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Remarks By Jennifer Klein
American Rehabilitation Association Conference
March 13, 1995

- Thank you. It is an honor to be here today.
- I would first like to express the Clinton Administration's heartfelt appreciation for all that the American Rehabilitation Association and its members have done -- particularly for your work on health reform and for your support for the Administration's job training initiatives last year. Your active engagement in these linked reforms has been **and continues to be** essential.
- I also come to you to express my deep commitment, and that of the Administration, to the empowerment of people with disabilities. As President Clinton said in his Remarks on the Fourth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act: **"We must move from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, and from paternalism to empowerment . . . millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened [these possibilities] to them."** Since taking his oath of office in January of 1993, the President has worked diligently to achieve these goals.

Those of you who work in this field -- whether as medical, vocational, or residential rehabilitation professionals -- boost our determination and our capacity to resolve the tremendous challenges that remain before us. Your dedication and compassion inspires us to embrace the responsibility of meeting them.

- Today, I hope to bring you up to date on the Administration's progress on the Reemployment Act and other initiatives to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities as well as on health reform.

REEMPLOYMENT

- The latest figures from the Census Bureau show that there are now **49 million Americans with disabilities** -- nearly **20% of our population**. Roughly **69%** of these individuals are **unemployed**.
- Perhaps the **greatest need** for adults with disabilities is the need for **equitable access to services and supports** that will assist them in achieving **independent living and self sufficiency**. Only with these tools can people with disabilities get and keep jobs.

The Reemployment Act of 1994

- In his 1994 State of the Union Address, the President emphasized that helping Americans get new and better jobs is central to our economic strategy. As he said, we have an outdated unemployment system. We need a **new re-employment system**. We need to move people into **good jobs**. And we know that the only way to have real job security in the future, to get a good job with a growing income, is to have real skills and the ability to learn new ones. **So we've got to streamline today's patchwork of training programs and make them a source of new skills for people who lose their jobs. Reemployment, not unemployment, will be the centerpiece of our economic renewal.**

- As you know, in keeping with this commitment, the President sent the **Reemployment Act of 1994 to Congress last March**, a retraining bill which would have **consolidated six programs for dislocated workers; given access to retraining services and benefits** to those who were permanently laid off and unemployed at least six months; and facilitated the establishment of **one-stop career centers** to serve as a common point of access to employment, education, and training information and services.
- Unfortunately, although action was initiated on this bill in the appropriate Congressional committees, ~~it died in the 103rd Congress.~~
- ~~However,~~ The President remains committed to the goals of the Reemployment Act, and he included the main provisions of the Act in his **Middle Class Bill of Rights**. For example, the Middle Class Bill of Rights ~~includes A New GI Bill for America's Workers, which would~~
 - **Collapse some 70 federal programs for education and job training**
 - **Put the power to learn in people's hands** -
 - offering low income and unemployed workers Skill Grants for education and training worth up to \$2,620 per year, and Individual Education Accounts to get low-cost loans and repay them on a flexible schedule.
 - The proposal also encourages states and the private sector to develop a system of **one-stop career centers** or other information networks where workers get access to real job search help and reliable information on jobs and the records of training institutions.

- In addition, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes an **Education and Job Training Tax Deduction** that will help middle-class Americans get the skills they need.
 - The President proposes making **tuition** for college, community college, technical school, graduate school, and job-training **fully deductible up to \$10,000**. The deduction will be fully available for families earning up to \$100,000 and phased out at \$120,000.
 - The President is already implementing Individual Education Accounts to make **more affordable student loans** available to every American and save taxpayers billions of dollars.
- The President will continue to work for passage of his Middle Class Bill of Rights in order to increase opportunities for all Americans.

Other Clinton Administration Efforts/Achievements for Americans with Disabilities

Let me mention a few other initiatives to invest in people with disabilities and to give them real opportunities to get and keep jobs, to become self-sufficient . . .

- Federal grant programs in six states are demonstrating the positive return on the investment of hiring individuals with disabilities. These pilot projects encourage the employment of young adults with disabilities through teaching accommodations strategies and how to make adjustments in human resource practices.
- The Administration's major School to Work initiative, jointly administered by the Departments of Education and Labor will look to assure success for all children -- including children with disabilities -- in moving from school to adult employment.
- And **President Clinton** himself has set an **example** in hiring Americans with disabilities. The President recognizes what valuable and meaningful **contributions Americans with disabilities can make in the workplace**. In his remarks at the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ~~27 July 1994~~, he declared that he had "the **honor of appointing 44 outstanding people with disabilities to important jobs in our government**. ~~He said~~ We have not appointed a single, solitary person because of their [sic] disability. They have all been appointed because of their ability to serve the American people." ~~During those remarks the President said that he believes that ". . . . millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened it to them We must believe and act on the premise that we do not have a person to waste. . . ."~~

And real opportunities also means ending discrimination against Americans with Disabilities . . .

The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America.

- Under President Clinton's leadership, the Department of Justice has launched a national public education campaign to inform Americans about the ADA, including public service announcements on television and radio, a toll-free information line, and an "ADA Information File" provided to 15,000 libraries across the country.
- The Administration has increased enforcement activities, investigating thousands of complaints related to employment, government services, public accommodation, and transportation.

Overall, we've found that

- The Administration's emphasis on public education and enforcement has substantially increased voluntary compliance with the ADA.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained its vocational rehabilitation and counseling field staff to work closely with employers to help them understand their responsibilities under the ADA and the advantages of employing qualified applicants with disabilities.

Health Care Reform

The inability to get and keep a good job has been a major obstacle for people with disabilities. Perhaps the biggest barrier to the ability to be self-sufficient and to participate fully in society has been inadequate health care coverage . . .

