

	NEXT STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE	ISSUES
TA BLOCK GRANT				
State Option to Implement pre-7/1/97	Guidance to States	early September '96?	HHS	
Waivers	Responding to Waiver Requests	Ongoing	HHS	1. How respond to new requests? 2. Pending Requests
Contingency Fund	Form Interagency Group Regs?	<i>1st week in September</i>	Treasury	
Performance Fund				
Regulations	HHS to produce list of areas for proposed regulation	List produced by Labor Day?	HHS/ASPE?	Should there be any?
FOOD STAMPS				
Benefit Changes		Effective October 1 Some on January 1	USDA/FNS	
Eligibility: 18-50 year olds		Effective three months after effective date	USDA/FNS	Key Issue: can states have systems ready to support change
Immigrants		One year from enactment	USDA/FNS	Ties to verification issue below
SSI				

Tighter Eligibility for Children	Notices to children potentially affected	Notices by 1/1/97 Redeterminations within one year of enactment	SSA	
Immigrants		On enactment, applicants no longer eligible Notices for redetermination 3/31/97 Redeterminations within one year of enactment	SSA	Verification key issue Timing of notices
IMMIGRATION				
Naturalization			INS	What steps can INS take to increase naturalization levels
Other Means Tested Benefits	AG determination of which programs included		DOJ	How will this be done?
Regulation waiving requirements for immigrants with disabilities	Issue regulation	ASAP	INS/OMB	What is holding the reg up?
Verification			Interagency Group	
MEDICAID				
CHILD CARE				

9/1 Define lawfully present

90 days

90 days

18 mos - new verification process

Sept - Naturalization Month

CHILD WELFARE				
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT				

SUBGROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION
WELFARE REFORM WORKING GROUP

AGENDA
August 19, 1996

- I. Introductions; Purpose of Meeting Jeremy Ben-Ami
- II. Reports from Agencies
 - o Tasks, timeline, issues to flag:
 Identify missing tasks, issues
 - o HHS
 - o USDA
 - o SSA
 - o DOJ
 - o Treasury
 - o Discussion of interagency process
- III. Discussion of our role in Emily Bromberg
 NGA/NCSL/APWA September meeting
- IV. Next Steps

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

16-Aug-1996 03:16pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Dorothy K. Craft[^]
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: WELFARE IMPLEMENTATION SUBGROUP

August 16, 1996

MEMO TO SUBGROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION, WELFARE REFORM WORKING GROUP

FROM: Jeremy Ben-Ami
 Diana Fortuna
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Meeting on Monday, August 19

Each of your offices should have gotten a call by now inviting you to a meeting on Monday, August 19 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 211 of the OEOB. This will be the first meeting of the subgroup on welfare reform implementation, one of three subgroups outlined at a meeting of the larger welfare reform working group that many of you attended last Friday. (That larger group will meet again on Tuesday, August 20.)

The purpose of Monday's meeting is to go over the implementation timetables/workplans that you are all developing and to flag any policy issues that must be decided along the way. We will then incorporate that information into a government-wide calendar. It will be more of a work session than Tuesday's meeting, where our subgroup will be expected to report on our progress.

Please bring to Monday's meeting the documents you are doubtless preparing that reflect the tasks your agency must complete and the timeline. Timeline information should include relevant effective dates of the law and target dates for items such as regulations, guidance, instructions, and notices to beneficiaries. Timelines should also reflect differences in the process for current recipients and new applicants, when that is

appropriate. Where target dates are undecided, you should provide a range of options, and a description of why you have discretion. In addition, please be prepared to discuss -- or at least list -- policy issues that need the group's attention.

You can call Diana at 456-5570 with any questions. Please make sure you have provided clearance information (date of birth) to Dorothy K. Craft at 456-5571.

cc: Carol Rasco
Bruce Reed
Emily Bromberg
Ken Apfel

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

09-Aug-1996 09:55am

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Lyndell Hogan
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Welfare Talking Points

To: Distribution
From: Lyn Hogan
Date: 8-9-96
Re: Welfare Talking Points

Bruce has not approved the following talking points yet because he is on vacation. However, given the time frame and Patricia Ireland's escalating hunger strike, I'm sending them out. But I'll ask you not to distribute any talking points without Bruce's sign-off.

