappropriate placement of minority students in special education, limited access of minority students to challenging curricula and programs such as gifted and honors classes and the lack of comparable resources.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Spanish have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Oppose English-Only Legislation. Strongly opposed legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn English as adults.

Increasing Voter Registration. Since 1995, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law has registered nearly 28 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. [FEC, 6/99; FEC, 6/97]

Opposed California Prop. 187. Opposed California's Proposition 187, which would have made illegal immigrants ineligible for public school education at all levels and ineligible for public health care services.

Working for Fair Housing. The President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The final budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs from \$30 million in FY98 to \$40 million in FY99. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration. The President's FY 2000 budget proposes to increase HUD's fair housing activities by another 17 percent.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public housing complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory "Redlining" Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining"

practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Working to Ensure a Fair, Accurate and Complete Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 5 percent of Hispanics were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

Immigration

Fairness for Immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted in 1996.

Strengthening the Naturalization Process. The President has made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. For instance, over one million individuals were naturalized in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America. In FY99, the Administration won an infusion of new resources to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and improve customer service.

Defended Immigrant Rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

Reversing Unfair Cuts; Protects Legal Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 restored \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the BBA does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions that have nothing to do with welfare reform, such as the cutting off benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997 and again in 1998, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won many of the changes he sought in the 1996 law. The President's FY 2000 Budget would restore eligibility for SSI and Medicaid to legal immigrants who enter the country after that date if they have been in the United States for five years and become disabled after entering the United States. This proposal would cost approximately \$930 million and assist an estimated 54,000 legal immigrants by 2004, about half of whom would be elderly.

Assuring Families Access to Health Care and Other Benefits. In May 1999, the Vice President announced new actions to assure families that enrolling in Medicaid or the new Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and receiving other critical benefits, such as school lunch and child care services, will not affect their immigration status. The new

Department of Justice regulation clarifies a widespread misconception that has deterred eligible populations from enrolling in these programs and undermined the nation's public health. In addition, the Vice President directed Federal agencies to send guidance to their field offices, program grantees and to work with community organizations to educate Americans about this new policy.

Education

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President has proposed federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build 6,000 public schools nationwide. Much of this funding is targeted to the cities with the highest numbers of low-income children.

Reducing Class Size. Last year, the President won a down payment on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3 to help local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that students do better academically in smaller classes, especially minority and low-income students. The President's proposal targets substantial funding to the communities that need it most, and he has threatened to veto legislation that would replace that class size initiative with a block grant that doesn't guarantee the continuation of a nationwide class size initiative and denies adequate funding to the communities that need it most.

Supporting Reading Excellence. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In addition, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal in the FY99 budget. The FY2000 budget includes funding to continue the Clinton-Gore Administration Reading Excellence Program -- helping train reading tutors and coordinating after-school, weekend, and summer reading programs linked to in-school instruction; helping train teachers to teach reading; and helping parents help children prepare to learn to read.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the E-rate) to the Internet for schools and libraries.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

Strengthening Educational Accountability and Excellence. 11 million low-income students now benefit from extra support to meet high expectations and challenging standards because of increased funding for the Title I program and reforms proposed and signed into law by President Clinton in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This year, President Clinton has proposed building on this progress with further strengthening accountability in these federal programs, improving teacher quality,

increasing school safety, expanding public school choice, and providing extra support through summer-school, after-school and other programs to help students master the basics and reach challenging academic standards. The reauthorization will also support teacher education programs that develop the ability of regular classroom teachers to teach limited English proficient (LEP) students.

Enacted a Hispanic Education Action Plan. The Hispanic dropout rate is unacceptably high, and is substantially higher for Hispanics than African-Americans and White non-Hispanics. The Administration is reaching out to Hispanic youth, encouraging them to stay in school, do well academically and graduate from high school, and go on to college so that they can compete successfully for good jobs and take advantage of promising career opportunities. As part of these efforts, the Clinton Administration put forth and won funding increases for a Hispanic Education Action Plan in the FY99 budget. As part of this plan, the President and Vice President proposed significant increases in a number of programs that enhance educational opportunity for Hispanic Americans. The final budget included increases of \$494 million for these programs, including an increase of \$70 million for TRIO college preparation programs over FY98, which will now provide support services to over 700,000 students, and an additional \$50 million for Bilingual Education Professional Development -- double the FY98 level -- to begin to provide 20,000 teachers over five years with the training they need to teach Limited English Proficient students effectively. Moreover, funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges and universities with at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollments was more than doubled from \$12 million to \$28 million in FY 99. In FY 2000, the President has proposed over a \$650 million increase in funds for Department of Education programs that are part of the Administration's Hispanic Education Agenda.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship tax credits and a 20 percent lifetime learning tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded education IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 54 percent of all Hispanic students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Established a Hispanic Advisory Commission. In 1994, the President issued an Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanics which established an advisory commission to oversee the improvement in education for Hispanics and would work to ensure that Hispanic-Serving Institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanics. The Commission's report identified contributing factors impacting attainment of educational excellence, corrective policy actions, and plans for program development and funding.

Implemented the Student Diversity Partnership Program. Partnered with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, an Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education to implement the Student Diversity Partnership Program. This program will ensure an adequate supply of diverse and qualified scientists and engineers for the 21st century. In addition, the White House recently awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Hispanics comprising 13 percent of all participants (1996 data) In 1999, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the

opportunity to serve and will earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Establishing the GEAR-UP. In FY99, the President won \$120 million to create a new initiative which would promote partnerships between schools and institutions of higher education to provide about 100,000 low-income middle and high school students with academic and support services to help them prepare for and enter college. The President is proposing to double this initiative this year.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget.

Teaching Job Skills and Building Homes Through "Youthbuild." Through the Youthbuild program, nearly 2,300 high school dropouts have developed valuable job skills while building or renovating homes for hundreds of low-income families. This program offers young adults, ranging in age from 16 to 24, the opportunity to gain leadership skills, earn a high school diploma or GED, learn a valuable trade, and provide much-needed housing to families nationwide. More than \$170 million in grants have been made under Youthbuild since its inception in 1993, enabling over 7,800 young people to take part in building or rehabilitating more than 3,650 houses and apartments units in their communities. Of the 7,800 served by Youthbuild, an estimated 1,170 are Hispanic youth.

Strengthening Bilingual and Immigrant Education. The President is committed to ensuring that students with limited English skills get the extra help they need in order to learn English and meet the same high standards expected for all students. The Clinton administration fought for and won a 35% increase in bilingual and immigrant education in the 1997 budget deal. For FY99, the Administration fought for and won a doubling of the investments in bilingual teacher training as part of its Hispanic Education Action Plan. Bilingual education funding helps school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient (LEP) children and helps LEP students to achieve to the same high standards as all other students. It also provides teachers with the training they need to teach limited English proficient students. The Immigrant Education program helps more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to more than 800,000 recent immigrant students. In his proposal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the President has proposed additional help to ensure that all teachers are well-trained to meet the needs of students with Limited English Proficiency. His proposal would also make schools and districts more accountable for helping children with Limited English Proficiency master their academic subjects and learn English.

Extra Help for Limited-English Proficient Children. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. Now Hispanics are 32% of the children served in Title I, the largest share of all communities. The FY99 budget provides a \$301 million boost to the Title I program.

More Assistance for Migrant Children and Families. Migrant families face particularly difficult obstacles to gaining the education and training they would need to improve their standard of living. President Clinton improved the Migrant Education Program in the 1994 reauthorization, and won a 16 percent increase in FY99. As part of his Hispanic Education Action Plan, he also won increases for the High School Equivalency Program, the College Assistance Migrant Program, as well as funding for a Migrant Youth Job Training

Demonstration.

Expanding Access to English Language/Civics Education. The President's FY 2000 budget supports a \$190 million increase for adult education and family literacy, including a \$70 million investment for the English Language and Civics Education Initiative: Common Ground Partnerships. This initiative will help states and communities provide limited English proficient adults with expanded access to high quality English as a Second Language programs linked to civics and life skills instruction on understanding and navigating our government system, the public education system, workplace, and other key institutions in American life.

Reducing the Drop-Out Rate Through Right Track Partnerships. The President's FY 2000 budget provides \$100 million for "Right Track Partnerships" to promote partnerships between schools, employers, and community-based organizations that devise innovative community-wide approaches to increase the rate at which economically disadvantaged and limited-English proficient youth complete and excel in high school and subsequently increase the rate at which these youth go on to post-secondary education, training, and higher paying careers. This new proposal builds on last year's Hispanic Education Action Plan, which received nearly \$500 million for FY1999.

Children and Families

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. There are major health disparities among Hispanics. Latinos are nearly twice as likely to develop diabetes than non-Latinos and Latinos have two to three times the rate of stomach cancer as white Americans. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal. The President's FY 2000 budget has proposed \$145 million to continue this program's activities.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color. Racial and ethnic communities make up the fastest growing portion of HIV/AIDS cases (more than 50 percent of all new HIV cases). As part of the FY99 budget, the Clinton Administration fought for and won a comprehensive new initiative that invests an unprecedented \$156 million to improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting-edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Working to Enact a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights for All Americans. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real. Leading by example, the President directed all federal agencies to ensure that their employees and beneficiaries have the

benefits and rights guaranteed under the President's proposed Patients' Bill of Rights.