Health Security Act

- As you know, last year the Clinton Administration fought hard for health care reform. **You know because you worked along with us.** The Health Security Act represented a dramatic step forward for people with disabilities.
 - For the first time, **all people with disabilities would have had the same access to health care as everyone else.**
 - The Act's Comprehensive benefits package included an outpatient rehab benefit, home health care and durable medical equipment.
 - **Pre-existing condition limitations were expressly forbidden;** it didn't matter if you had a disability or an illness, you would still have been covered.
 - There was a **significant new long term care program** that would have more than quadrupled public funding for home and community based supports.
 - And the bill would have created a **new tax credits for individuals with disabilities who need to purchase personal assistance and related services in order to work.**

- While we could not reach agreement in Congress on legislation, there can be little disagreement that the problems remain. Nearly 40 million Americans have no health insurance and millions more are merely one pink slip or illness away from losing coverage. Eighty-four percent of the uninsured in 1993 were in working families, and more than 55 percent lived in families headed by full-time workers. And while health care costs have begun to slow down, they are continuing to rise at three times the rate of inflation.
- As the President said in his State of the Union Address and in his December letter to the Congressional Leadership, we remain firmly committed to guaranteeing health security to all Americans and to containing health care costs for families, businesses, and Federal, state, and local governments.

The President believes that we should take a step-by-step approach. **This year, we can take the first steps.** The Congress can and should:

- Reform the insurance market -- so that people don't lose their insurance when they lose their job or change jobs or a family member falls ill, and so that small businesses can afford to buy insurance for their workers
- Make coverage affordable for and available to children
- Help workers who lose their jobs keep their health insurance
- Level the playing field for the self-employed by giving them the same treatment as other businesses
- And help families provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child

- Unfortunately, for too many Republicans in Congress, "health reform" has turned into the code word for slashing Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. Republicans in the House and Senate have talked about cutting both Medicare and Medicaid -- programs that provide crucial services for mothers and children, the elderly and disabled -- by hundreds of billions of dollars.
 - Republicans have signaled their intention to cut Medicare by about \$300 billion between now and 2002.
 - And Republicans have suggested cutting Federal Medicaid spending by at least \$180 to \$190 billion between now and 2002.
- It's not hard to figure out what that means for doctors and hospitals who treat patients receiving benefits under these programs, and for the patients themselves.
 - It means significant cuts in payments to hospitals, physicians and other providers.
 - It means shifting a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries. Or to small businesses and families who will pay higher premiums and fees if these programs are slashed without overall reform.
 - It means dropping coverage or shrinking benefits for mothers and children on Medicaid. Or it means asking States to pick up the tab to preserve the Medicaid program, and in doing so, forcing them to raise taxes or slash spending for services like education and public safety.

Impact of Rescissions and other Reforms on the Disability Community

And these cuts will have an even more dramatic impact when coupled with other cuts being proposed by the Republicans -- in WIC, in food stamps, in housing aid, education, SSI -- the list goes on.

To take just one example . . .

- The House Committee on Ways and Means voted to dismantle the portion of the Supplemental Security Income program that provides cash assistance to poor children with severe disabilities. Their bill would eliminate all SSI eligibility and benefits for 225,000 children with severe disabilities who now receive help. In the future, most disabled children meeting the narrow new child disability standards would not receive SSI cash assistance for food, clothing, and shelter.

Conclusion

- In just 72 short days we have learned that the Contract with America is indeed a financial arrangement -- one that assigns far more importance to the interests of the very wealthy and the very powerful than to the interests of the poor and the needy.
- Our nation does not need that sort of contract. We need a covenant. A trust between government and the American people that reflects our long-held belief that every citizen has the right -- and the responsibility -- to rise as far as their talents and determination can take them and to give something back to their communities in return. That is the underlying principle of the President's New Covenant, which, as he said in his State of the Union Address, is grounded in some pretty old ideas.
- So far in the 104th Congress we have witnessed a systematic pattern of failure to invest in our Nation's most important resource -- the American people, particularly the most vulnerable Americans.
- The President presented a responsible budget to Congress -- a budget that made tough choices to get our rising deficit under control, but a budget that protected hard-working Americans and investments in our children and the disabled. Now it's Congress' turn to act. To detail where they will get the cuts they need to pay for their tax breaks for the wealthy. To step forward with their plan for deficit reduction.
- The President has worked hard -- and will continue to work hard -- to ensure that people have the tools they need to become productive members of our society. Now these programs are at risk. The Administration needs the support of concerned groups -- like the American Rehabilitation Association -- to stem the tide of these attacks.

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American Rehabilitation Association Conference
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Introductory Remarks

- It is an honor to ^{be here today.} ~~address the members of the American Rehabilitation Association, the largest non-profit association representing the entire spectrum of rehabilitation provider institutions.~~

- ^I ~~The Clinton Administration would like to express its heartfelt appreciation for your work on health reform and for your support for the Administration's job training initiatives last year. Your active engagement in these linked reforms is essential as the Clinton Administration moves disability policies from segregation to integration, dependence to independence, and from paternalism to empowerment.~~ ^{the Administration's} _{but}

for all that
the American
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particularly ●

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^{also} I come to you to express my deep commitment, and that of the Administration, to the empowerment of people with disabilities. Those of you who work in this field -- whether as medical, vocational, or residential rehabilitation professionals -- boost our determination and our capacity to resolve the tremendous challenges that remain before us. Your dedication and compassion inspires us to embrace the responsibility of meeting them.

- ^{said} AS President Clinton ~~declared~~ in his Remarks on the Fourth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 27, 1994): "We must move from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, and from paternalism to empowerment . . . millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened ^{it} to them." Since taking his oath of office in January of 1993, the President has worked diligently to achieve these goals.

these possibilities

- Today, I plan*
- ~~I hope~~^{I will} to bring you up to date with what the Administration is accomplishing for Americans with disabilities. ~~Sy Schlossman requested that I include an update on the Reemployment Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and health reform. I look forward to answering any questions you may have after my brief remarks.~~^{you}
 - The latest figures from the Census Bureau show that there are now 49 million Americans with disabilities--nearly 20% of our population. *and other initiatives to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities*
 - Perhaps the greatest need for adults with disabilities is the need for equitable access to services and supports that will assist them in achieving independent living and self sufficiency. Roughly 69% of individuals with disabilities are unemployed today.
 - As President Clinton recently stated, "Having a disability does not diminish one's right to participate in all aspects of mainstream society."

The President has worked hard to put more Americans back to work, enabling them to lead more meaningful lives . . .

The Reemployment Act of 1994

- In his 1994 State of the Union Address, the President emphasized that helping Americans get new, ~~first~~, and better jobs is central to our economic strategy. He said:

~~We must literally transform our outdated unemployment system into a new reemployment system. The old unemployment system just sort of kept you going while you waited for your old job to come back. We've got to have a new system to move people into new and better jobs,~~

As he said, we have an outdated unemployment system. We need a new reemployment system. We need to move people into ~~new~~ and good jobs.