The following talking points are very basic. I'm just providing the facts and you can add the tone. The talking points a) explain the time limits, b) list the positive aspects of the bill, and c) highlight the exemptions from the work requirements and time limits.

Explaining the Time Limits

- ? The Two-Year Time Limit. The two-year time limit refers to the time a welfare recipient may remain on public assistance without working. Two years is not a time limit by which she must be off of welfare. If a recipient has received public assistance for a total of two years and refuses to work, the sanction is up to the state. This means that a state may reduce her benefit or may choose to do nothing at all.

- ? The Five-Year Time Limit. The five year limit is the cumulative lifetime limit for which a recipient may receive public assistance. Most welfare recipients move on and off welfare over time. Five years refers to the total time a recipient receives welfare, regardless of the number of years over which she receives it. This means a woman might move on and off welfare for 10 years without accumulating a

total five years of assistance.

Positive Features of the Welfare Reform Legislation

- ? The welfare legislation adds an additional \$4 billion in child care funding, bringing available child care dollars up to \$14 billion.
- ? The legislation guarantees health care for those on welfare.
- ? The legislation guarantees health care for one year for those who leave welfare for work.
- ? There is no mandatory family cap. In other words, states are not required to limit welfare payments to women who have additional children while receiving welfare.
- ? The legislation creates a \$2 billion dollar contingency fund for states experiencing economic downturn and a growing number of children in need.
- ? The legislation provides \$1 billion dollar performance bonus to reward states for placing and keeping welfare recipients in jobs.
- ? The legislation requires states to maintain 80% of their historical spending on AFDC and the JOBS program.
- ? The legislation gives states the option to use title XX Social Services Block Grant money for vouchers for children whose parents reach the time limit

- ? Only 25% the single-parent caseload must be working by 1997, up to 40% by 2000, and 50% by 2002. (Current law requires 20% of the caseload to be engaged in activities including work.)
- ? The legislation allows states to create Individual Development Accounts--state-supported savings accounts for the poor not counted against income determination for their benefits--for providing those on welfare the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education, purchase their first home, or finance a small or micro-business.

Special Exemptions From the Welfare Reform Legislation

- ? This bill exempts 20% of the caseload from the five-year lifetime limit on welfare receipt.
- ? This welfare bill does not apply to any state waiver in effect by September 30, 1996 until the waiver expires. However, a state may terminate its waiver before the expiration date if desired.
- ? A state has the option to exempt victims of domestic violence from the work requirement and the time limit.
- ? A state has the option to exempt single parents caring for children 12 months and younger from the work requirement and the time limit.
- ? If an individual on welfare is disabled or caring for a severely disabled child, she is exempt from the work requirement and the time limit.
- ? A state may not terminate assistance for non-work if the person is a single parent with a child under age 6 if that person, through her best efforts, has been unable to secure child care.
- ? A single parent with a child under age 6 must work only 20 hours a week to meet the work requirement.
- ? Teen heads of households who stay in school are exempt from the work requirement and the time limit.
- ? States can count 20% of the caseload toward the work requirement even though they are enrolled in vocational education or are teen parents in high school.

Distribution:

TO: Betsy Myers
TO: Lisa Ross

ENDING WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

August 2, 1996

"I will sign this bill. First and foremost because the current system is broken. Second, because Congress has made many of the changes I sought. And, third, because even though serious problems remain in the non-welfare reform provisions of the bill, this is the best chance we will have for a long, long time to complete the work of ending welfare as we know it by moving people from welfare to work, demanding responsibility and doing better by children."