Protecting and Strengthening Medicare. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. Today, Medicare provides health insurance to more than two million elderly and disabled Hispanics and six percent of all beneficiaries currently enrolled in Medicare are Hispanic. President Clinton is working to modernize and strengthen Medicare to prepare it for the challenges the program faces in the 21st Century. This historic initiative would make Medicare more competitive and efficient; modernize and reform Medicare's benefits, including a long-overdue prescription drug benefit and cost-sharing protections for preventive benefits; and make an unprecedented long-term financing commitment to the program that would extend the life of the Medicare trust fund to 2027.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. Hispanic children make up nearly 30 percent of all uninsured children. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Providing Health Care to Children and Pregnant Women. Under current law, states have the option to provide health coverage to immigrant children and pregnant women who entered the country before August 22, 1996. The President's FY 2000 Budget gives states the option to extend Medicaid or CHIP coverage to low-income legal immigrant children and Medicaid to pregnant women who entered the country after August 22, 1996. The proposal would cost \$325 million and provide critical health insurance to approximately 55,000 children and 23,000 women by FY 2004. This proposal would reduce the number of high-risk pregnancies, ensure healthier children, and lower the cost of emergency Medicaid deliveries.

Protecting Families. Family and Medical Leave allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for seriously ill family members, new born or adoptive children, or their own serious health problems without fear of losing their jobs. About 91 million workers are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 30 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were Hispanic.

Restoring Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. The Agricultural Research Act of 1998 provided Food Stamps for 225,000 legal immigrant children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities who enter the United States by August 22, 1996. The President's FY 2000 Budget would extend this provision by allowing legal immigrants in the United States on August 22, 1996 who subsequently reach age 65 to be eligible for Food Stamps at cost of \$60 million, restoring benefits to about 20,000 elderly legal immigrants by 2004.

Expanded Head Start By More than 60 Percent. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. During the Clinton Administration, Hispanic enrollment has increased by 70,000 and at a

rate nearly twice as fast as non-Hispanic enrollment. Despite these increases, Hispanic children remain under-represented in the program, and the Administration is stepping up efforts to ensure access and culturally appropriate services. Also, the President's FY 2000 budget includes \$607 million in new funds to improve and expand Head Start, including a \$23 million request for Migrant Head Start that would improve quality and reach as many as 2,000 new children.

Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High. Since 1993, childhood immunization rates have reached all-time highs, with 90 percent or more of America's toddlers receiving the most critical doses of vaccines for children by age 2. For the most critical childhood vaccines, vaccination levels are nearly the same for preschool children of all racial and ethnic groups, narrowing a gap that was estimated to be as wide as 26 percentage points a generation ago. But despite this program, as of 1997, 79 percent of white children had received the recommended series of vaccinations by age 2 compared to 72 percent of Hispanic children whom had been vaccinated against childhood disease. To help increase participation, on April 20, 1999, Secretary Shalala announced a new Spanish-language childhood immunization public awareness campaign, "Vacunelo A Tiempo Todo el Tiempo" (Vaccinate Your Children On time, Every Time), to create and distribute culturally relevant and language appropriate educational materials to help raise Hispanic immunization rates to the national average.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. In 1998, the President proposed an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families by helping families pay for child care, building the supply of good after-school programs, improving child care quality and promoting early learning. The President won \$182 million to improve the quality of child care for America's working families in the FY99 budget.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for Nearly 400,000 Children Each Year. Approximately 400,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities have safe and educational after-school opportunities this year because of the expanded 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, funding for this initiative has increased from \$1 million to \$200 million in two years, and the administration has proposed tripling the program this year. In his FY 2000 budget, the President proposed to increase funding to serve approximately 1.1 million students.

Fighting Crime

Held the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes. The President and Vice President continue to work to enact the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

Falling Crime Rates. Overall crime rates are down to the lowest levels in a generation --and all incomes and races are benefitting. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Victimization Survey, property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels since 1973. Between 1993-1997, decreasing victimization trends were experienced about equally for all race, sex and income groups. In addition, the murder rate is down more than 25 percent since 1993, its lowest point in 30 years. Between 1997 and 1998, the Hispanic violent victimization rate fell from 43 to 33 victimizations per 1,000 Hispanics.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas. This year, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Administration has met its commitment of funding 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

Safe and Clean Environment

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment -- issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Accelerating Toxic Cleanups and Brownfields Redevelopment -- cleaned up nearly three times as many Superfund sites in six years as the previous administrations did in twelve. Leveraged nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment for Brownfields redevelopment.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe -- proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. Required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming -- negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way. Secured \$1 billion in FY99 for research incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Preserving Our Lands -- protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. Reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

American Leadership

Democracy for Cuba. The Clinton Administration increased efforts to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba by keeping pressure on the Castro government for change while reaching out to the Cuban people. The President has strengthened the international consensus on the need to promote human rights and democracy. The Clinton Administration has authorized humanitarian measures to alleviate the Cuban people's suffering, encouraged the emergence of civil society, and helped people prepare for a democratic future.

Support Our Closest Neighbors. The Administration took decisive action in assembling a financial support package for Mexico and later Brazil. In each case, the President's

leadership prevented a prolonged financial crisis and its spread to other Latin American countries. In addition, the President traveled to Latin America and launched hemispheric negotiations for Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments by Issue



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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Increasing Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities

"Increased access to health care, more assistance at home and in the workplace, remarkable new technologies made more available: This is how we can make sure that all Americans can take their rightful place in our 21st century workplaces."

President Clinton
January 13, 1999

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to expanding opportunities for Americans with disabilities and demonstrating to all Americans that people with disabilities -- given access to the workplace, health care, community services, and technology -- make significant contributions to our society and economy.

EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Fighting to Enact the Work Incentives Improvement Act (WIIA) -- The Work Incentives Improvement Act is an historic bill produced through the bipartisan efforts of Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth and Moynihan in collaboration with leaders in the disability community and staff throughout the Administration. On January 13, 1999, the President announced one of his FY2000 budget initiatives, committing to the full funding of the WIIA. The Administration's budget initiative, which invests \$1.2 billion over five years, will help provide better health care options for people with disabilities who work.

The Work Incentives Improvement Act will improve access to health care by: (1) expanding states' ability to provide a Medicaid buy-in to people with disabilities who return to work; (2) extending Medicare coverage, for the first time, for people with disabilities who return to work; and (3) creating a new Medicaid buy-in demonstration to help people with a specific physical or mental impairment that is not severe enough to qualify for health assistance, but is likely to lead to a severe disability in the absence of medical treatment. In addition, WIIA will modernize the employment services system by creating a "ticket" that will enable Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to go to any of a number of public or private providers for vocational rehabilitation. If the beneficiary goes to work and achieves substantial earnings, providers would be paid a portion of the benefits saved. And WIIA creates a Work Incentive Grant program to provide benefits planning and assistance, facilitating access to information about work incentives, and better integrate services to people with disabilities working or returning to work.

Providing a \$1,000 Tax Credit for Work-Related Expenses for People with Disabilities

-- On January 13, 1999, the President announced a new proposal that will allow workers with significant disabilities to receive an annual \$1,000 tax credit to help cover the formal and informal costs that are associated with employment, such as special transportation and technology. Like the Jeffords-Kennedy-Roth-Moynihan Work Incentive Act, this tax credit, which will assist 200,000 to 300,000 Americans, will help ensure that people with disabilities have the tools they need to return to work.

Establishing the Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities -- On March 13, 1998, President Clinton signed an Executive Order establishing a National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, charged with creating a coordinated and aggressive national policy to bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate that is as close as possible to that of the general adult population. According to a 1998 Bureau of Labor Statistics report, only 30 percent of persons with severe disabilities were in

the labor force in the third quarter of 1994 (latest data available).

Taking Action on All of the Task Force's Formal Recommendations -- In December 1998, the Vice President accepted the report of the President's Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities. Alexis M. Herman, Secretary of Labor, chairs the Task Force and Tony Coelho, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, serve as Vice-Chair. The Administration has taken action on all the Task Force formal recommendations: work to pass the Work Incentive Improvement Act; work to pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights; examine tax options to assist with expenses of work; foster interdisciplinary consortia for employment services; accelerate development and adoption of assistive technology; direct Small Business Administration to expand outreach; remove Federal hiring barriers for people with mental illness and direct the Office of Personnel Management to develop model plan for Federal hiring of people with disabilities (see below).

Signing an Executive Order Expanding Hiring Opportunities for People with Psychiatric Disabilities -- In January 1999, Tipper Gore announced that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) would explore measures to eliminate the stricter standards that are currently applied to federal job applicants who have psychiatric disabilities. On June 4, 1999, President Clinton signed an executive order ensuring that individuals with psychiatric disabilities are given the same hiring opportunities as persons with severe physical disabilities or mental retardation. The executive order also permits people with psychiatric disabilities the same opportunity to acquire competitive civil service status after two years of successful service.

Signing the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Improving Worker Training and Placement Options for People with Disabilities -- Last year, the President signed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which included the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The new Act establishes better links between the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system and the general workforce development system. Job seekers with disabilities will have improved options for service through the mainstream worker training and placement system, as well as through the disability-specific VR system. The U.S. Department of Labor, with assistance from the Department of Education, has been providing valuable technical assistance to the network of one-stop career centers on how to provide nondiscriminatory and accessible services to people with disabilities. In addition, the Rehabilitation Act has also been strengthened to give increased options to individuals with disabilities in developing employment plans.

Helping More Americans with Disabilities Return to Work. On February 12, 1999, the Vice President announced new regulations that will increase the amount of income Americans with disabilities receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), can earn from \$500 to \$700 per month -- and still receive critical cash and medical benefits. These regulations went into effect on July 1, 1999. This was an important step that will improve economic opportunities for at least 250,000 Americans with disabilities.