~~because most of these old jobs just don't come back. And~~
and we know that the only way to have real job security in the future, to get a good job with a growing income, is to have real skills and the ability to learn new ones. So we've got to streamline today's patchwork of training programs and make them a source of new skills for our people who lose their jobs. Reemployment, not unemployment, will be the centerpiece of our economic renewal.

- ^{As you know --} In keeping with this commitment, the President sent the Reemployment Act of 1994 to Congress last March, a retraining bill which would have consolidated six programs for dislocated workers; given access to retraining services and benefits to those who were permanently laid off and unemployed at least six months; and facilitated the establishment of one-stop career centers to serve as a common point of access to employment, education, and training information and services.
- Unfortunately, although action was initiated on this bill in the appropriate Congressional committees, it died in the 103rd Congress. ~~To date, the Act has not been resubmitted in the 104th Congress.~~
- ^{his} However, the President remains committed to the goals of the Reemployment Act, and he included the main provisions of the Act in ~~the President's Middle Class Bill of Rights~~. For example, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes ~~what has been labeled~~ A New GI Bill for America's Workers, which would
 - Collapse some 70 federal programs for education and job training
 - ^{worth} Put the power to learn in people's hands -- offering low income and unemployed workers Skill Grants for education and training up to \$2,620 per year, and Individual Education Accounts to get low-cost loans and repay them on a flexible schedule.

- The proposal also encourages states and the private sector to develop a system of **one-stop career centers** or other information networks where workers get access to real job search help and reliable information on jobs and the records of training institutions.
- For the first time, ^{training} training programs will have to pass the same test as the private sector: meet your customers needs or lose business. Choice, competition, and good information will empower individuals to pick providers who deliver. And ~~performance standards for training providers~~ will cut off the frauds and the incompetents.
- In addition, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes an **Education and Job Training Tax Deduction** that will help middle-class Americans get the skills they need.
 - The President proposes making tuition for college, community college, technical school, graduate school, and job-training fully deductible up to \$10,000. The deduction will be fully available for families earning up to \$100,000 and phased out at \$120,000.
 - The President is already implementing Individual Education Accounts to make more affordable student loans available to every American and save taxpayers billions of dollars.
- The President will work to ensure passage of his ^{Middle Class} Bill of Rights in order to increase opportunities for all Americans.

75th Anniversary of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program

- Under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, federal grants are awarded to assist every State in operating a comprehensive program that provides Vocational Rehabilitation services to eligible individuals with disabilities.
- ^{As you know,} This is the 75th anniversary of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program provides a wide range of services and job training for people with disabilities who want to work. As a 1994 Harris poll revealed, there is a clear need for services to assist the 68% of working-age people with disabilities who are currently not working (only 19.7% of non-disabled people are unemployed). 9
- Since its creation, the VR program has been continually reauthorized and expanded with bipartisan support, having demonstrated a constant and impressive record of effectiveness. Specifically,
 - 9 million individuals with disabilities have ~~been assisted in acquiring gainful employment~~ ^{been employed under the program}
 - Each year, more than 200,000 disabled people enter or return to the competitive labor market or become self-employed.
 - ^{And} Approximately 77% of the individuals ^{employed} ~~who achieve an employment outcome~~ each year report that their own income is their primary source of support (as opposed to entitlements or through personal relationships).
- To help the severely disabled join the workforce, VR agencies regularly go far beyond routine job training by providing ^{comprehensive} ~~rehabilitation services of a comprehensive nature~~. This frequently includes work evaluation and adjustment services; a wide variety of job counseling services; assessment for and

provision of assistive technology such as customized computer interfaces for people with physical or sensory disabilities; and medical and therapeutic services.

- The President and his Administration have been strong supporters of this important program.

Let me mention a few other initiatives to invest in people with disabilities and provide them real opportunities to get and keep jobs.

Other Clinton Administration Efforts/Achievements for Americans with Disabilities

to give

Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities

Again, the Administration continues to encourage self-sufficiency

- ① ● Federal grant programs in six states are demonstrating the positive return on the investment of hiring individuals with disabilities. These pilot projects encourage the employment of young adults with disabilities through teaching accommodations strategies and how to make adjustments in human resource practices.
- ② ● The Administration's major School to Work initiative, jointly administered by DOE and DOL will look to assure success for all children, including children with disabilities, in moving from school to adult employment.
- ③ ● And ^{himself} President Clinton has set an example in hiring Americans with disabilities. The President recognizes what valuable and meaningful contributions Americans with disabilities can make in the workplace. In his remarks at the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 27 July 1994, he declared that he had "the honor of appointing 44 outstanding people with disabilities to important jobs in our government. . . . We have not appointed a single, solitary person because of their

[sic] disability. They have all been appointed because of their ability to serve the American people." During those remarks the President said that he believes that ". . . millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened it to them We must believe and act on the premise that we do not have a person to waste. . . ."

4 Working to End Discrimination against Americans with Disabilities

The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America.

- Under President Clinton's leadership, the Department of Justice has launched a national public education campaign to inform Americans about ^{the} ADA, including public service announcements on television and radio, a toll-free information line, and an "ADA Information File" provided to 15,000 libraries across the country.
- The Administration has increased enforcement activities, investigating thousands of complaints related to employment, government services, public accommodation, and transportation.
- The Administration's emphasis on public education and enforcement has substantially increased voluntary compliance with the ADA.

And real opportunities also means ending discrimination against Americans with disabilities.

- The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained its vocational rehabilitation and counseling field staff to work closely with employers to help them understand their responsibilities under the ADA and the advantages of employing qualified applicants with disabilities.

Responsive Services for Families

Current Disability policy recognizes that families who are raising children with disabilities require additional supports.

- The Department of Health and Human Services supports numerous service and research programs aimed at enhancing the independence and quality of life of people with disabilities and their families. Programs include income support, Medicaid, and Maternal and Child Health Programs providing case management and other special supports for children with disabilities.
- The President protected all American families when he signed the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Childhood Immunization Initiative

An ~~Emp~~ ~~the~~ ^{shortage} inability to get and keep ^{good} a good job -- because of a ~~lack~~ ^{shortage} of training programs, or discrim. in the workplace --

Health Care Reform has been a real obstacle for people with disabilities to full participation in society.

