

***"Never before have American women had so many options
-- or been asked to make such difficult choices.
It's time not only to make women full partners in government,
but to make government work for women."***

-- William Jefferson Clinton and Albert Gore, Putting People First

In the first two years of the Clinton Administration alone, the President and his Administration made an unprecedented commitment to empowering women through greater economic security, more workplace flexibility, and more emphasis on children and families and on women's health and safety. They invested in the economic and personal security of women through the President's economic plan and education reforms, the Family and Medical Leave Law, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Brady Law, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. They advanced women's rights through a series of executive and legislative actions that allow women the freedom to make their own reproductive decisions and to do so safely, with accurate information and without obstruction. They put women's health concerns at the top of the public health agenda by initiating a comprehensive approach to women's health designed to end the inequities that have plagued research, clinical practice and health care education. Finally, the President and his Administration changed the face of governing by giving women a greater voice in all branches of the federal government, including Cabinet-level posts never before held by women.

SUPPORTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

"I will never forget what the Family and Medical Leave Act meant to just one father I met early one Sunday morning in the White House. . . . [H]e had his wife and his three children there, one of them in a wheelchair. I came up, and after we had our picture taken and had a little visit, I was walking off and that man grabbed me by the arm and he said, 'Mr. President, let me tell you something. My little girl here is desperately ill. She's probably not going to make it. But because of the Family Leave law, I was able to take time off to spend with her -- the most important time I ever spent in my life -- without losing my job and hurting the rest of my family. It means more to me than I will ever be able to say.'"

-- President Clinton, State of the Union address, January 25, 1994.

The President and his Administration are supporting women and their families in times of need and encouraging values that make families strong.

Supporting Families in Times of Crisis – Family crises can strike any family at any time. President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an infant or ailing loved one without losing their jobs. Now American workers are no longer forced to choose between their jobs and their families at times of crisis.

Improving Child Support Collections – Some families -- usually headed by women -- are plunged into economic crisis and poverty when the absent parent fails to pay child support. The President is working to get single parents and their children the support they need. On February 27, 1995, the President signed an executive order to make the federal government a model employer in the area of child support enforcement. And the President's child support plan, introduced as part of last year's welfare reform legislation, would double federal child support collections by the year 2000.

Fighting Teen Pregnancy – To confront this national epidemic, the President has called for a National Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy, asking leaders in all areas of national life to join in promoting individual responsibility and economic opportunity for America's young people. And the President's welfare reform plan, introduced last year, provided funding for community-based initiatives to end teen pregnancy, as well as a National Clearinghouse to provide communities with information on successful strategies.

Helping Disadvantaged Preschoolers Achieve – Based on the recommendations of a bipartisan committee, the President and Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala implemented quality improvements in HeadStart that moved this popular program for disadvantaged preschoolers into the 21st century. The Administration also initiated the creation of a new program to serve disadvantaged infants and toddlers aged zero to three.

Preventing Childhood Disease – President Clinton sponsored and signed the comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative, ensuring that children, regardless of family income, will be vaccinated against disease. The Initiative is creating partnerships among the federal government and state and local governments, health care professionals, and voluntary organizations to work towards the goal of vaccinating at least 90 percent of all two-year olds with the full series of required vaccines by the year 2000.

Providing Healthy Meals for Infants, Children and Postpartum Women – President Clinton has increased funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in each of his budgets. In 1995, approximately seven million women and children would benefit from this program.

Strengthening At-Risk Families – The President's Family Preservation and Support Act is a billion-dollar program that provides an array of supportive services to children and families designed to help strengthen them and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Increasing Parental Involvement – The National Family Involvement Partnership for Learning encourages efforts to help families take a more active role in their children's learning.

INCREASING SAFETY AND SECURITY

"If children aren't safe in their homes, if college women aren't safe in their dorms, if mothers can't raise their children in safety, then the American Dream will never be real for them, no matter what we do in economic policy, no matter how strong we are in standing against the forces that would seek to undermine our values beyond our borders. This is key to everything else we want to do."

-- President Clinton at a Violence Against Women Act event, March 21, 1995.

In a typical year, 2.5 million American women ages 12 years and older are raped, robbed or assaulted or are the victim of a threatened or attempted violent crime. Two-thirds of these attacks are committed by someone the victim knows. Enacted thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 will make American women safer.

