

Additional Notes for Speech

1. Anti-Smoking

As you know, more than 400,000 smokers die each year from smoking-related illnesses. Tobacco use kills more people each year in the United States than AIDS, car accidents, alcohol, homicides, illegal drugs, suicides and fires *combined*. And the real tragedy is that these deaths are preventable.

The Clinton Administration is committed to the nation's campaign against smoking and tobacco use. The Administration has a number of initiatives -- across a wide range of departments -- aimed at increasing awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke and at preventing smoking.

- To take just a few examples. The Centers for Disease Control and the National Cancer Institute provide funds to States for education and prevention programs. The Environmental Protection Agency and HHS have united to voice support for the scientific evidence on the dangers of second-hand smoke. Armed with this evidence, the Public Health Service is working -- with health professionals -- to increase public awareness about the impact of second-hand smoke in the home on children's health. The Department of Labor is working against occupational exposure. The Department of Defense has banned smoking indoors in military installations. And, as I am sure you know, the Food and Drug Administration has undertaken a review to determine whether nicotine should be regulated as a drug.
- Perhaps most tragic is the epidemic of youth addiction to nicotine. A casual decision at a young age to use tobacco products can lead to addiction and serious disease. The Department of Education is spearheading efforts to educate children, particularly adolescents, about the dangers of tobacco use -- in order to prevent kids from smoking, hopefully before they start. In addition, our Goals 2000 legislation requires all schools to be smoke-free -- which will provide cleaner learning environments for all of our children.

Your concern and leadership on tobacco issues has been extremely important and I urge you to continue those efforts.

2. Regulatory Reform

- I thought that all you should say about regulatory reform is what I included on the second page under the part about improving the Medicare and Medicaid programs. You could add that this is part of the Administration's overall regulatory review initiative to reduce the burdens of government and make it more responsive to its customers -- in this case the doctors and patients who must manage the maze of Medicare and Medicaid -- while ensuring health and safety.

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3-7-'95

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In the area of second-hand smoke, we are implementing the smoke-free provisions of the Education Goals 2000 which will provide cleaner learning environments for our children.

Increased public awareness and worked with health care professionals about the impact of second-hand smoke in the home on children's health--asthma, bronchitus, ear infections, pulmonary and respiratory problems.

Supported HR 3434 with EPA and DHHS joining hands. Surgeon General and EPA Commissioner testified before Congressional committee.

United in support of the scientific base (which was challenged) on the risks of second-hand smoke. (Carole Browner's shop might give you better details on this.)

Bullets on Smoking

- o The epidemic of youth addiction to nicotine has enormous public health consequences. A casual decision at a young age to use tobacco products can lead to addiction, serious disease, and premature death as an adult. More than 400,000 smokers die each year from smoking-related illnesses.

Tobacco use kills more people each year in the United States than AIDS, car accidents, alcohol, homicides, illegal drugs, suicides, and fires combined. Ten times more people every year than were killed during the entire course of the Vietnam War. And the real tragedy is that these deaths are preventable.

- o Department heads throughout the Administration have looked at these numbers and are responding. Department decisions as diverse as EPA's on second-hand smoke, Labor on occupational exposure, Defense on smoking in military installations, and Health and Human Services on many fronts, including FDA's review of nicotine, taken together hold the promise to make an unprecedented difference on this most important public health issue.
- o Your concern and leadership on tobacco issues has played an important role as well and I urge you to continue in those efforts. With Congressman Bliley of Virginia, a leading friend of the tobacco industry, now in charge of the House health subcommittee, your help is needed now more than ever.

*NCI
CDC
States Funds
for tobacco
programs*

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ▶

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