Working on Innovative Strategies to Improve Employment of Adults with Disabilities -- Agencies within the Clinton Administration continue to work on innovative strategies to employ Americans with disabilities. The Social Security Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Education are all participating in inter-agency demonstration projects to expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. For instance, the Department of Education has awarded six systems-change grants to establish models of improved cooperation and coordination between State Vocational Rehabilitation programs, public employment/ employment training programs, and other related programs. The grants will assist in reducing barriers to employment and increasing the capacity of the State's overall employment system to serve individuals with disabilities. The focus of these systems change projects is increasing the

employment rate of individuals with disabilities who are currently receiving support through public programs.

Supporting Families -- President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) making workplaces more accommodating for many families that include a child or adult with a disability. In his 1999 State of the Union, the President proposed to extend the benefits of the Family and Medical Leave Act to ten million more American workers. Currently, only workers who are employed at businesses with 50 or more employees are protected. By covering workers in businesses with 25 or more workers, 10 million more American workers will be covered by the FMLA. The President also called for expanding the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers to take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations, such as accompany one's child to dental or medical appointments.

Helping Move People from Welfare to Work -- Some of those who are having the hardest time moving from welfare to work are people with disabilities. Recognizing the special needs of this and other hard-to-place populations, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion to assist long-term welfare recipients obtain jobs. In addition, the FY99 budget included a number of measures designed to expand welfare to work activities. The final budget included \$283 million for 50,000 new vouchers exclusively for people who need housing assistance to make the transition from welfare to work and \$75 million to assist states and localities in developing flexible transportation alternatives, such as van services. For FY 2000, the President announced that he will propose an additional \$1 billion for his Welfare-to-Work program to ensure that those remaining on the welfare rolls who face the greatest challenges can succeed in the workforce and to increase the employment of fathers of children on welfare so they can better support their children.

Funding a Disability Research Institute -- The Vice President recently announced that the Social Security Administration will fund a Disability Research Institute to help provide policy-makers with information and research data in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability policy area, including ways to assess work ability and return-to-work strategies.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Enacting a Stronger Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) -- In 1997, the President signed into law a stronger Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In FY 2000, IDEA will serve 6.2 million children with disabilities. The expanded IDEA reaffirms and strengthens our national commitment to provide a world class education for all our children. It ensures that our nation's schools are safe and conducive to learning for children, while scrupulously protecting the rights of our disabled students. This bill makes it clear once and for all that children with disabilities have a right to be in the classroom and to be included in school activities like work experience, science clubs and field outings. IDEA also helps all classroom teachers get the full range of teaching skills that they need to teach children with disabilities. Teachers are now required to be involved in the development of individual education plans to help disabled children succeed. In addition, President Clinton has proposed requiring that states establish performance goals for special education.

Opposing Amendments to IDEA -- In the 105th Congress, the Administration, working with parents, successfully opposed amendments to the IDEA that could have resulted in inappropriate exclusion of large numbers of students with disabilities and denial of appropriate services.

Enforcing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act -- The Clinton Administration has supported the rights of children with disabilities under IDEA in the following Federal Court cases: Marie O. v. Edgar; Sacramento City Unified School District v. Holland;

Hartmann v. Loudon County Board of Education. In addition, in March 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in Cedar Rapids Community School District v. Garrett F. Before the Court, the Administration argued that students like Garrett should receive the services necessary to ensure access to an appropriate education. IDEA guarantees this, and the courts have made this guarantee clear. The Administration believes that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides the mechanisms to assist school districts to tap other available financial resources when necessary.

EXPANDING THE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

Adding a New Statue to the FDR Memorial -- On May 2, 1997, President Clinton dedicated the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to honor the thirty-second President of the United States. On July 2, 1998, Vice President Gore announced that the FDR Memorial will soon include an additional outdoor room at the main entrance that will depict FDR in the small wheelchair he invented. Thanks to the efforts of the disability community, the Clinton-Gore Administration has selected a specific design that will show how FDR became one of our greatest presidents while he had a disability and used a wheelchair.

INCREASING ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

Vigorously Enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act -- President Clinton has led the fight for vigorous enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Fair Housing Act, the IDEA and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in housing, schools, workplaces and public areas across the nation.

Working to Stop Discrimination Against People With AIDS -- President Clinton supports the Supreme Court's decision in Bragdon v. Abbott, which reinforces the protections offered by the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS. The President directed the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to vigorously prosecute those who discriminate against people with AIDS, leading to actions against health care providers and facilities that violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years. This increase, the first since EEOC took responsibility for investigating violations of the ADA, will help give the EEOC the resources it needs to investigate claims of discrimination under the ADA. The President's FY2000 budget request provides \$312 million for the EEOC, a 12 percent increase over 1999.

Working for Fair Housing -- In response to the increase in reported cases of serious fair housing violations, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has committed to doubling the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. In addition, the President proposed and won a major expansion of HUD's Fair Housing programs. The FY99 budget expands HUD's Fair Housing programs to \$40 million -- a \$10 million increase over FY98 funding. That 33-percent increase includes \$7.5 million for a new audit-based enforcement initiative proposed by the Administration.

Increasing Outreach -- In July 1998, the President directed key Federal civil rights agencies to increase their outreach efforts to individuals with disabilities, including those in diverse cultural communities, including immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities and rural residents.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY NOW

Saving Social Security -- In his State of the Union address, the President outlined his plan to save Social Security and extend the life of the Social Security Trust Fund through 2055. The President would devote 62% of the Budget surplus and increase the return on Social Security funds through private investment. The President has also committed to reserve the entire budget surplus until Congress passes a bipartisan plan to save Social Security and Medicare.

Protecting Supplemental Security Income Benefits -- In 1995, the President vetoed a budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on Supplemental Security Income -- families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for home modifications, equipment and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time. In addition, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act ensured that 30,000 disabled children losing SSI because of the new tighter eligibility criteria kept their Medicaid coverage.

HELPING TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights -- President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Strengthening Medicare -- President Clinton is working to modernize and strengthen Medicare to prepare it for the challenges the program faces in the 21st Century. This historic initiative would make Medicare more competitive and efficient; modernize and reform Medicare's benefits, including a long-overdue prescription drug benefit and cost-sharing protections for preventive benefits; and make an unprecedented long-term financing commitment to the program that would extend the life of the Medicare trust fund to 2027.

Proposing New Initiatives to Improve Prevention and Treatment and Fairness for People with Mental Illnesses -- The President and Vice President advocated for and enacted the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, which took steps to end discrimination based on mental illnesses. On January 14, 1999, Mrs. Gore unveiled three new major initiatives, including: an unprecedented \$70 million increase in the mental health services block grant, a 24 percent increase, totaling \$358 million for FY2000, which will enable states to target particularly-hard-to-reach adults and children with severe mental illnesses; the announcement of a White House Conference on Mental Health to be held this spring; and a Presidential request to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to explore measures to eliminate the stricter standards currently applied to federal hiring practices for adults with psychiatric disabilities (see page 2 for more).

Held the First-Ever White House Conference on Mental Health -- On June 7, 1999, the first-ever White House Conference on Mental Health was held, chaired by the President's Mental Health Advisor Tipper Gore. The Clinton-Gore Administration unveiled unprecedented measures to improve mental health including ensuring that the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), the nation's largest private insurer, implements full mental health and substance abuse parity for FEHBP's beneficiaries. This, and the other proposals announced, will provide parity, improve treatment, bolster research and expand community responses to help those with mental illnesses. Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs -- In June 1999, the Supreme Court in the Olmstead case

upheld the purposes of the ADA by recognizing that unjustified isolation of institutionalized persons with disabilities is prohibited discrimination. This decision will increase access to home- and community-based long term care services and support for these persons. On July 29, 1998, the anniversary of the ADA, President Clinton announced that the Health Care Financing Administration was directing State Medicaid Directors to provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs and in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act. State Medicaid Directors are being urged to conduct self-evaluations to ensure that their practices and procedures encourage rather than inhibit integration into communities. The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services; since he took office, the President has approved over 300 such waivers. As a result, the number of people with developmental disabilities served in home and community waiver programs has increased significantly.

Increasing Access to Health Care and Supporting Employment for Disabled Americans

-- The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created an optional program whereby States could allow people with disabilities who were earning up to 250 percent of poverty to purchase Medicaid coverage. Oregon is the first state to take advantage of this policy, and they have created a program that will let individuals go to work and get or keep Medicaid. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala has asked every governor to seriously consider this program.

Passing Meaningful Health Insurance Reform -- President Clinton signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.

Protecting the Medicaid Guarantee for People with Disabilities -- The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities -- rejecting proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities. The President vetoed the Republican's proposal in the 104th Congress to block grant the Medicaid program, preserving Medicaid coverage for six million persons with disabilities. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions. Thanks to President Clinton, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act preserved the Federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for populations who depend on it.

INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Increasing Public Transportation Accessibility -- The Department of Transportation and the Access Board have issued final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions for over-the-road bus (OTRB) accessibility and provides a definition of what constitutes discriminatory action. The regulation requires large fixed-route operators to achieve 50% of full fleet accessibility by October 2006 and 100% by October 2012. The Department has strengthened the regulations by including provisions making OTRB operators individually and collectively accountable for providing accessible service. Additionally, in 1998, President Clinton signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), legislation that provides significantly increased resources to make our Nation's surface transportation systems accessible. The Act included increased funding for the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities grant program.