Combatting Gun Violence – The President's "Crime Bill" banned military-style assault weapons. And the Brady Law is working to keep handguns out of the reach of those who would use them criminally -- including men under restraining orders for stalking, harassment or other forms of domestic threats or intimidation.

Fighting Violence Against Women – The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), part of the President's Crime Bill, takes a comprehensive approach to combating domestic violence and other violence against women.

- VAWA will improve the responses of police, prosecutors and judges to these crimes, enhance lighting at bus stops and other dark public places, force sex offenders to pay restitution to their victims and triple funding for battered women's shelters. And under the Act, the authority of a "stay away" order obtained against an abuser will no longer stop at the state line.
- On March 21, 1995, the President announced the appointment of Bonnie Campbell as Director of a special Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. The President also announced \$26 million in STOP Grants to states to bolster their law enforcement, prosecution and victims services to better address violence against women.

Extending Civil Rights Protections to Victims of Gender Motivated Violence – Under VAWA, victims of gender motivated felonies have a Federal civil rights remedy for the first time.

Encouraging Women to Speak Out – VAWA extends "rape shield" protections to all criminal and civil cases involving alleged sexual misconduct, thereby barring embarrassing and irrelevant inquiries into a victim's sexual history. And the Crime Bill allows victims of federal sex crimes to speak at the sentencing of their assailants.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

After her morning in class studying English, algebra, and physics, Sylvia rides the bus to Deaconess Hospital. There, under the watchful eye of a hospital technician, she takes bone and tissue samples of patients, slices them into razor-thin strips, attaches them to slides, and checks the numerical coding to be sure each slide matches the right patient.

Like 120 other students from three Boston high schools, Sylvia is preparing for high-demand technical occupations in Boston's health care industry. In each year of the program, participants study a specially designed hospital-based curriculum that offers everything from introductory health care courses to clinical rotations at one of the seven participating hospitals. These work-learning experiences let students explore a range of health care occupations and opportunities.

The President strongly believes that the role of government is to give people the tools they need to reach their potential. The President has acted on this belief by expanding economic, professional and educational opportunities for women.

Making Work Pay— The President's economic plan is helping women in low-wage jobs provide for their families and stay off welfare through the increased Earned Income Tax Credit. For working mothers with minimum wage jobs, the increased EITC is the equivalent of up to a 40% pay raise.

Providing a Helping Hand to Women-Owned Businesses — Women business owners are starting businesses at twice the rate of their male counterparts. The Clinton Administration has been a friend to these entrepreneurial women. The Small Business Administration has established a women's mentoring program and made more business loans to women. And the Clinton Administration's Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise is working with women business leaders to create a public/private partnership that will foster the growth and development of women-owned businesses.

Listening to Working Women — The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor surveyed over a quarter of a million working women to learn more about their experiences in the workplace. At the President's direction, the Department of Labor and the Women's Bureau are working to address the concerns raised by the survey participants -- better pay and benefits, help balancing work and family, and getting the recognition in the workplace that they deserve.

Preparing Women and Girls for High-Skill, High-Wage Jobs — One of the national education goals established in the landmark Goals 2000: Educate America Act is to increase the number of women and minorities who complete degrees in math, science and engineering. And the President's School-to-Work Opportunities Act is assisting women and girls in developing the hands-on skills they need to compete for rewarding jobs in fields traditionally dominated by men.

Increasing Access to Higher Education — The Income Contingent Loan Repayment program will allow participants who have received a student loan to make repayments based on their income. This allows people to take lower-paying jobs, or to leave their jobs—for example, to raise a family—without the penalty of loan default.

Dramatically Expanding Opportunities for Women in the Military — Under the Clinton Administration, women soldiers now have access to 259,000 previously male-only positions.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

"Their response was overwhelming. There was a sense of electricity and excitement on the floor. Dozens of delegates came over and said, 'Welcome back to humanity; welcome back to the world.'"

-- Undersecretary of State Timothy E. Wirth, describing the first United Nations meeting at which he discussed the Clinton Administration's population strategy, as quoted in the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 14, 1994.

The Clinton Administration has protected the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, assisted women in exercising their right to vote and acted in the global arena to improve the lives of women.