- ^{un} ~~As you know, there are still major obstacles to full participation in society for people with disabilities. One of these is~~ ^{another major obstacle} inadequate health care coverage. Health care reform is an indispensable part of the President's mission to ^{craft} ~~craft~~ policies of inclusion, independence, and empowerment that will inspire positive changes in this country and in nations around the world.

of

Health Security Act

*that you all worked so hard for
introduced last year
would have*

- Overall, the Health Security Act represented a dramatic step forward for people with disabilities.
 - For the first time ~~in the history of health care in the U.S.~~, all people with disabilities would have had the same access to health care as everyone else.
 - The Act's Comprehensive benefits package included an outpatient rehabilitation benefit, home health care and durable medical equipment — e.g., prosthetic devices.
 - Pre-existing condition limitations were expressly forbidden; it didn't matter if you had a disability or an illness, you would still have been covered.
 - There was a ^{have} significant new long term care program that would more than quadrupled public funding for home and community based supports.
 - And The bill would have created a new tax credits for individuals with disabilities who need to purchase personal assistance and related services in order to work.

Health Care Reform/current priorities

*You know because you
worked along with us.*

- As you know, last year the Clinton Administration fought hard for health care reform. While we could not reach agreement on legislation, there can be little disagreement that problems remain. Nearly 40 million Americans have no health insurance and millions more are merely one pink slip or illness away from losing coverage. Eighty-four percent of the uninsured in 1993 were working families, and more than 55 percent lived in families headed by full-time workers. And while health care costs have begun to slow down, they are continuing to rise at three times

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- As the President said in his State of the Union Address and in his December letter to the Congressional Leadership, we remain firmly committed to guaranteeing health security to all Americans and to containing health care costs for families, businesses, and Federal, state, and local governments.

The President believes that we should take a step-by-step approach. This year, we can take the first steps. The Congress can and should:

- Reform the insurance market -- so that people don't lose their insurance when they lose their job or change jobs or a family member falls ill, and so that small businesses can afford to buy insurance for their workers
- Make coverage affordable for and available to children
- Help workers who lose their jobs keep their health insurance
- Level the playing field for the self-employed by giving them the same treatment as other businesses
- ^{And,} Help families provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child

The 104th Congress

- ~~The Clinton Administration is fighting back to protect health care for mothers, children, the disabled, and aged Americans~~
- Unfortunately, for too many Republicans in Congress, "health reform" has turned into the code word for slashing Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. Republicans in the

House and Senate have talked about cutting both Medicare and Medicaid by hundreds of billions of dollars.

- Republicans have signaled their intention to cut Medicare -- a crucial safety net for ~~mothers and their children~~, the elderly, and people with disabilities -- by about \$300 billion between now and 2002.
- ^{And} Republicans have suggested cutting Federal Medicaid spending ~~by~~ at least \$180 to \$190 billion between now and 2002. *on mothers, children and the disabled*
- It's not hard to figure out what that means for doctors and hospitals who treat patients receiving benefits under these programs, and for the patients themselves.
 - It means shifting a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries. Or to small businesses and families who will pay higher premiums and fees if these programs are slashed without overall reform.
 - It means dropping coverage or shrinking benefits for mothers and children on Medicaid. Or it means asking States to pick up the tab to preserve the Medicaid program, and in doing so, forcing them to raise taxes or slash spending for services like education and public safety.
 - It means significant cuts in payments to hospitals, physicians and other providers.

Impact of Rescissions and other Reforms on the Disability Community

- Not only have the Republicans targeted programs for people with disabilities, but also it is important to keep in mind that cuts

And these cuts will have an even more dramatic impact when coupled with other cuts being proposed by the Republicans -- in welfare, in food stamps, in housing aid, education, SSI -- the list goes on.

changes
in the rescission package and other ~~reforms~~ currently being proposed that are not disability-specific still impact people with disabilities. (For example, programs like WIC nutrition services and food packages serve people with disabilities and their families.)

Just to take a few examples --

HUD

- 63,000 households, including people with disabilities and people with AIDS, will become homeless because they will not receive Section 8 Incremental Rental Assistance certificates -- possibly resulting in inappropriate institutionalization of people with disabilities.
- \$349.2 million will be cut from Community Development Block Grants. These funds are used to fund compliance with ADA.

Labor

The rescission package includes

- ~~There is~~ a 30% cut from Pilots and Demonstrations (P & D). P & D funds are used to cultivate customer-driven workforce development systems, evaluate projects to improve the services of disadvantaged adults and youth, and develop skill standards. They are also used for programs that serve the needs of targeted groups, including people with disabilities.
- Cuts in JTPA Adult Training Grants Program, Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, and Youth Training Grants Program may disproportionately impact the disability community -- because they are more expensive to serve.

Education

- \$1.5 million will be cut from Galludet University.
- \$5 million will be cut from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in New York.

SSI

To take one dramatic example — —

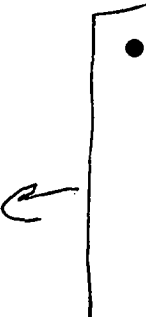
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Conclusion

- In just 72 short days we have learned that the Contract with America is indeed a financial arrangement -- one that assigns far more importance to the interests of the very wealthy and the very powerful than to the interests of the poor and the needy.
- Our nation does not need that sort of contract. We need a covenant. A trust between government and the American people that reflects our long-held belief that every citizen has the right -- and the responsibility -- to rise as far as their ~~God-given~~ talents and determination can take them and to give something back to their communities in return. That is the underlying principle of the President's New Covenant, which, as he said in his State of the Union Address, is grounded in some pretty old ideas.
- So far in the 104th Congress we have witnessed a general pattern of failure to invest in our Nation's most important resource -- the American people.

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- The President has worked hard to ensure that people have the tools they need to become productive members of our society. Now these programs are at risk. The Administration needs the support of concerned groups -- like yours -- to stem the tide of these attacks.