Expanding Accessibility to the Parks and Wilderness -- In October 1997, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Federal wilderness management agencies and a nonprofit organization called Wilderness Inquiry, Inc. (WI), to coordinate their policies to "establish a general framework of cooperation between the agencies and WI for increased opportunities for people of all abilities to use and enjoy the programs, facilities, and activities of the agencies." On November 10, 1998, President Clinton signed legislation

(H.R. 4501) that requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study to improve the access for persons with disabilities to outdoor recreational opportunities (such as fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, hiking, boating, and camping) made available to the public on the Federal lands in the National Forest System, the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Increasing Housing Options -- The Clinton-Gore Administration took a number of significant actions in 1998 that advanced housing policy for people with disabilities. First, HUD issued a statement supporting the view that institutional living does not constitute real housing for people with disabilities. On April 28, 1998, Fannie Mae announced the publication of "A Home of Your Own Guide," the first manual specifically created to provide step-by-step home buying guidance for people with disabilities. And in February, HUD Secretary Cuomo issued a directive encouraging communities to use community development block grant funds for home modifications for people with disabilities. Also, in HUD's recent Notices of Funding Availability, the agency included bonus points for developers when they seek to build structures that include "visitability" by people with disabilities.

Increasing Section 8 Funding in HUD Appropriations -- President Clinton supported the inclusion of \$40 million in Section 8 funding for people with disabilities, in part to offset the displacement likely to occur as a result of "elderly-only" designation of public housing formerly occupied by people with disabilities.

Reinventing Government -- Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, the Clinton-Gore Administration is making government smaller, better managed and more efficient, creating a government that works better and costs less. The Administration is dramatically improving customer service to give all Americans the best service they've ever experienced with the government.

PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Expanding the Availability of Assistive Technology -- President Clinton is working to expand the information and communications technologies that help people with disabilities work. He has proposed a \$35 million investment in developing technologies such as "text to speech" for people who are blind, automatic captioning for people who are deaf, and speech recognition and eye tracking for people who cannot use a keyboard. The plan would also make these technologies more affordable by supporting new and expanded state loan programs. And in 1998, President Clinton supported and signed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, which reauthorized State Assistive Technology Centers to provide assistive devices to needy individuals with disabilities.

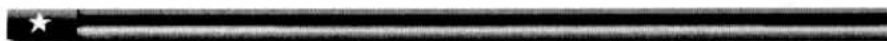
Requiring the Federal Government to Provide Accessible Technology and Information -- The administration fought for and won changes to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act that will require Federal agencies to provide more provide accessible technology and information to their employees and customers. With these changes, the Federal government can use its considerable purchasing power to spur development of universally designed technology that is accessible to almost everyone.

Guaranteeing that the Telecommunications Revolution Benefits All -- In June 1998, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed rules that require telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities where readily achievable. The FCC has also required closed captioning of video programs for Americans with hearing disabilities; proposed improvements on Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) to ensure that TTY users have access to telecommunications network; and proposed a requirement to expand TRS so that persons with speech disabilities have access to telecommunications.

CREATING AN ADMINISTRATION THAT LOOKS LIKE ONE AMERICA

Appointed the Most Diverse Administration in History --President Clinton has appointed a highly talented and the most diverse Administration in history, including the appointment of record numbers of people with disabilities in the White House and throughout the Clinton-Gore Administration. The Federal government now employs more than 100,000 employees with some type of disability. President Clinton's Administration appointees include: Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services; Paul Miller, Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Fredric Schroeder, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Commission. People with disabilities serve in the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, State and Transportation. President Clinton has also appointed people with disabilities to positions in such independent agencies as the National Council on Disability and the Social Security Administration, as U.S. District Court Judges and to various Presidential Committees, Commissions and Task Forces. In the White House, Charles Ruff serves as Counsel to the President. And Jonathan Young, Associate Director of Disability Outreach, is the first person with a disability ever appointed to do disability outreach in the White House Office of Public Liaison.

Clinton-Gore Accomplishments by Issue



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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Supporting Native Americans

Economy

Closing the Book on A Generation of Deficits. In 1992, the deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the Administration expects the budget *surplus* to be \$79 billion, the largest budget surplus in history.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight to save every penny of any future surplus until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 18 Million New Jobs. More than 90 percent of the new jobs have been created in the private sector, the highest percentage in 50 years.

Lowest Unemployment in Nearly Thirty Years -- down from 7.5% in 1992 to 4.3% today -- staying below 5% for 19 months in a row.

The Lowest Inflation in More than 30 Years. Since 1993, the inflation rate has averaged just 2.5 percent -- the lowest average inflation rate since the Kennedy Administration.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

Fastest Real-Wage Growth In More Than Two Decades -- after adjusting for inflation, wages have increased 2.5% in the past 12 months -- the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades.

Tax Cuts for Working Families -- 15 million working families receive additional tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Largest Four-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s -- Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7% to 19.9% -- the biggest four-year drop in nearly 30 years. While this decrease marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million workers. The President further proposed increasing the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour by the year 2000. Increasing the minimum wage by one dollar in two equal steps simply restores the real value of the minimum wage to what it was in 1981.

Three Times More Loans to Native American-Owned Small Businesses. Between FY93 and FY98 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 2,000 loans to Native American-owned small businesses under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. In FY1998 alone, the SBA granted 462 loans, worth \$76.5 million, to Native American-owned small businesses, three times the number of loans granted in FY93.

Promoted Lending In Indian Country. President Clinton signed the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act, which promotes more lending in Indian Country.

Provided Management and Technical Assistance To Native Americans. Established an Office of Native American Programs within the Minority Business Development Association at the Department of Commerce, with eight Native American Business Development Centers and a business consultant, that provides management and technical

assistance to Native American businesses.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The FY99 budget included a \$15 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$95 million), a 19 percent increase. The President's proposed FY2000 budget increases CDFI funding to \$125 million -- a \$30 million increase.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. The FY99 budget included \$60 million in flexible discretionary funding for the Round II Empowerment Zones and Rural Enterprise Communities. The FY2000 budget proposes mandatory funding for ten years: \$150 million a year for the 15 Round II Urban EZs; \$10 million a year for the five Round II Rural EZs; and \$5 million a year for the twenty Round II Rural ECs. The Oglala Sioux Tribe was designated as one of the Round II EZs and the Metlakatla Indian, Four Corners, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe, and Northwoods Nijii were designated as Round II Rural Enterprise Communities.

Welfare to Work. The Administration passed a \$3 billion program to help long term welfare recipients find, get, and keep jobs. The FY 2000 budget includes a \$1 billion, one-year extension.

Helping People Get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century authorizes \$750 million over five years, and the FY99 budget included \$75 million, for the President's Access to Jobs initiative and reverse commute grants to help communities design innovative transportation solutions so that families who need to work can get to work.

Providing Block Grants For Indian Housing. The FY99 budget provides \$620 million in block grants for Indian housing, which will serve 552 tribes. The President's FY2000 budget also calls for \$620 million in block grants.

Fighting for Equal Opportunity

President Clinton Met With Tribal Leaders. On April 29, 1994, President Clinton became the first President to invite the leaders of all federally recognized tribes to the White House. On this historic occasion, the President pledged that his Administration would work with Tribal leaders to establish a true government-to-government partnership.

Recognizing Native American Contributions to One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. President Clinton appointed 63 Native Americans to all levels of his Administration, including 11 to top positions requiring Senate confirmation and 30 to Presidential appointment positions. Native Americans serving in the Clinton Administration include: Raynell Morris, Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House; Elizabeth Homer, Director of the Office of American Indian Trust, Department of the Interior; Joy Harjo, Member of the National Council on the Arts; Robert Loescher, Member of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission; Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; William Yellowtail, Regional Administrator of Region VIII, Environmental Protection Agency; John Echohawk, Member of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission; Sedelta Verble, Deputy Director of the Office of Communications, Department of Agriculture; Mike Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Billy M. Burrage, Judge, U.S. District of Judges; Theodore Strong, Member of the Presidential Committee on Sustainable Development; Montie Deer, Chair - Designee of the National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of

the Interior; and Gary Kimble, Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health & Human Services.

Strengthening the Relationship Between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations.

In 1994, President Clinton executed a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies directing agencies to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments. On May 14, 1998, he issued an Executive Order that strengthens and makes effective across Administrations the 1994 Government-to-Government Memorandum. This executive order serves to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribal governments in the development of regulatory practices on federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities, to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribal governments, and to streamline the application process for and increase the availability of waivers to Indian tribal governments.

Ensuring Tribal Sovereignty. President Clinton created the Office of Tribal Justice to promote government-to-government relations with Indian tribes and ensure aggressive representation of tribal sovereignty in the courts. He also created a permanent White House working group composed of all Executive Branch Departments to advance tribal sovereignty across the administration.

Protected Religious Freedom. President Clinton signed an executive order that requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. He also successfully fought for passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in order to protect the right of free exercise of tribal religions. Finally, he directed federal agencies to ensure efficient collection and distribution of available eagle feathers and eagle parts to American Indians and Alaska Natives for traditional religious purposes.

Promoted Tribal Self-Determination. President Clinton supported passage and implementation of the Indian Self-Determination Act amendments, which gives tribal governments increased control of Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service resources spent within Indian Country. He also successfully fought attempts to penalize tribes for exercising their powers of self-governance, allow states to tax tribal governments on new trust lands, and permit direct taxation of tribal governments.

Resolving Disputed Indian Trust Fund Balances. The Administration is committed to resolving disputed Indian trust fund account balances through informal dispute resolution and supports the unique government-to-government relationship that exists in Indian trust land management issues. After tribal consultations, the Bureau of Indian Affairs submitted its "Recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior for Settlement of Disputed Tribal Accounts" to Congress in November 1997. Legislation reflecting these recommendations was proposed in 1998, but not enacted. It will be proposed again in the 106th Congress.