- President Clinton, July 31, 1996

- * **A broken system.** President Clinton will sign the current welfare bill because the existing welfare system undermines the basic values of work, responsibility and family, trapping generation after generation in dependency and hurting the very people it was designed to help.
- * **A last, best chance to move people from welfare to work.** President Clinton believes that passage and enactment of this bill is the last best chance to make welfare what it was meant to be -- a second chance, not a way of life. The bill presents an historic opportunity to finish the work of ending welfare as we know it.
- * **The President saved the Medicaid guarantee once and for all.** Congressional Republicans tried to use welfare reform to take health care away from the poor, the elderly, and the disabled, but President Clinton said no. He also fought successfully to ensure that women on welfare continue to receive health coverage for their families, including transitional Medicaid when they leave welfare for work.
- * **A much improved bill.** Because of President Clinton's earlier vetoes, objections and improvements, Congress is sending him a significantly better welfare reform bill. We have come a long way in this debate, and stopped extremists in Congress who wanted to ban help for poor, young, unmarried mothers and cut low-income programs and the Earned Income Tax Credit by \$110 billion.
- * The new bill is **strong on work**, giving states performance incentives for placing people in jobs, guaranteeing health care, providing over \$4 billion more for child care, and maintaining health and safety standards for child care -- so that women on welfare get the help they need to support their children.
- * The bill is also **better for children**. Unlike the vetoed bill, it keeps the national nutritional safety net intact by eliminating the food stamp cap and the optional block grant, and dropping the deep cuts in school lunch, child welfare and help for children with disabilities.
- * Thanks to the insistence of President Clinton and Democrats in Congress, the bill includes **the most sweeping child support enforcement measures in history**. The bill says to parents who fail to pay child support: we will garnish your wages, take away your license, track you across state lines, and if necessary, make you work off what you owe.

- * **Requiring work, and helping people succeed at work and at home.** President Clinton has always believed that the best anti-poverty program is a job. This bill will not only move people from welfare to work, it will help them make it in the workplace by providing the health care and child care they need to succeed at work and at home. With this bill, President Clinton also **preserved the Earned Income Tax Credit**, which rewards the hard work of 15 million hard-pressed working families and which Congress had tried to gut.
- * **The nation's basic safety net remains strong.** By standing firm throughout this debate, President Clinton has saved and strengthened the nation's basic safety net, which helps millions of vulnerable women and children. In addition to stopping the Medicaid block grant, he stopped Republican efforts to block grant Food Stamps, SSI for disabled children, child protection and foster care, and the school lunch program. This bill preserves those safety net programs, which work, and fundamentally reforms the welfare system, which does not.
- * **Parts of the bill still need to be fixed.** President Clinton has pledged to fix some non-welfare provisions of the bill which he believes go too far:
 - * Congress insisted on a cut that would repeal the Excess Shelter Reduction, which helps some of our hardest-pressed working families. This provision is a mistake, and the President will work to correct it.
 - * Congress insisted on a provision that will hurt legal immigrants who work hard for their families, pay taxes and serve in our military. Immigrant children and disabled immigrants who fall on hard times through no fault of their own should get medical and other help when they need it.
- * **A record of accomplishment.** Over the past three and one-half years, President Clinton has done everything in his power as President to promote work and responsibility, working with 41 states to give them 69 welfare reform experiments. The Administration has also required teen mothers to stay in school, required federal employees to pay their child support, and cracked down on parents who owe child support and crossed state lines. *As a result, child support collections are up 40 percent, to \$11 billion, and there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were when President Clinton took office.*