Protecting the Reproductive Health of American Women- President Clinton repealed the "Gag Rule" that restricted abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics, revoked the import ban on RU-486, reversed the ban on abortion services at military hospitals, repealed the Mexico City policy that banned funding to international organizations that promote comprehensive family planning, and signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. The Administration implemented a change to the Hyde Amendment obligating states to pay for abortions for poor women whose pregnancies result from rape or incest.

Increasing Access to the Ballot Box- President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act, enfranchising women who are on welfare, homebound, or simply unable to build in extra time between work and family by allowing them to register to vote through the mail, at motor vehicle registries and at other government offices.

Promoting the Empowerment of Women Throughout the World- The United States' delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo forged a partnership with more than 150 nations around a platform of action that promotes gender equality, reproductive health, and universally recognized human rights that apply to reproduction and recognizes the importance of addressing the threat posed to women's health by unsafe abortions.

WOMEN APPOINTEES

"I attended a number of meetings in the White House under previous administrations. I remember my first meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. . . . I remember sitting at the table with other Governors, with the President, with members of his Cabinet and there was another woman, sitting against the wall, a staff person, and we . . . kind of winked at one another, as one does on these occasions, and our secret language was, 'Hey, I'm glad you're there, and let's both pretend this is perfectly normal for both of us.' . . . I went back to the Roosevelt Room not too long ago, a couple of times, and I couldn't get over it. Everything was different. Half the group was composed of women . . . and I thought, how can I ever have thought that this was such a masculine space and that I did not belong there?"

-- Deputy Secretary of Education Madeleine M. Kunin on Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, 1993.

President Clinton pledged to appoint an Administration that "looked like America." As the *Baltimore Sun* noted in an editorial, he has delivered on that promise "more fully than even he could have predicted. No Administration has ever produced such diversity."

Appointing Women to Important Administration Positions -

- 42 percent of President Clinton's appointees were women—by far the highest percentage of any Administration in history.
- The President appointed women to Cabinet-level posts never before occupied by women, including Attorney General Janet Reno, former Council of Economic Advisors Chair (now Assistant to the President for Economic Policy) Laura D'Andrea Tyson, OMB Director Alice Rivlin and Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary.
- In addition, the President appointed women to other positions traditionally held by men. Female scientists holding top-level government research and science policy positions include the Chief Scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and at the Department of Commerce, Deputy Director at the National Science Foundation, Director of the Office of Energy Research at the Department of Energy, and Director for Defense Research and Engineering at the Department of Defense.

Promoting Excellence and Diversity in the Federal Judiciary--

- The President nominated 45 women out of a total of 141 nominees to the federal bench. 59% of all of the President's judicial nominees are women and minorities.
- Because of President Clinton's appointments, as of July 1 of last year, one of every four active federal judges was a woman or a racial minority.
- The proportion of the Clinton Administration's judicial nominees who received the American Bar Association's highest rating exceeded that of the past three administrations.

IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH

When First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton met recently with 250 elderly South Florida women at the Joseph Myerhoff Senior Center, Georgia Ayres, a 66 year old member of the National Council of Negro Women, participated with her in a panel discussion. Mrs. Clinton told the audience that the risks of getting breast cancer increase with age and that Medicare covers regular mammography screening that could save their lives. The group also talked about the mammography procedure itself and the reasons for the reluctance of some women to get mammograms. After Mrs. Clinton's visit, Ms. Ayres told the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, "I've never had a mammogram. I've been afraid to because I watched my daughter-in-law die of breast cancer. But now after this talk, I will go and make an appointment to have a mammogram."

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to improving the health of American women and ending inequities in medical research and treatment.

Fighting Breast Cancer - Breast cancer is a growing threat to American women -- the lifetime risk of developing breast cancer has risen from 1 in 20 to 1 in 8 in just thirty years. The President has made the fight against breast cancer a national priority and brought us closer to eliminating this threat.

- The President has dramatically increased funding for breast cancer research -- by 65% at NIH alone.
- Right now, early detection through mammography is the best weapon we have against breast cancer. To make sure that mammograms are reliable, the FDA has put in place quality standards for mammography facilities. And the First Lady has joined with the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the rate of mammography use among older women.
- To make better screening methods available to women, the Public Health Service Office on Women's Health and the National Cancer Institute have initiated an exploration into applying imaging technology used by the defense, space, and computer graphics industries to the early detection of breast cancer.