Reducing Backlog and Expanding Alternative Dispute Resolution at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The FY99 budget included \$279 million -- a \$37 million increase over the previous year -- to significantly expand EEOC's alternative dispute resolution program and reduce the backlog of private sector discrimination complaints. The final budget fully funds the President's request -- providing the first real increase for EEOC in several years.

Conducting a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is accurate, using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 12.2 percent of Native Americans living on a

reservation were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law.

Children and Families

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation the President signed into law -- enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member, or attend to their own serious health needs, without jeopardizing their job. The Family and Medical Leave Act covers just over 89 million workers -- about 70 percent of the American labor force and millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment. The FY 2000 budget proposes expanding FMLA to reach workers in firms with over 25 employees, expanding coverage to 10 million more workers. In addition, the budget proposes providing resources to the Department of Labor to research the impact this law has had on the American family, and how to make leave accessible and affordable for more of America's working families.

Increasing Funding to the Indian Health Service. The Indian Health Service saw an increase of \$144 million over FY98. This increase will assist in providing much-needed quality health care to Indian communities. In his FY2000 budget, the President has proposed \$2.4 billion, an increase for the Indian Health Service (IHS) of \$170 million or 8 percent over the FY99 level.

Indian Health Service (IHS) Contract Support Costs. The FY99 House bill contained an objectionable provision that would allocate contract support costs (e.g., indirect costs) to tribes that have contracted and compacted their health systems on a proportional basis. The Native American community and IHS objected to this provision because some tribes would have received less funding than they received in FY98. The Administration opposed this, and ultimately the objectionable provision was removed entirely. For FY2000, the President's budget supports tribal self-determination by proposing a \$35 million (+17%) increase for contract support costs, to cover the costs of existing tribal contracts and compacts.

Preventing Diabetes. The President worked with Congressional leaders to make \$30 million available in each of 1998 - 2002 fiscal years (totaling \$150 million over five years) to the Indian Health Service for diabetes prevention, research and treatment in our Native American communities. Native Americans are three times as likely as white Americans to have diabetes and are less likely to access treatment for it. This grant will bring public health services, schools and nutrition programs together to reach children and families living on reservations, and to provide them with the information and tools to prevent and manage diabetes.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. In 1998, President Clinton announced an initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the federal government, the private sector, and local communities. In the FY99 budget, Congress took a critical first step in investing in the President's multi-year proposal. In addition, the President's FY2000 budget includes \$145 million for health education, prevention, and treatment services for minority populations. Working with minority public health providers, advocates, and other consumer representatives, CDC will continue a \$35 million demonstration program to enable selected communities to develop innovative and

effective approaches to address these disparities.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in Minority Community with an Historic \$157 Million Effort.

Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload (44 percent of all new HIV cases). In FY99, there will be an unprecedented \$157 million investment that will improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to cutting edge HIV therapies and other treatment needed for HIV/AIDS.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights *real*.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits. The President has also put forth a proposal that, if enacted, will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget of 1997 included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion (FY99). Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, approximately 70,000 children and over 25,000 infants who benefited from WIC were Native American.

Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families. Issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety to develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.

Increasing Funding for Indian Head Start. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start (which includes Indian Head Start) by 68 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.6 billion in FY99. Of the estimated 822,000 children that were enrolled in Head Start in 1998, 3.4 percent of the children were Native American. The final FY99 budget specified \$130 million for Indian Head Start -- a \$9 million increase over FY98. For FY2000, the President's budget provides \$147 million for Indian Head Start -- a \$17 million increase over FY99.

Education

Strengthening Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-Funded Schools and Colleges Serving Tribes. The President's proposed FY2000 budget provides \$542 million for the operation of elementary and secondary schools, tribally controlled community colleges, and assistance to

Indian children attending public schools. This represents an increase of \$35 million from FY99.

Reducing Class Size in BIA-Funded Schools. In the FY99 budget, the President won a down payment (\$1.2 billion) on his initiative to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that reducing class size to 15-18 students in the early grades improves student achievement, particularly among low-income and minority students in inner cities. Included in the \$1.2 billion for the first year of the initiative is \$6 million for the BIA-funded schools. In his FY2000 budget, the President has called for \$7 million to go toward BIA-funded schools.

Repairing and Modernizing Schools on Reservations. The FY99 budget provides \$60 million to replace older, unsafe, and dilapidated schools on reservations in accordance with a Congressionally-approved priority list of replacement schools and would provide for much-needed health and safety-related repairs and improvements that together comprise a roughly \$700 million backlog. In his FY2000 budget, the President has proposed \$108 million, an 80 percent increase over the FY99 enacted level, to replace and repair some of the 185 BIA-funded schools on reservations.

Increased Funding for Indian Education. President Clinton won a 10 percent increase (from \$60 million to \$66 million) for the Indian Education program in the Department of Education in his FY 1999 budget. Serving nearly half a million Native American students, the Act's programs include grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), Indian tribes and organizations, Indian-controlled schools, and individuals to address the unique educational and cultural academic needs of Native Americans.

Recognizing Tribal Colleges. President Clinton signed an executive order that aims to ensure that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized as accredited institutions, have access to the opportunities afforded other institutions, and have federal resources committed to them on a continuing basis.

Supporting AmeriCorps. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps. This includes hundreds of Native Americans who have had the chance to participate. In 1998 alone, nearly 50,000 young people had the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans. The FY 2000 budget includes funding to engage 69,000 Americans in community service with a goal of 100,000 AmeriCorps participants in 2002.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. While House Republicans attempted to eliminate the successful Summer Jobs program in FY99, President Clinton prevailed with his request for \$871 million in funding, which will finance up to 530,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth. The Workforce Investment Act consolidated the Summer Jobs and the year round youth programs into one Youth Activities formula grant. The FY 2000 budget includes \$1 billion for youth activities, equivalent to the amount provided for these programs in FY 1999.

Youth Opportunity Grants (YOG). YOG provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable housing. The President proposed and won \$250 million for this new innovative program in the FY99 budget. The FY 2000 budget continues funding for YOG at the 1999 level of \$250 million.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship tax credits and a 20 percent Lifetime Learning tax credit to help offset tuition costs. The expanded education IRA allows

penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And in 1999, nearly four million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,125, the largest maximum award ever. In the 1995-96 school year, 51 percent of all Native American students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In the FY99 budget, the President won \$260 million for a new child literacy initiative, consistent with the President's America Reads proposal.

Increasing Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into schools. In the FY99 budget, President Clinton won \$75 million to fund technology training for teachers and \$10 million for new grants to public-private partnerships in low-income communities to provide residents access to computer facilities for educational and employment purposes. Education technology has always been a top priority for the President and Vice President; since 1993, they have created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and increased overall investments in educational technology by thirty-fold, from \$23 million to \$698 million this year. The Administration has also secured low-cost connections (the e-rate) to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals. The President's FY2000 budget proposes a \$103 million increase in funding over FY99 to ensure that every child has access to computers, the Internet, high-quality educational software, and teachers that can use technology in the classroom.

Striving for Excellence. Thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the **Title I program** is helping millions of disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills. The FY2000 budget requests nearly \$8 billion for Title I, a \$320 million increase over FY99. This funding will support educational services for more than 12 million disadvantaged students, over 500,000 more than last year. Over 182,000 Indian students will be served by Title I in FY99.

Establishing the GEAR-UP Initiative to Help Up to 380,000 Students Prepare for College. The President won \$120 million in FY99 to create a new mentoring initiative to help low income middle and high school children prepare for college. GEAR-UP (a program that incorporates the President's "High Hopes" proposal) will expand mentoring and scholarship efforts by states, and provide new grants to partnerships of middle schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations, to provide intensive early intervention services to help prepare students at high-poverty middle schools for college. President Clinton's FY2000 budget doubles funding -- from \$120 million in FY99 to \$240 million -- for the GEAR UP program. This would increase the number of participating students from 177,000 in FY99 to 381,000 in FY 2000.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. The FY99 budget contained \$75 million for new teacher quality initiatives -- programs that will help recruit and prepare thousands of teachers to teach in high-poverty urban and rural communities and will strengthen teacher preparation programs across the country.

Fighting Crime

Improved Law Enforcement in Indian Country. The final FY99 budget bill includes a \$109 million increase -- for the Departments of Justice and Interior -- for the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. The initiative will improve public safety for the 1.4 million residents on the approximately 56 million acres of Indian lands. This funding will increase the number of law enforcement officers on Indian lands, provide more equipment, expand detention facilities, enhance juvenile crime prevention, and improve the effectiveness of tribal courts. Although violent crime has been declining nationally for

several years, it has been on the rise in Indian Country. At the same time, police service on Indian lands has been steadily shrinking. Recognizing these facts, the President made a major commitment to improve law enforcement in Indian country. The President's FY2000 budget includes \$164 million, a 50 percent increase over FY99, for the Departments of Justice and Interior for the second year of the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative.

Hiring More Police Through COPS Program. The FY99 budget provided \$35 million for hiring police officers through the COPS program exclusively in Indian Country.

Safe and Clean Environment

Protecting Tribal Natural Resources. President Clinton established the American Indian Environmental Office to work with tribes to protect water quality and the environment in Indian Country. Other tribal environmental achievements include:

- Established for the first time the right of Alaska Natives to fish for subsistence purposes.
- Requested more than \$160 million (a 15 percent increase) in his FY99 budget for EPA support of tribal environmental protection programs on reservations. As a part of this program, EPA will continue to build and support tribal capacity to implement, operate, and enforce federal environmental laws.
- Supported the exercise of Northwest Tribes' treaty fishing rights.