SUMMARY OF WELFARE REFORM BILL

AFDC, WORK & CHILD CARE

Medicaid Guarantee	Assures that all categories of people now eligible for Medicaid will be eligible for health care in the future and that there will be no loss of coverage, regardless of state welfare changes. At President's insistence, Republicans restored the Medicaid guarantee for welfare recipients and abandoned efforts to block grant Medicaid.
Child Care	Increases child care spending by \$4.5 billion above current law -- \$4 billion more than the bill the President vetoed. Preserves federal child care health and safety standards, which would have been repealed under the vetoed bill.
Work	Provides \$1 billion performance bonus to reward states for placing welfare recipients in jobs. Requires 50% of adults on welfare to be working by the year 2002.
State Funding	Requires states to continue their investment in welfare reform by maintaining 80% of their current spending.
Time Limits	Imposes five-year lifetime limit on welfare, but allows states to exempt 20% of caseload from the limit.
Vouchers	Allows states to use federal Social Services Block Grant funds to provide vouchers for children whose parents reach the time limit.
Contingency Fund	Creates a \$2 billion Contingency Fund for states experiencing economic downturn and growing number of children in need.
Family Cap	Allows states to decide for themselves whether to deny assistance to children born to a family on welfare. Under the vetoed bill, states would have had to vote to exempt themselves from a mandatory family cap nationwide.

FOOD STAMPS & CHILD NUTRITION

Food Stamp Program	Maintains national nutritional safety net. Does not allow states to block grant Food Stamps and does not impose a national cap on Food Stamp spending.
	Caps the excess shelter deduction, which was set to expire next year, at near its current level until FY2001. The President wants Congress to fix this provision because over time it will hurt working families.
	Limits food stamp eligibility for childless 18- to 50-year-olds to 3 months every 3 years, with a 3-month extension for laid-off workers.
School Lunch Program	Maintains the current national school lunch program. Drops the school lunch block grant that was in the vetoed bill.

LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Bans	Over the Administration's objections, imposes 5-year ban on SSI, AFDC and Food Stamps for most legal immigrants, with some exceptions.
Medicaid	Over the Administration's objections, prohibits future immigrants from receiving Medicaid for 5 years. Drops the retroactive ban on current Medicaid recipients, which was included in the House bill.
	The President has said that immigrant children and the disabled should be able to get medical care and the help they need, and is determined to get Congress to fix these provisions.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Child Welfare	Retains current law child protection entitlement programs and services. Drops the child welfare block grant that had been included in the vetoed bill.
Disabled Children	Provides full SSI benefits for children who will receive SSI under stricter eligibility rules. Drops the two-tiered eligibility system in the vetoed bill that would have cut benefits by 25% for more than half of the disabled children coming on the rolls.

KEY IMPROVEMENTS IN CONFERENCE REPORT OVER VETOED BILL

CLINTON PRIORITY	VETOED BILL	CONFERENCE BILL
Guaranteed Medicaid	NO	YES
More Child Care \$	NO	YES (+\$4 billion)
Work Performance Bonus \$	NO	YES (+\$1 billion)
80% Maintenance of Effort	NO	YES
Child Care Health/Safety Standards	NO	YES
20% Hardship Exemption	NO	YES
\$2 Billion Contingency Fund	NO	YES
Limits on Transferability	NO	YES
Option for Vouchers	YES	YES
Food Stamp Block Grant	YES	NO
Child Welfare Block Grant	YES	NO
School Lunch Block Grant Demo	YES	NO
25% Cut in SSI for Disabled Kids	YES	NO
Food Stamp Cap	YES	NO



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

July 31, 1996

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Democratic Governors, we would like to commend you for your leadership on reform of our nation's welfare system and applaud your decision to sign the conference agreement before Congress.

The final agreement, although not perfect, represents a significant improvement over the bill vetoed last year and meets our shared goals for a reformed system. The bill is strong on work, time limits assistance and provides adequate protections for children.

A number of critical provisions, championed by you and Democratic Governors, have been included in the final agreement. These include adequate resources for child care, significant reform of the child support enforcement system, an economic contingency fund, an assurance of health care coverage for low-income families and the flexibility for states to provide assistance to children after the five-year time limit.

This bill does represent a real step forward. It is a victory for all who believe welfare must provide a second chance, but not a way of life. This bill will complement what Democratic Governors are doing in many of our states under waivers, and allow others to take the same initiative.

We continue to share your concerns on the level of cuts in the food stamp program and the restrictions on benefits for legal aliens, and we hope to work with you to revisit these issues.