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- The President presented a responsible budget to Congress -- a budget that made tough choices to get our rising deficit under control, but a budget that protected hard-working Americans and investments in our children and the disabled. Now it's Congress' turn to act. To detail where they will get the cuts they need to pay for their tax cuts ~~they need to pay for tax cuts~~ for the wealthy. To step forward with their plan for deficit reduction.
 - The President has said that we cannot get a hold of the deficit without passing meaningful health care reform. Over the next five years alone, almost 40 percent of the growth in total federal spending will come from rising costs in health care programs. We must contain costs in these programs. But we must do it as we reform our health care system as a whole -- not by arbitrarily cutting programs that serve the most vulnerable Americans.

Jim — Here are 2 copies
of talking pts (in case
you prefer larger font)

Please call me at home
(202) 543-6493 or page me
at (202) 843-3534 to discuss
arrangements for Mon
am. Thanks! —

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- President Clinton declared in his Remarks on the Fourth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 27, 1994): **"We must move from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, and from paternalism to empowerment . . . millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened it to them."** Since taking his oath of office in January of 1993, the President has worked diligently to achieve these goals.
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- Perhaps the **greatest need** for adults with disabilities is the need for **equitable access to services and supports** that will assist them in achieving **independent living and self sufficiency**. Roughly **69%** of individuals with disabilities are **unemployed** today.
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The President has worked hard to put more Americans back to work, enabling them to lead more meaningful lives . . .

The Reemployment Act of 1994

- In his 1994 State of the Union Address, the President emphasized that helping Americans get new, first, and better jobs is central to our economic strategy. He said:

We must literally transform our outdated unemployment system into a new reemployment system. The old unemployment system just sort of kept you going while you waited for your old job to come back. We've got to have a new system to move people into new and better jobs, because most of those old jobs just don't come back. And we know that the only way to have real job security in the future, to get a good job with a growing income, is to have real skills and the ability to learn new ones. **So we've got to streamline today's patchwork of training programs and make them a source of new skills for our people who lose their jobs. Reemployment, not unemployment, will be the centerpiece of our economic renewal.**
- In keeping with this commitment, the President sent the **Reemployment Act of 1994** to Congress last March, a retraining bill which would have **consolidated six programs for dislocated workers; given access to retraining services and benefits** to those who were permanently laid off and unemployed at least six months; and facilitated the establishment of **one-stop career centers** to serve as a common point of access to employment, education, and training information and services.
- Unfortunately, although action was initiated on this bill in the appropriate Congressional committees, it died in the 103rd Congress. To date, the Act has not been resubmitted in the 104th Congress.

- However, the President remains committed to the goals of the Reemployment Act, and he included the main provisions of the Act in the **President's Middle Class Bill of Rights**. For example, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes what has been labeled **A New GI Bill for America's Workers**, which would
 - **Collapse some 70 federal programs for education and job training**
 - **Put the power to learn in people's hands --** offering low income and unemployed workers Skill Grants for education and training up to \$2,620 per year, and Individual Education Accounts to get low-cost loans and repay them on a flexible schedule.
 - The proposal also encourages states and the private sector to develop a system of **one-stop career centers** or other information networks where workers get access to real job search help and reliable information on jobs and the records of training institutions.
 - For the first time, training programs will have to pass the same test as the private sector: meet your customers needs or lose business. Choice, competition, and good information will empower individuals to pick providers who deliver. And **performance standards** for training providers will cut off the frauds and the incompetents.
- In addition, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes an **Education and Job Training Tax Deduction** that will help middle-class Americans get the skills they need.
 - The President proposes making **tuition** for college, community college, technical school, graduate school, and job-training **fully deductible up to \$10,000**. The deduction will be fully available for families earning up to \$100,000 and phased out at \$120,000.
 - The President is already implementing Individual Education Accounts to make **more affordable student loans** available to every American and save taxpayers billions of dollars.
- The President will work to ensure passage of his Bill of Rights in order to increase opportunities for all Americans.

75th Anniversary of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program

- Under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, federal grants are awarded to assist every State in operating a comprehensive program that provides Vocational Rehabilitation services to eligible individuals with disabilities.
- This is the 75th anniversary of the **Vocational Rehabilitation Program**. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program provides a wide range of services and **job training** for people with disabilities who want to work. As a **1994 Harris poll** revealed, there is a clear need for services to assist the **68% of working-age people with disabilities** who are currently **not working** (only 19.7% of non-disabled people are unemployed).
- Since its creation, the VR program has been continually reauthorized and expanded with bipartisan support, having demonstrated a constant and impressive record of effectiveness. Specifically,
 - 9 million individuals with disabilities have been assisted in acquiring gainful employment
 - Each year, more than 200,000 disabled people enter or return to the competitive labor market or become self-employed.
 - Approximately 77% of the individuals who achieve an employment outcome each year report that their own income is their primary source of support (as opposed to entitlements or through personal relationships).
- To help the severely disabled join the workforce, VR agencies regularly go far beyond routine job training by providing **rehabilitation services** of a comprehensive nature. This frequently includes work evaluation and adjustment services; a wide variety of job counseling services; assessment for and provision of assistive technology such as customized computer interfaces for people with physical or sensory disabilities; and medical and therapeutic services.
- The President and his Administration have been strong supporters of this important program.

Other Clinton Administration Efforts/Achievements for Americans with Disabilities

Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities

- Federal grant programs in six states are demonstrating the positive return on the investment of hiring individuals with disabilities. These pilot projects encourage the employment of young adults with disabilities through teaching accommodations strategies and how to make adjustments in human resource practices.
- The Administration's major School to Work initiative, jointly administered by DOE and DOL will look to assure success for all children, including children with disabilities, in moving from school to adult employment.
- **President Clinton has set an example in hiring Americans with disabilities. The President recognizes what valuable and meaningful contributions Americans with disabilities can make in the workplace.** In his remarks at the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 27 July 1994, he declared that he had "the honor of appointing 44 outstanding people with disabilities to important jobs in our government. . . . We have not appointed a single, solitary person because of their [sic] disability. They have all been appointed because of their ability to serve the American people." During those remarks the President said that he believes that ". . . millions of Americans with disabilities could be working and contributing if this society opened it to them We must believe and act on the premise that we do not have a person to waste. . . ."

Working to End Discrimination against Americans with Disabilities

The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act in schools, workplaces, and public areas across America.