Mitigating Environmental Impacts on Tribal Lands. In FY97, DOD entered into a new era in its relationship with Indian tribes through the development of Cooperative Agreements (CAs) with tribal governments to mitigate environmental impacts on Indian lands resulting from DOD activities. In addition, DOD demonstrated and validated several promising new technologies that target environmental problems caused by past DOD activities on Indian lands.

Promoting Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. President Clinton issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe. President Clinton proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Clinton Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

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**Al Gore invites you to
join his campaign to
Revolutionize American Education**

OPENING REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE FAMILY RE-UNION EIGHT: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Monday, June 21, 1999

Welcome. This annual family re-union, which Tipper and I began hosting eight years ago, has become so much more than a policy conference. It is truly a national conversation about the steps we all must take -- family by family, community by community -- to strengthen our nation's families, the hope and soul of America.

We begin today with a simple premise: many of the most important challenges facing the family cannot be solved by government, but must be solved by the family. It is the premise that led me to focus on family policy beginning a decade ago, and led Tipper and me to begin these family re-union conferences back when I served in the Senate.

No policy proposal can teach a child the right values. No law can connect a parent to his or her child's school -- or reconnect a deadbeat dad to an abandoned daughter. No executive action can raise a thoughtful family conversation above the din of a blaring TV set. Not even a policy conference can create the kind of community where neighbors look after each other's children -- where no child feels lost, disconnected, uncared for, or disrespected.

We can make such communities, but today's overworked, overstretched families need the right tools and enough time to meet these challenges.

When Tipper and I started working on these issues, we found that the challenges facing families were misunderstood by national leaders and oversimplified in public policy debates. Some said families should just be left to fend for themselves. Others automatically assumed that all programs should focus on individuals -- and seemed not to notice that this approach frequently weakened families and communities. Tipper and I believed very deeply that both approaches were wrong. We found a better way together.

The very first Family Reunions, in 1992 and 1993, brought together experts and practitioners who shared this belief, and were pioneering new approaches.

We've come a long way toward grappling with what faces families: from

tougher child support enforcement for deadbeat dads; to family-centered health care, the subject of last year's Reunion; to our focus two years ago on helping parents become involved in their children's schools. We are advocating and enacting the right policies to strengthen America's families.

One of the most meaningful conferences for me personally was the one we held in 1994 to promote fatherhood - for too long, the crucial role of fathers had been missing from the policy picture.

That has changed -- I have some good news to report today: we have just learned that nearly 1.5 million men acknowledged paternity in 1998, an increase of 12 percent in one year -- three times the 1993 figure of 516,000. A man acknowledging paternity does not make a father, but it is a start, the first step toward committing to a child the emotional and financial support a father must give to merit the name.

This concern with families' well being is a commitment that comes from our own lives, and our own values.

Over a decade ago, when we got to know a couple who both lost their jobs to be with their sick child, we knew something had to be done to make it easier for parents to care for their own children, especially in times of crisis and stress. I went back to the Senate and signed my name to the bill that was to become the Family and Medical Leave Act. I worked with my colleagues in the Senate to pass that bill, and after years of struggle, it became the first bill President Clinton signed into law. It has made countless families' lives calmer and more secure.

It was at the Family Reunion in 1996 that the President and I proposed expanding it, so that parents could go to a parent-teacher conference without risking their jobs.

Earlier, when Tipper saw how easy it was for one of our four children to buy a record or watch a TV program with clearly inappropriate content, we began to look for ways to give parents the tools they need to take back control of a chaotic culture. Ten years later, at the Family Reunion in 1995, we worked to promote tools such as the V-Chip that will soon be in all new TV sets, and TV ratings so parents can choose what to block out. That will give parents a sense of control that still eludes too many families when we click through the channels.

Now we all must go much further. Today we will. I want to be very clear: though government can provide the tools -- government must never substitute for a parent's responsibility.

Yes, I do believe there is a crisis in the American family today. But we are Americans and it is our very nature to overcome any setback, any challenge, once we set our hearts to it. So let us set ourselves heart and soul to easing this crisis among us.

This year, we look at the family in the context of its community. It is hard to be a strong family in a weak community -- one that is overrun by crime and drugs; one with failing schools and not enough jobs; one in which people no longer even know one another's names. Communities should be there for families, just the way family members should be there for one another.

When we think of "community" we think of a place. It may be in a town, or in

the country; it may be large or small, rich or poor, but wherever that place is for us, there is something about it that when we return to it, makes us say, "I'm home."

It is a place we look back to with wonder.

For me, that feeling comes from Carthage. When I think of my hometown of Carthage, Tennessee, not very far from here -- I recall the neighbors who would call our parents if they thought we were wandering off on our own. I remember the childhood friends with whom I played ball. I think of the neighbors who helped one another when there was clearing to be done after a bad storm. That neighborliness extends over the years - I think of the old friends who brought casseroles to my parents' house when my elderly father was ill.

To really help families, we need to strengthen community. A good community is a place where, whether you are affluent or struggling, neighbors know each others names, and look after one another's children. It's a place where there are parks and playgrounds and open spaces - places to walk and bike and play. It's a place with safe streets, and a healthy environment. It's a place where you don't have to drive for an hour to bring your child to school, or to go to a PTA meeting. It's a place where citizens speak up: they get involved in their local schools, and they have a say in their local issues. It's a place where faith and values are free to flourish - and where churches, synagogues, and mosques can reach out to lift up those who have been left out.

Too often, communities are dangerous or simply empty places physically and spiritually. Let's take back all our communities for the good of the family once more.

I challenge each of you to take the recommendations that will come from this conference to your own community and make them work. Today's conclusions are tomorrow's solutions.

And let us think beyond boundaries: problems such as crime, pollution, and violent culture do not stop at the county line -- and neither should our solutions.

I want to start today's process by announcing several important steps to strengthen families and communities.

First, families need help getting guns off our streets, out of our schools, and away from children and criminals. And I say to every parent in America: let us create a family lobby as powerful as the gun lobby.

If we did that, then instead of fighting off new protections for gun manufacturers that would shield them from lawsuits, we can start passing legislation to actually shield our children from gun violence instead.

Today, I am announcing a new initiative to expand community-based efforts to reduce gun violence. This "Safe Cities Network" will link local leaders, community organizations, law enforcement and faith-based organizations' efforts to reduce gun violence, share the practices that are working, and provide technical know-how. We will soon hear more about these kinds of community-based efforts from Reverend Gene Rivers. Because of heroes like Reverend Rivers and his fellow faith leaders -- and the law-enforcement community -- Boston went 18 months without losing a single child to gun

violence - in a city that knew all too well what it means to grieve a child.

This community didn't wait for Congress to do it for them; they seized the power of community and saved their kids themselves. That is the way. We will build on that.

Communities are stronger when families own their own homes. In too many communities, tenants and renters have no sense of ownership, and landlords don't care. Everything deteriorates.

Today, home ownership stands at record levels, and urban home ownership now tops 50 percent. Such neighborhoods thrive: a financial stake is also an emotional stake in the community. But we can do even more.

That's why I am pleased to announce \$20 million in "self-help housing" awards, to help 2,000 families build their own homes. In the great American tradition, with these awards, homebuyers will actually help build the house that will become theirs.

Affordable housing helps, but even that is still not enough to make our communities as livable as they can be. If we want to renew and restore family life, we must create communities with a high quality of life: places where we redeem historic old neighborhoods, and also where farms, green spaces, and forests add vitality to the newest of suburbs; places where we can work productively, and still have that most precious of all commodities -- time with our children, our wives and husbands, our fellow worshippers, fellow volunteers, and our friends.

Today, I am releasing a new resource guide for citizens who want to build more livable communities. It will help those who are seeking to revitalize their communities find an array of ideas gleaned from communities across the country that have decided to develop according to their own best values. These grass-roots ideas, supported by federal resources, can help us all build communities that have, in the words of one homeowner, fewer "arteries" and more heart.

Before I close, let me say that while my faith sustains me, and public service inspires me, it is my family that is the source of my greatest joy. All of us here feel that way. And it shouldn't be so hard to be a good strong family in America today -- one where parents have the time and the tools to pass on their best values to their children.

Strong families are more than the shelter of individual decency, they are also the first foundation of a mighty nation. That is why the work we are doing here at the Family Reunion is so important to me and to this country. Together, let us fight for the changes we need in our policies -- and in our own hometowns and in our own hearts. Let us build an integrity that reaches into every home, and sustains every family in America. That way, every family will have a chance to shape a future that is truly worthy of our children, our grandchildren, and this nation made of 100 million families' dearest dreams.

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research and development - and do more to help the small businesses and start-ups that are so crucial to our high-tech future.

I know that in the 21st Century, innovation and technology can be an engine of opportunity, not an engine of inequality - if we make the right choices today. That means, above all, that we must redouble our efforts to make American education the best in the world. For I see a 21st Century economy where we close all the gaps in opportunity, and spread our prosperity all across this nation.

In one recent survey, 60 percent of companies say they already face a shortage of skilled workers. Another points out that over the next decade, 75 percent of today's workforce will need retraining.

Some say: let's just bring in more immigrants to fill those jobs. I believe deeply in immigration, as do many of you. But I say: first let's focus our energy on giving every American a chance at the high-paying jobs of the future.

The time for quick fixes is long past. We need revolutionary change in our public schools, all the way from pre-K to post-B.A. - and we need it now.