You have kept your promise to the American people. Thank you for your leadership and congratulations for your successful work in improving and moving this welfare bill forward.

Sincerely,

Gaston Caperton
Governor of West Virginia
DGA Chair

Howard Dean, M.D.
Governor of Vermont
DGA Vice Chair

Governor Gaston Caperton
West Virginia
Chair

Governor Howard Dean
Vermont
Vice Chair

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Puerto Rico

Katharine Whelan
Executive Director



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W. SUITE 515 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
202-624-5400 FAX: 202-737-1069

July 31, 1996

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House
H-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

JAMES J. LACK
STATE SENATOR
NEW YORK
PRESIDENT, NCSL

ALFRED W. SPEER
CLERK OF THE HOUSE
LOUISIANA
STAFF CHAIR, NCSL

WILLIAM POUND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Speaker Gingrich:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has long sought federal legislation reforming our welfare system and now urges your support for the conference agreement on H.R. 3734. This legislation builds on the numerous state legislative welfare reform efforts of the past decade and on federal waivers granted in recent years.

We particularly are pleased with the creation of block grants for cash assistance and child care and the programmatic and administrative flexibility they may bring. The inclusion of increased child care funding, establishment of a contingency fund, preservation of child welfare entitlements and preservation of state legislative authority over block grant funds are notable achievements and represent key provisions recommended and sought by NCSL. We are further gratified with the inclusion of several policy options, such as the state option to provide Medicaid to legal immigrants and refugees, recognition of the need for adequate transition time, restructuring of child support collection systems and initiatives as well as an exemption for states from electronic benefit transfer liabilities.

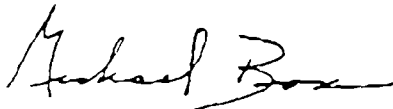
We remain particularly concerned about work participation requirements and a related array of policy mandates and sanctions. These will be troublesome. The flexibility needed in the work participation area is missing. Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office has repeatedly warned of the multi-billion dollar shortfall in federal funding for work efforts. We recommend that Congress and the Administration collaborate with state legislators and others to review and evaluate work requirements, state experiences with these requirements, funding needs and worker placement and job retention accomplishments commencing with the 105th Congress.

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House
July 31, 1996
page 2

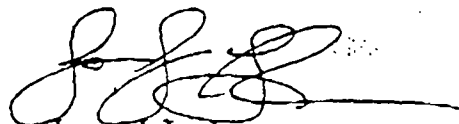
We continue to question policy changes in H.R. 3734 regarding income security accessibility for legal immigrants and refugees. We remain convinced that H.R. 3734 will produce unfunded mandates and cost shifts to state and local governments of unacceptable proportions. We strongly recommend that Congress and the Administration immediately begin an analysis and review of state experiences regarding income security program availability for legal immigrant populations, particularly children, the elderly and the disabled. Those provisions of H.R. 3734 regarding legal immigrants should be tested against the intent and objectives of S. 1, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, and Executive Order 12875. This recommended review and analysis should involve state legislators and other officials.

H.R. 3734 represents a number of policy compromises. It also offers states new opportunities to manage a welfare system most Americans agree needs restructuring and redirection. Despite some of its aforementioned shortcomings, we encourage your support for H.R. 3734 and urge you to work with state legislators to ensure its success.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Box
Majority Chairman, Alabama House
President, NCSL



James J. Lack
State Senator, New York
Immediate Past President, NCSL



LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 31, 1996

CONTACT: April Herrle'or
Karen Pankowski
(904) 488-5394

Statement by:
GOVERNOR LAWTON CHILES
Regarding Welfare Reform

"President Clinton's decision today to sign the compromise welfare reform measure is an extremely important event in our nation's history. The President's commitment to 'change welfare as we know it' combined with his determination to protect our neediest citizens -- the poor, our children and elders -- will ensure that, in the future, welfare will provide a hand up for people in need -- not a handout.