- Under President Clinton's leadership, the Department of Justice has launched a national public education campaign to inform Americans about ADA, including public service announcements on television and radio, a toll-free information

line, and an "ADA Information File" provided to 15,000 libraries across the country.

- The Administration has increased enforcement activities, investigating thousands of complaints related to employment, government services, public accommodation, and transportation.
- The Administration's emphasis on public education and enforcement has substantially increased voluntary compliance with the ADA.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained its vocational rehabilitation and counseling field staff to work closely with employers to help them understand their responsibilities under the ADA and the advantages of employing qualified applicants with disabilities.

Responsive Services for Families

Current Disability policy recognizes that families who are raising children with disabilities require additional supports.

- The Department of Health and Human Services supports numerous service and research programs aimed at enhancing the independence and quality of life of people with disabilities and their families. Programs include income support, Medicaid, and Maternal and Child Health Programs providing case management and other special supports for children with disabilities.
- The President protected all American families when he signed the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Childhood Immunization Initiative

Health Care Reform

- As you know, there are still major obstacles to full participation in society for people with disabilities. One of these is inadequate health care coverage. Health care reform is an indispensable part of the President's mission to "craft policies of inclusion, independence, and empowerment that will inspire positive changes in this country and in nations around the world."

Health Security Act

- Overall, the Health Security Act represented a dramatic step forward for people with disabilities.
 - For the first time in the history of health care in the U.S., **all people with disabilities would have had the same access to health care as everyone else.**
 - The Act's Comprehensive benefits package included an outpatient rehabilitation benefit, home health care and durable medical equipment -- e.g., prosthetic devices.
 - **Pre-existing condition limitations were expressly forbidden;** it didn't matter if you had a disability or an illness, you would still have been covered.
 - There was a **significant new long term care program** that would more than quadrupled public funding for home and community based supports.
 - The bill would have created a **new tax credits for individuals with disabilities who need to purchase personal assistance and related services in order to work.**

Health Care Reform/current priorities

- As you know, last year the Clinton Administration fought hard for health care reform. While we could not reach agreement on legislation, there can be little disagreement that problems remain. Nearly 40 million Americans have no health insurance and millions more are merely one pink slip or illness away from losing coverage. Eighty-four percent of the uninsured in 1993 were working families, and more than 55 percent lived in families headed by full-time workers. And while health care costs have begun to slow down, they are continuing to rise at three times the rate of inflation.
- As the President said in his State of the Union Address and in his December letter to the Congressional Leadership, we remain firmly committed to guaranteeing health security to all Americans and to containing health care costs for families, businesses, and Federal, state, and local governments.

The President believes that we should take a step-by-step approach. This year, we can take the first steps.

The Congress can and should:

- Reform the insurance market -- so that people don't lose their insurance when they lose their job or change jobs or a family member falls ill, and so that small businesses can afford to buy insurance for their workers
- Make coverage affordable for and available to children
- Help workers who lose their jobs keep their health insurance
- Level the playing field for the self-employed by giving them the same treatment as other businesses
- Help families provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child

The 104th Congress

- **The Clinton Administration is fighting back to protect health care for mothers, children, the disabled, and aged Americans**
- Unfortunately, for too many Republicans in Congress, "health reform" has turned into the code word for slashing Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. Republicans in the House and Senate have talked about cutting both Medicare and Medicaid by hundreds of billions of dollars.
 - Republicans have signaled their intention to cut Medicare -- a crucial safety net for mothers and their children, the elderly, and people with disabilities -- by about \$300 billion between now and 2002.
 - Republicans have suggested cutting Federal Medicaid spending by at least \$180 to \$190 billion between now and 2002.
- It's not hard to figure out what that means for doctors and hospitals who treat patients receiving benefits under these programs, and for the patients themselves.
 - It means shifting a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries. Or to small businesses and families who will pay higher premiums and fees if these programs are

slashed without overall reform.

- It means dropping coverage or shrinking benefits for mothers and children on Medicaid. Or it means asking States to pick up the tab to preserve the Medicaid program, and in doing so, forcing them to raise taxes or slash spending for services like education and public safety.
- It means significant cuts in payments to hospitals, physicians and other providers.

Impact of Rescissions and other Reforms on the Disability Community

- Not only have the Republicans targeted programs for people with disabilities, but also it is important to keep in mind that cuts in the rescission package and other reforms currently being proposed that are not disability-specific still impact people with disabilities. (For example, programs like WIC nutrition services and food packages serve people with disabilities and their families.)

HUD

- 63,000 households, including people with disabilities and people with AIDS, will become homeless because they will not receive Section 8 Incremental Rental Assistance certificates -- possibly resulting in inappropriate institutionalization of people with disabilities.
- \$349.2 million will be cut from Community Development Block Grants. These funds are used to fund compliance with ADA.

Labor

- There is a 30% cut from Pilots and Demonstrations (P & D). P & D funds are used to cultivate customer-driven workforce development systems, evaluate projects to improve the services of disadvantaged adults and youth, and develop skill standards. They are also used for programs that serve the needs of targeted groups, including people with disabilities.
- Cuts in JTPA Adult Training Grants Program, Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, and Youth Training Grants Program may disproportionately impact the disability community -- because they are more expensive to serve.

Education

- \$1.5 million will be cut from Galludet University.
- \$.5 million will be cut from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in New York.

SSI

- The House Committee on Ways and Means voted to dismantle the portion of the Supplemental Security Income program that provides cash assistance to poor children with severe disabilities. Their bill would eliminate all SSI eligibility and benefits for 225,00 children with severe disabilities who now receive help. In the future, most disabled children meeting the narrow new child disability standards would not receive SSI cash assistance for food, clothing, and shelter.

Conclusion

- In just 72 short days we have learned that the Contract with America is indeed a financial arrangement -- one that assigns far more importance to the interests of the very wealthy and the very powerful than to the interests of the poor and the needy.
- Our nation does not need that sort of contract. We need a covenant. A trust between government and the American people that reflects our long-held belief that every citizen has the right -- and the responsibility -- to rise as far as their God-given talents and determination can take them and to give something back to their communities in return. That is the underlying principle of the President's New Covenant, which, as he said in his State of the Union Address, is grounded in some pretty old ideas.
- So far in the 104th Congress we have witnessed a general pattern of failure to invest in our Nation's most important resource -- the American people.
- The President has worked hard to ensure that people have the tools they need to become productive members of our society. Now these programs are at risk. The Administration needs the support of concerned groups -- like yours -- to stem the tide of these attacks.
- The President presented a responsible budget to Congress -- a budget that made tough choices to get our rising deficit under control, but a budget that protected hard-working

Americans and investments in our children and the disabled. Now it's Congress' turn to act. To detail where they will get the cuts they need to pay for their tax cuts they need to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. To step forward with their plan for deficit reduction.