How can we expect students to get the attention they need if there are 35 other students shoehorned into the classroom? How can we build the experienced, highly-trained teaching corps we need for our future when nearly half the teachers in poor, minority schools leave after only three years?

How can we expect them to learn the Internet if in some schools, you blow the circuits if you even plug in a computer?

We must start by making high quality pre-school available to every child, in every community, all across the entire United States.

We must reduce class sizes, and establish high standards and accountability.

We must improve teacher quality, and treat teachers like professionals.

As innovation changes our economy, we must make sure everyone can keep up. We must make it easier for parents to save for college tuition -- tax-free, and inflation-free. We should create new savings accounts to encourage workers to save for their own training, and provide tax cuts for those who do. And we should expand lifelong learning, so every adult who needs training or retraining can get it.

Education is the cornerstone of opportunity. But as we train our people for the high-paying jobs of the future, we must take aggressive steps to create those jobs, and continue to lead the world economically.

That is why I see a 21st Century economy where we continue to knock down the barriers to free and fair trade.

In the last six years, over one-third of our economic growth has been due to exports. Do we really expect to grow by turning our backs on the world's consumers, by letting their economies grow without us?

And that is just the beginning of the fruits of free trade. Open markets spur innovation, speed the growth of new industries, and make our businesses

more competitive. And often, protections actually hurt the people they're intended to protect.

This fall at the WTO, we will insist on the outright elimination of Europe's export subsidies, and significant reductions in agricultural tariffs. That's good for our farmers and companies - but also for European families. European agricultural tariffs - which average a steep 40 percent -- now cost the average European family about \$1,500 a year.

You know better than anyone why the upcoming WTO meeting is so important: America already has the most open economy in the world. We now have a chance to fight protectionism in industries such as agriculture and services - where foreign trade barriers cost jobs here at home.

And we have a chance to make an important case to all Americans - that free and fair trade creates jobs and raises living standards for American workers. We have an ambitious agenda at this fall's Ministerial meeting.

We must take the first steps to modernize the WTO - to make it more open and accountable at a time when trade has a growing impact on our lives.

We must establish fair rules for trade in the industries where America is strongest, such as Internet commerce and Information Technology. To help create opportunity for millions of families, we must fight to keep the Internet a global free trading zone, and establish a permanent moratorium on tariffs in cyberspace. And we must work to significantly reduce tariffs on more information technology products.

We also must ensure that when it comes to trade, labor rights and environmental protection are not second class issues any longer. We can have a new way on trade - one that is good for our economy, and also includes strong safeguards for children, for health and safety, for a clean environment. I believe the President needs the power to reach new trade agreements, and open new markets to our goods and services. But the President must also have the power to negotiate labor and environmental protections in those agreements, whenever necessary.

Above all, those of us who press for open markets must always remember that making our economy work for all Americans - working for the safeguards abroad and the investments here at home that share prosperity and widen the circle of opportunity - is crucial to building a consensus for trade and engagement.

Let us seek growth that lifts up those who have been left out. Let us open closed markets around the world, but also around the corner. Let us use the power of markets to grow together, instead of growing apart.

I believe that the three forces I have discussed today - innovation, education, and globalization - can help us to do so in the 21st Century. If we make the right choices, I believe we can create the most prosperous and inclusive economy the world has ever known. And I believe a great deal of that progress can begin this fall, when you help us host the largest trade event ever held in the United States.

Together, we can lay the foundation for even greater leadership in the innovation economy of the 21st Century.

Together, we can build stronger trade relationships that sustain our shared values: prosperity, opportunity, and human dignity for all.

And together, we can build the kind of economy that gives ordinary people more power to shape their lives, and build a future worthy of their children, than at any time in our history. Thank you.

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REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE FIGHTING CRIME FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES



Monday, July 12, 1999

It is wonderful to be here in Boston this morning - a city that is winning an extraordinary victory against violence and fear. I know that is due in large part to the remarkable leadership of Mayor Menino, together with Boston's outstanding police.

Your success here is an inspiration: for eighteen months here in Boston, not a single precious child was killed. Youth homicide is down by 75 percent. So far, in all of 1999, not a single parent has lost a child to handgun violence. This summer could be the safest in Boston's recent history. And I applaud you.

I want to build an America in the 21st Century where that kind of progress is not astonishing, but expected. Where even one act of violence or cruelty on the evening news is a shock to the American spirit.

In the past several weeks, I have spoken a great deal about the crisis facing families in America today - about the growing forces that make it harder, not easier, to raise a strong family. From the erosion of discipline in our schools, to a culture that glorifies mayhem and cruelty, to the time deficit too many working parents face - our families face challenges that economic abundance alone cannot overcome.

And nothing does more to tear families apart than guns, gangs, drugs, and the fear that walks alongside those terrors. Our children cannot reach for their dreams if they are ducking for cover. We cannot restore a sense of community and decency if people are afraid to walk in any neighborhood - if they feel they have lost the public spaces that are rightfully theirs. A parent struggles to pass on the right values in a culture that practically screams out that chaos and cruelty are cool. And a good parent is undermined in trying to teach the great, simple lessons of right and wrong, of the rule of law and responsibility, when a burdened justice system lets criminals off too easy.

In the past six and a half years, we have made dramatic progress in the war against crime. Remember the chronic fear that used to be part of the way things just were in America's cities? That fear has lifted. In many communities, we have reversed a decades-long rise in crime. And we, together with men and women in local law enforcement, did it by breaking out of the rigid and rusted debates that had stalled action for too long.

When I served the people of Tennessee in the Senate, fighting for the Brady Bill and for stronger anti-drug laws, we were still caught between those who thought the sole answer was to be tougher on criminals, and those who thought the sole answer was to be tougher on the causes of crime. President Clinton and I believed we needed a new way, and we found it. Together with the law enforcement community, we created a new crime-fighting strategy that not only took on the gun lobby, it fought crime on every single front: we targeted smarter prevention to save decent kids; we put more police on the streets; and we made certain that truly savage criminals knew they would face tougher punishments - punishments that could include the death penalty - if they dared to terrorize the innocent any longer.

We lived up to every promise to you and your loved ones: we're funding 100,000 new community police, and fighting for up to 50,000 more - and I believe that should be just the beginning. We funded 100,000 new prison cells, and expanded the death penalty. Criminals don't laugh at the legal system any more. And we stood up to the powerful gun lobby, and did the right thing for our kids, by passing the Brady Bill and banning deadly assault weapons at last.

Now crime is at its lowest level in 25 years. Murder is at a 30-year low. We're breaking up violent teen gangs and turning the good kids' lives around.

The statistics are significant - and they are gratifying. But we must be honest: too many families, and too many communities, still live in fear. And that is because parents share a growing sense that the line between right and wrong is being blurred - a sense that too many children don't even know when they have crossed it.

To truly win the war against crime and drugs, we must redraw the fundamental line between right and wrong in our own minds and hearts. And then we must write it in ink in our lawbooks and etch it in stone in our criminal justice system and in our institutions.

And so I make you this pledge today: if the people of this country entrust me with the Presidency, I will fight to protect America's families by launching the most effective and comprehensive anti-crime strategy our nation has seen.

I will change a political culture in Washington that puts the interests of the

gun lobby ahead of the needs of American families, too many of whom now feel they have to draw the curtains at midday because they fear their children's becoming living targets.

I will reform a justice system that spills half a million prisoners back onto our streets each year - many of them addicted to drugs and alcohol, unrehabilitated and unrepentant, walking timebombs of violence.

I will revolutionize a court system that is overloaded and understaffed, and that often seems less like Law and Order and more like Let's Make a Deal. It's time to put the rights of victims and families first again.

I will work with our communities to restore the sense of order that says to children as well as to criminals: don't even think about committing a crime here.

And I will take on those who deliberately peddle degradation and violence to our children and work for self-restraint in TV and on the Internet, along with the V-Chip and related tools, to guarantee that parents finally get real choices - and real control.

Good values are the best anti-crime insurance to begin with.

And what I am proposing today puts that idea into action: a criminal justice system with real consequences for those who choose crime - and new respect for the rights of victims; communities and schools that make it easier to raise a strong family; gun laws that are written for families, not for gun lobbyists and their apologists; and a shared commitment by each one of us - to teach our children right from wrong, so we can stop crime and drug abuse before they even start - that's how we etch that line in stone once more.

Let us build a criminal justice system that reflects our values -- through fundamental changes in the way we administer justice and enforce our laws.

We cannot keep our families safe if our criminal justice system is too often a revolving door, where even violent criminals get a slap on the wrist. Though the Bible says that justice without mercy is cold-hearted, it also reminds us that mercy at the expense of justice is a desecration of our humanity. Crime must have serious consequences - and the rights of victims should be at the center of all justice. How can we expect children to choose the good if our very system of justice too often fails to side with the good guys?

I am not satisfied. I am not satisfied with a criminal justice system in which the average time between arrest and sentencing is nearly seven months. I will lead a major overhaul of our court system to make it faster and better. I want to hire more prosecutors and public defenders, and use new management techniques to make it more efficient. It's time to apply the reforms that are working in the private sector, and at many levels of government, to revolutionize our justice system.

I am not satisfied with empty benches. I agree with Chief Justice Rehnquist: "[federal court] vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice." There are now 72 empty seats on the federal bench. Yet instead of confirming highly qualified nominees, the Republican Senate continues to hold our justice system hostage. So I say to the Senate: if you are really serious about protecting America's families, then stop playing politics with our federal courts.

I am not satisfied with outdated laws: our newest threats must be met with the most trusted weapon we have: swift and certain punishment.