"I believe the President has made a constructive decision to sign this welfare reform measure. Unlike previous versions passed by this Congress, this welfare reform measure guarantees substantially more protections -- with expanded provisions for child care, extended protections for potential economic downturns and continued safeguards for child nutrition and health care programs.

"We are particularly pleased in Florida that we can move ahead with our landmark, bi-partisan welfare reform efforts which I recently signed into law. Florida has been a national leader in welfare reform with demonstration programs running in several counties. Now, with the federal reforms in place, our state will be able to quickly implement our new WAGES welfare reform program statewide.

"While I am pleased by the President's decision to sign this bill, I remain deeply concerned about restrictions on legal immigrant children and families from receiving federal assistance programs. However, I am pleased that Congressman Clay Shaw and others have worked diligently to allow Florida to continue to receive its fair share of federal refugee assistance. This provision will go far to minimize the additional fiscal burden imposed on Florida."

###

John O. Norquist
Mayor

Milwaukee
150
1846 1996



Statement from Mayor John Norquist
July 31, 1996

For more information contact Jeff Fleming, 286-8531

I congratulate President Clinton for the significant step he took today to end welfare.

I agree with the President when he says, "the best anti-poverty program...is a job." Today's actions move us closer to a true, work based alternative to our failed welfare system.

There is room for improvement, especially in putting people to work in real jobs that pay real wages, instead of make-work jobs to earn grants. The work required of program participants ought to be real jobs paying minimum wage.

The President and I have had a number of discussions regarding the elimination of welfare, and I appreciate his thoughtful attention to my concerns and to the people of Milwaukee.

Office of the Mayor
City Hall
100 East Wells Street
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin
53202
(414) 286-2200

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

01-Aug-1996 08:38pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Lyndell Hogan
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: As requested, welfare talking points

To: Evelyn Lieberman
 Bruce Reed
 Betsy Myers
 Vicki Radd
 Lisa Ross

From: Lyn Hogan

Date: August 1, 1996

Re: Welfare Talking Points On Children and Families

As Vicki Radd and Betsy Myers requested, I have put together the following talking points. They are a little long, but I think make a useful argument.

The President Has Made The Right Decision

People who are concerned about women and children should be supporting the President in his pledge to sign this bill. Only if the welfare system is transformed into an employment system will we enable millions of parents to support their children through work, not welfare.

We are all urgently concerned about the families who receive welfare. There are close to 15 million Americans receiving Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) today, most of whom are women and children.

The President Has Worked Hard To Help Women and Children

The President has approved waivers from welfare regulations in 41 states; he has worked to improve child support enforcement, increasing payments by \$11 billion dollars; he has created initiatives to prevent teen pregnancy so young women don't end up on welfare; and he has prevented Republicans from cutting child

welfare programs, especially those that help children in foster care.

The President made sure that an additional \$4 billion dollars for child care was included in this bill, so when welfare recipients go to work, they can count on the availability of child care.

The President maintained the Medicaid guarantee to ensure that poor women and their children don't lose their health care benefits.

→ And most important, the President is giving these women and children a chance!

The President has fought hard to change the current welfare system so he can change the lives of the women and children who receive welfare.

The President Recognizes That Not All Welfare Recipients Are Alike

The President realizes that every welfare recipient's circumstances are different. Some women receive welfare because their husbands left them and are not paying child support; some women receive welfare because they have lost their jobs and need temporary help while searching for a new job; other women are victims of domestic violence and must flee their home situation; still other women have health problems or are struggling with a substance abuse problem.

Because the President recognizes and understands these different situations, he insisted that this welfare bill exempt 20 percent of the caseload from being subject to the five year limit. Though, with new work provisions in place, it is unlikely that many people will run into the five year time limit.

The President also supported an important amendment, added by Senator Wellstone, that ultimately gives states the option to exempt victims of domestic violence from the work requirement.

The Current Welfare System Hurts More Than It Helps

→ It is the current welfare system, not the proposed reforms, that most endanger women and children.

As a country, we have a moral obligation to reform today's failed, dysfunctional welfare system without hurting children and their parents.