- The President has said that we cannot get a hold of the deficit without passing meaningful health care reform. Over the next five years alone, almost 40 percent of the growth in total federal spending will come from rising costs in health care programs. We must contain costs in these programs. But we must do it as we reform our health care system as a whole -- not by arbitrarily cutting programs that serve the most vulnerable Americans.



**American
Rehabilitation
Association**

January 5, 1995

Ms. Carol Rasco
Chairperson
Domestic Policy Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

I have the privilege of thanking the Clinton Administration for its past support of rehabilitation, and of inviting you to address the annual Legislative Conference of the American Rehabilitation Association on March 13-14, 1995.

The American Rehabilitation Association is the world's largest non-profit association representing the entire spectrum of rehabilitation provider institutions. Because of our mainstream orientation, we are also effectively networked into the vast community of individual providers and advocates for persons with disabilities. Members and representatives from other groups that are interested in services for persons with disabilities will be invited to attend your address.

We thank you for your past support of programs for persons with disabilities. Both we and our members are keenly aware of the importance that your health care reform proposal placed on rehabilitation services, and this was instrumental in our support of S.1757 and H.R.3600 in the last Congress. We also support the goals of the Re-Employment Act, and hope to work with the Administration to ensure enactment of the "career center" concept.

Your appearance would thus find a genuinely friendly reception, as well as encourage our membership to become more active in support of goals you evidently consider to be important.

The timing of our Conference should coincide with a renewed effort to promote health care reform and/or re-employment, and give you an excellent forum for making a statement on where you believe we should be headed. The time slots we have available for a presentation are 8:30 am and 1 pm on March 13th, and 8:45 and 11:45 am on the 14th. The Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency (Capitol Hill).

9 am

Ms. Carol Rasco
January 5, 1995
Page two

If your schedule does not permit you to address the Summit, we would urge you to schedule Chris Jennings or another equally qualified spokesperson.

Looking forward to a reply, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sy Schlossman".

Sy Schlossman
Interim President and CEO

this draft
includes info
re: the 3-4
major areas
mentioned in
Schlossman's
letter

still waiting for
info re: admin.'s
achievements for
Am's w/ disabilities
A re: the Natl
Disability Policy Review
Team

DRAFT

Talking Points
American Rehabilitation Association Conference
March 13, 1995 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill

Introductory Remarks

- I am honored to meet with the American Rehabilitation Association, the largest non-profit association representing the entire spectrum of rehabilitation provider institutions.
- President-elect Bill Clinton declared during an Economic Town Meeting held in December of 1992 that: **"We must not rest until America has a national disability policy based on three simple creeds: inclusion, not exclusion; independence, not dependence; and empowerment, not paternalism."** Since taking the oath of office in January of 1993, the President has worked diligently to achieve that goal.
- I hope to bring you up to date with what the Administration is accomplishing for Americans with disabilities. Sy Schlossman requested that I include an update on the Reemployment Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and health reform. I look forward to answering any questions you may have after my brief remarks.

National Disability Policy

- You may be wondering how all the talk in Washington about giving more responsibility to the states and local governments for all types of federal programs will affect national disability policy.

Federal Role

- **To preserve and provide equity and basic individual rights under the Constitution and strengthen our nation's communities and economy by providing strong, effective enforcement of civil rights legislation for individuals with disabilities (ADA, IDEA, Fair Housing Act Amendments, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act)**
- **To maintain support for and assistance to families who simply cannot afford by themselves to meet their needs.**
- **To provide national leadership through technical assistance, demonstration projects, models, research and dissemination of information.**

Role of governments at all levels:

- Assure opportunity to exercise full rights and responsibilities to lead independent lives; enjoy self-determination; make choices and to be productive throughout their lives.
- Create more consumer-responsive solutions

The Clinton Administration/Achievements for Americans with Disabilities

Background/Americans with Disabilities

- The latest figures from the Census Bureau show that there are now **49 million Americans with disabilities**--nearly **20% of our population**. The Census Report also indicated that only 23% of those of working age with a severe disability are employed.
- A study commissioned by the National Organization on Disability shows that there is a serious participation gap in America: people with and without disabilities are not participating equally in economic and social life. The survey showed that the gap is not closing. In fact, with respect to employment, the gap has widened. **Two-thirds of Americans with disabilities are not working**. Largely as a result, their poverty rate is more than double the national average. People with disabilities also have less education and they socialize far less.

what the President has proposed to put more Americans back to work . . .

The Reemployment Act of 1994

- In his 1994 State of the Union Address, the President emphasized that helping Americans get new, first, and better jobs is central to our economic strategy. He said:

We must literally transform our outdated unemployment system into a new reemployment system. The old unemployment system just sort of kept you going while you waited for your old job to come back. We've got to have a new system to move people into new and better jobs, because most of those old jobs just don't come back. And we know that the only way to have real job security in the future, to get a good job with a growing income, is to have real skills and the ability to learn new ones. **So we've got to streamline today's patchwork of training programs and make them a source of new skills for our people who lose their jobs. Reemployment, not unemployment, will be the centerpiece of our economic renewal.**

- In keeping with this commitment, the President sent the **Reemployment Act of 1994 to Congress last March**, a retraining bill which would have **consolidated six programs for dislocated workers; given access to retraining services and benefits** to those who were permanently laid off and unemployed at least six months; and facilitated the establishment of **one-stop career centers** to serve as a common point of access to employment, education, and training information and services.
- Unfortunately, although action was initiated on this bill in the appropriate Congressional committees, it died in the 103rd Congress. To date, the Act has not been resubmitted in the 104th Congress.
- However, the main provisions of the Reemployment Act are included in **President Clinton's Middle Class Bill of Rights**. For example, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes what has been labeled **A New GI Bill for America's Workers**, which would
 - **Collapse some 70 federal programs for education and job training**
 - **Put the power to learn in people's hands --** offering low income and unemployed workers Skill Grants for education and training up to \$2,620 per year, and Individual Education Accounts to get low-cost loans and repay them on a flexible schedule.
 - The proposal also encourages states and the private sector to develop a system of **one-stop career centers** or other information networks where workers get access to real job search help and reliable information on jobs and the records of training institutions.