I am not satisfied as long as even one child remains at the mercy of predators. We need tougher penalties against sex offenders; we need to make it a federal crime if anyone dares to stalk our children on the Internet.

I am not satisfied as long as even one criminal traumatizes a child through violence: if you commit any violent crime in front of a child, you should pay an even higher price for it: more time in jail.

And it astonishes me that, just two weeks after the terrible crimes of hate in Illinois and Indiana, some still deny that hate crimes merit stiffer punishment. When a killer on the rampage picks Jews, Blacks, and Asian Americans as his victims, I don't understand how some can still argue that hate crimes are no different than all other crimes. Hate crimes are often among the most vicious, and the most violent of crimes. But more serious still is the fact that their very purpose is to dehumanize and to stigmatize -- not only to wound the victim, but also to distort the American conscience. We will not have it. It's time for Congress to stop stalling, and pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Let's punish crimes of hate with the full force of our laws.

The revolving door or recidivism pivots on drug abuse - and access to drugs even in prison. I believe there is a way to shut the revolving door of drug-related crime - with mandatory drug testing, drug treatment, and more prison time for those who don't break the habit. Let's make prisoners a simple deal: before you get out of jail, you have to get clean. And if you want to stay out, then you'd better stay clean.

We must crack down on drugs in every corner of our society. Drugs cause 16,000 deaths each year in America -- and more than a million crimes that lead to arrest. One recent study showed that nearly one-fifth of all state prisoners committed their crimes just to feed their drug habits.

As President, I will send a strong message to every American child: drugs are wrong, and drugs can kill you.

I will lead a national crusade to dry up drug demand, hold up drugs at the border, and break up the drug rings that are spreading poison on our streets.

I'll expand drug treatment for at-risk youth. I'll fund more drug courts, to speed justice for drug-related crime. I will double the number of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas - drug hot-spots where we aggressively target our enforcement efforts. I will place a special emphasis on the fast-growing problem of methamphetamines. And I will make sure that our anti-drug strategy does not neglect the problem of alcohol abuse, an underlying cause of far too many crimes.

And I will never be satisfied so long as one victim is forgotten. Too often, we bend over backward to protect the right of criminals, but pay no attention to those who are hurt the most. Victims should have a voice in trial and other proceedings. Their safety should be a factor in the sentencing and release of their attackers. They should be notified when an offender is released back into their community. And they should have a right to compensation from their attacker. That is why I will lead the fight to pass a Victims' Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution - so our justice system puts

victims and their families first again.

And in our vigilance to crack down on criminals, we must do more to make sure we never unfairly target those who are innocent. No one believes more strongly in tough, vigorous law enforcement than I do. But we need to end the hateful practice of racial profiling in America - and I will ensure that we do. If I am elected President, that will be the first civil rights action of the new century.

For law enforcement to fully understand and protect a community, they must better reflect the community. That is why I will support scholarships for communities that have been historically underrepresented in our criminal justice system, in a manner that is consistent with recent Supreme Court decisions. I want to see the day when America's police, prosecutors, and public defenders reflect the full diversity of our nation.

And we need to increase assistance for professional development and re-training through our nation's police academies. That is the best way to ensure that police catch every criminal - and also respect every law-abiding citizen.

We need a criminal justice system that reflects our values. But we also need to build communities that are safer and stronger, and make it easier for parents to instill the right values.

We cannot have strong families without strong, safe, livable communities. And as President, I will work to give communities unprecedented new tools to instill order and safety.

We can begin by making it easier for local law enforcement to track the latest crime trends - block by block, crime by crime. I will work to give police new computerized crime mapping software -- so they know which hotspots to target, and which places still need to be made safe. Earlier today, I announced with Attorney-General Janet Reno that our Justice Department and our National Partnership for Reinventing Government are releasing a new plan to make crime mapping technology available to every community in America.

Once communities are fully able to track and analyze crime, they need more help stopping it. I will fight for a federal law that helps communities establish "gang-free zones" - with curfews on specific gang members, a ban on gang-related clothing, and the specific legal authority to break up gangs once and for all. When this approach was pioneered in parts of Los Angeles, it dramatically cut juvenile crime. Let's take our streets back from the gangs, once and for all.

As we forge new coalitions in an all-out effort to prevent crime, let us also raise up our nation's faith-based organizations. I have seen the difference that Reverend Eugene Rivers and other faith leaders have made here in Boston. They have found that overcoming problems such as youth violence and drug addiction often requires something more than new cops and tough laws - it requires discipline and courage, deep within the individual. Faith is often the missing ingredient, the leaven that rises the bread. That is why I want to build a New Partnership with our nation's churches, mosques, and synagogues. Through carefully-tailored efforts, we can unleash the power of faith to stop crime at the grassroots.

And I want the heart of our crime prevention efforts to be safe, strong, disciplined schools - places where children can learn in safety, and where parents know their children are secure. I will insist on a policy of zero tolerance toward guns and drugs in our schools. Parents have a right to know if a child has brought a gun to their children's school - and schools should be required to tell them. I call for the creation of second-chance schools - where kids headed for trouble, and those caught with guns, can receive the strict discipline and intensive services they need. As President, I will quadruple America's commitment to after school programs, to keep children out of harm's way in the afternoon hours when most juvenile crime takes place.

We need more discipline and character education, to reinforce the values parents teach at home. And we need more parental involvement in our schools. I recently visited Arlington Technical High School in Indianapolis, where fathers actually walk the halls to make their children's schools safer. They call themselves "security dads." I want to support similar efforts all across the nation.

A safe community is a place where all women are safe from domestic violence. I will make sure all battered women have the legal protection and support they need to be safe in their communities, and keep their attackers away.

A safe community is a place where seniors are safe from fraud, abuse, and every kind of elder-crime. I believe we should raise the penalties for those who commit crimes against the elderly. We should give federal prosecutors new tools to fight fraud and abuse. And we should take dramatic new steps to shut down fraudulent telemarketers who prey on the elderly.

For all the challenges we face in the fight against crime, there is one that looms over the rest: it is too easy for a child or a criminal to get a gun in America. And there are too many political leaders who take their marching orders from the gun lobby. I call upon you to join with me, to create a family lobby that is greater and more powerful than the gun lobby - so we can get the guns away from children and criminals, once and for all.

We're working now to raise the age for handgun possession from 18 to 21. To pass strict background checks for those who buy guns at gun shows. To enact stiff, new penalties for adults who sell guns to minors. And to require child-safety locks on guns. I recently saw a billboard here in Boston posted by the Newton, Massachusetts group Stop Handgun Violence. It said: "It's a lot easier to child-proof a gun than it is to bullet-proof a child." I agree.

We need to pass all these measures right away. But we need to do much, much more. I respect the rights of qualified gun owners. But we have lost too many children to have our safety held hostage by the gun lobby.

As President, I will do whatever it takes to get the guns away from children and criminals, and close every loophole in our lawbooks. And here is how I want to start. I will fight for a national requirement that every state issue photo licenses for anyone who wants to buy a handgun. States would have broad discretion in how to administer and implement this program. But one thing would be clear: unless you obtain a license, pass a background check, and pass a gun safety test, you could not buy a handgun. Not in a gun shop, not at a gun show, not on a street corner, not anywhere in America.

We know background checks work. Since we passed the Brady Law, gun

crimes have dropped by 38 percent. The Brady Law has stopped nearly a quarter of a million felons and fugitives from buying guns, and saved countless lives. But today's patchwork of background checks just isn't good enough.

We require a license to drive a car in this nation, to keep unsafe drivers off the road. Now we should require a license to own a handgun - so people who shouldn't have them can't get them.

It's time. The gun lobby is sure to have a fit. But to me, it is worth it, and I am sure the decent people of America will agree: because too many illegal guns are flooding our communities - and too many precious lives are being lost.

And it is time to get tougher on dealers and sellers who violate our gun laws. We need to crack down on open air gun markets - where criminals are known to gather and buy guns - and all places where guns are sold illegally to kids and criminals.

We should say to every rogue gun dealer in America: the first time you willfully break our gun laws by selling guns to a felon or a child, we'll suspend your license. And if you do it again, we'll take away your license for good. No excuses.

We also have to improve a spotty system of record-keeping, to make it easier for law enforcement to catch gun-toting criminals. I believe all gun manufacturers and federally licensed dealers should have to report handgun sales to a state authority, so we can trace the guns used in violent crimes.

We need to ban so-called "junk guns" - cheap, easily concealed handguns that are causing havoc in too many communities.

I believe we need tougher penalties for gun trafficking, and all crimes committed with guns. And I will work with states that want to end the practice of plea bargaining for crimes committed with guns. Innocent defendants shouldn't feel pressured to plead guilty to get a lighter sentence. And those who are truly guilty shouldn't be able to bargain their way out of the full sentence they deserve.

Let me tell you what we must not do: we must not loosen the restrictions on concealed weapons. I will lead the fight against legislation that makes it easier to hide a handgun in America.

After all the gun tragedies in this nation - after Columbine, and Jonesboro, and Conyers, Georgia, and all the future massacres it is up to us to prevent - it is time for a new, bipartisan consensus on this issue. Some want to enact new protections for gun manufacturers. I want to pass new protections for families. Some want more concealed weapons - but they can't conceal the fact that they're just doing the NRA's bidding. Some want to overturn local gun control laws. I want to overturn the influence of the gun lobby. And I need your help to do it.

You know, we can do all this - put new cops on the street, fix the system, crack down on the guns -- and yet the real solution will still elude us if we don't look deeper, all the way to how we teach the spirit of our children in this country.