→ Now, the President will finally receive a bill that will give him that chance. This welfare bill will create a new employment system--not the same old income maintenance system--that will move women off of welfare and into work and will create a better life for them and their children.

The Current Welfare System Is Fundamentally Flawed, This Bill Will Change A Flawed System

There are no incentives in the current system to encourage states, program administrators, and caseworkers to move welfare recipients off of welfare and into work.

Instead, today, many states write the welfare checks and write off the welfare recipients, because current law doesn't allow them to do much more.

This welfare reform bill will change all of that. States will receive bonuses for moving recipients into work; states will have the flexibility to design programs that work for the people in their state; and the women and children who move from welfare to work will receive child care subsidies so they can remain working once they finds a job.

Once the welfare bill is signed and implemented, women who want a chance to be independent from welfare to work, and to raise their children with dignity, will be given that chance.

→ Success Will Be Up To The States

Once this bill is signed, it will be up to states to carry out the President's vision.

The President has pledged to give the Governors the flexibility they need to create programs that will work in their states--that will be responsive to each state's individual circumstances.

States that choose to slash benefits and force non-working recipients into the labor market without the adequate supports will exacerbate poverty, not relieve it.

States that work to put good programs in place, like Colorado, Maryland and California, will help alleviate poverty.

cc: Carol Rasco
Jeremy Ben-Ami
Elizabeth Drye

Distribution:

TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman
TO: Bruce N. Reed
TO: Betsy Myers
TO: Victoria L. Radd
TO: Lisa Ross

CC: Carol H. Rasco
CC: Jeremy D. Benami
CC: Elizabeth E. Drye

What
are we
doing to
make
sure this
is going
to happen

**Putting America Back to Work:
President Clinton's Fight for Real Welfare Reform
May 21, 1996**

Bill Clinton can justifiably claim that he has indeed ended welfare as we know it."

Douglas Besharov, American Enterprise Institute, Business Week, May 20, 1996

Under President Clinton, America's welfare system has changed profoundly. The evidence of the President's leadership can be seen in both the evolving debate about national reform and in the positive changes that are now occurring under Administration-approved state demonstrations. Welfare caseloads are down while work and training activities among recipients are up. And child support collections have reached a record high.

A long-standing commitment to helping families move from welfare to work. President Clinton has granted 60 welfare reform waivers to 38 states allowing them to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. By granting states these waivers, President Clinton is making work and responsibility a way of life for 75% of all welfare recipients.

Responsible welfare reform: Tough on work and fair to children. President Clinton has introduced a sweeping welfare reform legislation that:

- Imposes time limits and requires work,
- Provides adequate funding for child care to move people from welfare to work,
- * Strengthens child support enforcement and protects children.

The Wisconsin Plan: Supporting every serious effort to move people from welfare to work. Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. President Clinton has pledged to work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare based on work, that protects children and does right by working people and their families. President Clinton's legislative proposal and the Wisconsin plan have a number of similarities. Each plan:

- * Replaces a system based on dependency with a system based on work.
- * Guarantees a job instead of a welfare check.
- * Guarantees health care and child care, so people can go to work and stay off welfare.
- * Supports a five-year lifetime limit, as included in the President's FY 97 budget.

We have made great progress.

- * **Food stamp rolls and welfare rolls are down.** Since President Clinton took office in January 1993, the welfare rolls have fallen by 1.3 million individuals, a decrease of nearly 10%. Welfare rolls are down in 42 states, some by as much as 30%.
- * **Child support collections are up.** Through partnerships with states, tougher enforcement, waivers and executive orders, the Clinton Administration has led an unprecedented crackdown on child support enforcement. Child support collections have grown nearly 40% since 1992, to \$11 billion.
- * **The Administration proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever,** including suspending drivers' licenses and tracking delinquent parents across state lines. In February 1995, President Clinton signed an executive order to ensure federal employees pay their child support.
- * **Rewarding work over welfare.** The Clinton Administration has provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- * **Breaking the cycle of dependency, ending teen pregnancy.** In May 1996, the Clinton Administration took executive action to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts or lose their welfare benefits. The President continues to work with the community, business and religious leaders in the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Four years ago, I challenged America to end welfare as we know it, to require work, promote responsible parenting, ship the system from dependence to independence. Just a few days after I took office, I met with the nation's 50 governors, and I urged every one of them to send me a welfare reform plan that would help to meet that challenge. In return, I pledged to waive outmoded or counterproductive federal rules that get in the way of reform.