- For the first time, training programs will have to pass the same test as the private sector: meet your customers needs or lose business. Choice, competition, and good information will empower individuals to pick providers who deliver. And **performance standards** for training providers will cut off the frauds and the incompetents.
- In addition, the Middle Class Bill of Rights includes an **Education and Job Training Tax Deduction** that will help middle-class Americans get the skills they need.
 - The President proposes making **tuition** for college, community college, technical school, graduate school, and job-training **fully deductible up to \$10,000**. The deduction will be fully available for families earning up to \$100,000 and phased out at \$120,000.
 - The President is already implementing Individual Education Accounts to make **more affordable student loans** available to every American and save taxpayers billions of dollars.
- The Administration's major School to Work initiative, jointly administered by DOE and DOL will look to assure success for all children, including children with disabilities, in moving from school to adult employment.
- Administration on Developmental Disabilities administers Transition to Work Demonstration Projects in six states that work with employers in making accommodations and adjustments in human resource practices; lessons learned will shape long-term policy.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Specifically, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program)

- Under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, federal grants are awarded to assist every State in operating a comprehensive program that provides Vocational Rehabilitation services to eligible individuals with disabilities. These programs are administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

- This is the 75th anniversary of the **Vocational Rehabilitation Program**. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program provides a wide range of services and **job training** for people with disabilities who want to work. Since its creation, the VR program has been continually reauthorized and expanded with bipartisan support, having demonstrated a constant and impressive record of effectiveness. Specifically,
 - 9 million individuals with disabilities have been assisted in acquiring gainful employment
 - Each year, more than 200,000 disabled people enter or return to the competitive labor market or become self-employed.
 - Approximately 77% of the individuals who achieve an employment outcome each year report that their own income is their primary source of support (as opposed to entitlements or through personal relationships).
- As a **1994 Harris poll** revealed, there is a clear need for services to assist the **68% of working-age people with disabilities** who are currently **not working** (only 19.7% of non-disabled people are unemployed).
- To help the severely disabled join the workforce, VR agencies regularly go far beyond routine job training by providing **rehabilitation services** of a comprehensive nature. This frequently includes work evaluation and adjustment services; a wide variety of job counseling services; assessment for and provision of assistive technology such as customized computer interfaces for people with physical or sensory disabilities; and medical and therapeutic services.
- However, there are still **major obstacles** to gainful employment for people with disabilities.
 - One continuing obstacle is the need to educate employers about the disability and the work potential of individuals with the most severe disabilities. To eliminate **employer misconceptions**, and important role of the State VR agencies is to establish a working relationship with their local business communities. These relationships have proven to be instrumental in identifying existing job opportunities and helping to place people with disabilities in those positions. Without this type of intervention, it can be exceedingly difficult for people with disabilities to find work.

- Another obstacle to employment is the **lack of adequate health insurance** for people with disabilities **because of pre-existing condition exclusions**. A third challenge is the need for disabled individuals to obtain a job that provides sufficient income to cover the **additional costs associated with disability, such as equipment and medical expenses**.

President Clinton's Health Security Act attempted to address these issues

Health Reform/specific references to rehabilitation services in the Health Security Act

- Overall, the Health Security Act represented a dramatic step forward for people with disabilities.
 - For the first time in the history of health care in the U.S., **all people with disabilities would have had the same access to health care as everyone else**.
 - **Pre-existing condition limitations were expressly forbidden**; it didn't matter if you had a disability or an illness, you would still have been covered.
 - There was a **significant new long term care program** that would more than quadrupled public funding for home and community based supports.
 - The bill would have created a **new tax credits for individuals with disabilities who need to purchase personal assistance and related services in order to work**.
- Universal access to a federally guaranteed benefits package was probably the most dramatic impact of health care reform for people with disabilities.
- The comprehensive benefits package would have covered a broad range of services -- from doctor and hospital benefits to preventive services and family planning to home health care, extended care, outpatient rehabilitation services, durable medical equipment, mental health/substance abuse, and many other essential services. Of particular interest to people with disabilities, the outpatient rehabilitation benefit included physical, occupational and speech therapy to restore functional capacity or minimize limitations as a

result of an illness or injury. Rehabilitation services would have been provided for 60 days, with additional periods authorized by providers if the recipient's functioning was improving.

- The Health Security Act also recognized that certain types of equipment can often make the difference between dependence and independence for people with disabilities. The **durable medical equipment benefit**, available to all Americans under the guaranteed benefit package, would have covered equipment and orthotic and prosthetic devices, and training for use of those items.
- The Health Security Act also included **long term support for people with disabilities and the elderly**. The Clinton Administration believed that it would not be health care reform without long term care reform. The Health Security Act included a major expansion of home and community based services for people with severe disabilities, regardless of their age or income. This new program, separate from the comprehensive benefits package, would have provided community based supports to help over 3 million people with disabilities and their families. The goal was to help people live in their own homes and to lead productive lives in their communities.
- The Health Security Act also offered a **significant incentive to encourage people with disabilities to work**. It authorized a 50% tax credit, up to \$15,000, for out of pocket spending for personal assistance and other items and services related to a disability.

(Major provisions related to rehabilitation services in the Health Security Act)

- Home Health Care
- Extended Care Services
- Outpatient Rehabilitation Services
- Durable Medical Equipment and Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices

Health Reform/current priorities

- As he said in his State of the Union Address, the President is committed to work in a bipartisan fashion to put America on the road to health security. He will work with Congress as Democrats and Republicans develop proposals. The President has made it abundantly clear that he will not give up the fight to guarantee affordable, high quality health care for the American people.

The President believes Congress can and should:

- Reform the insurance market
- Make coverage affordable for and available to children
- Help workers who lose their jobs keep their health insurance
- Level the playing field for the self-employed by giving them the same treatment as other businesses
- Help families provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child

Conclusion

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