Most of the governors took me up on that deal. So in the last three years my administration has granted 38 states welfare reform waivers, clearing away federal rules and regulations to permit states to build effective welfare reforms of their own. The state-based reform we've encouraged has brought work and responsibility back to the lives of 75 percent of the Americans on welfare.

We're doing a lot more than signing waivers. We've also pressed ahead on fundamental reforms to make the welfare system reflect the basic values that have stood us so well for so long -- that if you bring a child into this world, you must take responsibility for that child; that government will not subsidize irresponsible or reckless behavior; that welfare is a second chance, not a way of life.

That's why I signed a presidential order to require federal employees to pay child support, and increased federal efforts to enforce child support orders across state lines. I toughened sanctions on welfare and food stamp recipients who refuse to work. I took action earlier this month to require teen mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts if they are to receive welfare benefits. That's also why I sent Congress a sweeping welfare reform plan that would do all this and more.

Our hard work is paying off. America is in the midst of what The New York Times has called "a quiet revolution" in welfare reform under our administration. The number of Americans on welfare has dropped by 1.3 million since I took office in January, 1993. Food stamp rolls are down by even more, and so are teen pregnancy rates. What numbers are up? Well, child support collections have jumped 40 percent, and the number of people who are required to work as a condition for receiving welfare is also way up.

Today I'm pleased to report that two states, Wisconsin and Maryland, are adding momentum to this quiet revolution. Last week, Wisconsin submitted to me for approval the outlines of a sweeping welfare reform plan, one of boldest yet attempted in America, and I'm encouraged by what I've seen so far.

Under the Wisconsin plan, people on welfare who can work must work immediately. The state will see to it that the work is there -- in private sector jobs that can be subsidized if necessary, or in community service jobs if there are no private jobs available. The state says it will also see to it that

families have health care and child care, so that parents can go to work without worrying about what will happen to their children. But then they must go to work, or they won't get paid. If they do work, of course, they'll have the dignity of earning a paycheck, not a welfare check.

The plan would send a clear message to teen parents, as well. If you're a minor with a baby, you'll receive benefits only if you stay in school, live at home and turn your life around.

All in all, Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. We should get it done. I pledge that my administration will work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare based on work, that protects children and does right by working people and their families.

Maryland also has come up with its own innovative welfare reform plan. It cracks down on welfare fraud, comes down hard on parents who turn their backs on child support, and helps working parents with child care so they won't be driven onto welfare in the first place.

The reforms in Wisconsin, Maryland and other states are very encouraging for two reasons: First, they give us hope that we can break the vicious cycle of welfare dependency; and second, because they make it clear that there is now a widespread national consensus shared by people without regard to their political party on what welfare reform should look like. It should be pro-work, pro-family, pro-independence, responsible. Welfare should be a second chance, not a way of life.

So the states can keep on sending me strong welfare reform proposals, and I'll keep on signing them. I'll keep doing everything I can as President to reform welfare state by state, if that's what it takes.

But there's a faster way to bring this welfare reform to the entire nation. There are bipartisan welfare reform plans sitting in the House and the Senate right now that do what the American people agree welfare reform must do: They require welfare recipients to work; they limit the time people can stay on welfare; they toughen child support enforcement and they protect our children.

So I say to Congress: Send me a bill that honors these fundamental principles; I'll sign it right away. Let's get the job done. Let's do it now. Let's bring welfare reform to all 50 states. Then we'll move on to the other challenges we face as we stand at the dawn of a new century.

Thanks for listening.

END