Promoting Fairness in Medical Research - In the past, clinical researchers studying killer diseases like heart disease and cancer concentrated mainly on men. This Administration is ending this inequity -- to help America's women lead healthier lives and be treated more effectively when they do get sick.

- The largest clinical study ever conducted -- an NIH study of diseases affecting older women -- is now underway.
- And the President is making sure that women will no longer be left out of other important medical research. He signed legislation requiring that women and minorities be include in all clinical research supported by NIH.

Combatting AIDS – AIDS is increasing at a faster rate among women than men. The Administration is combatting AIDS in women by increasing the number of women participating in AIDS research. And the Administration is supporting research into women-controlled barrier methods that will help women protect themselves from getting infected.

Taking a Comprehensive Approach – Other Administration women's health initiatives include researching how to prevent unnecessary hysterectomies, developing a culturally sensitive medical school curriculum about women's health and establishing the first Department-level position -- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health -- dedicated solely to improving women's health.

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-Jan-1996 01:55pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Carrie Wofford
Office of Public Liaison

SUBJECT: Newsletter - Please share with women in your office

THE WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER
NUMBER: 4

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND
OUTREACH
JANUARY 3, 1996

"At stake (in the budget debate) is far more than just numbers and abstract programs and proposals and far more than the normal political debates in Washington. This debate is about people, the lives they lead, the hopes they have, the desires they have for a better life."

-- President Clinton, December 9, 1995, Radio Address

President Fights for a Budget
Good for Women and Families

President Clinton continues to fight to balance the budget and to prevent wrongheaded cuts and misplaced priorities that will unfairly hurt women and families.

The President's fight for Medicare and Medicaid is especially important to women:

- o Of the 37 million Medicare recipients, over 20 million, or 57 percent are women.
- o Nearly 5 million or 23 percent of women aged 65 or older depend solely on Medicare to help with their medical bills.
- o Nearly 70 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries between ages of 18 and 64 are women and 60 percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries are women.

President Clinton will make the cuts we need to balance the budget, but he refuses to make cuts into our fundamental American values.

The President and Vice President Meet Women Leaders At the Table
President Clinton and Vice President Gore met with women leaders on Dec. 20 in the Cabinet Room to discuss the importance of putting a woman's face on the issues. The President asked them for their help in getting the specifics about the impact of Republican cuts in such areas as education and the environment

out to women. The meeting was attended by: Pat Reuss, NOW Legal Defense Fund; Marcy Love, Personal PAC; Hedy Ratner, Women's Business Development Center; Marilyn Monahan, National Education Association; Audrey Tayse Haynes, Business and Professional Women/USA; Linda Chavez Thompson, AFL-CIO; Nancy Zirkin, American Association of University Women; Judy Lichtman, Women's Legal Defense Fund; Marcia Greenberger, National Women's Law Center; Geraldine Marullo, American Nurses Association; Deb Briceland Betts, Older Women's League; Judith Conover, League of Women Voters; Gloria Johnson, Coalition of Labor Union Women; Nancy Chupp, Church Women United; Elisa Sanchez, Mexican American National Women's Association.

Clinton Administration Giving Women a Voice At the Table

The White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach (The Women's Office) has launched its main outreach initiative called At the Table. Presidential appointees are holding roundtables with women across the nation to hear their concerns and ideas. Reports from these roundtables are coming back to The White House and a monthly report will be sent to
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Page 2
Newsletter 4

the President to ensure that women have a voice at the policy table. (More than 100 roundtables have been held and more than 1,000 women across the U.S. have participated.)

Some of the topics being discussed:

- o The Budget: Women are concerned that their families and children will be the losers with budget cuts and block granting.
- o Welfare Reform: Women believe that the Congressional welfare reform bill should be vetoed because it will have a strong adverse impact on women.
- o Choice: Women want to prevent any legislative setbacks to a woman's right to choose.
- o Crime/Domestic Violence: Women are proud that the President has taken a leadership role on domestic violence. Women are also very concerned about violence in schools.
- o Health Care: Women are afraid of losing their health insurance. They have concerns also about the quality of health care available to them.
- o Education: Women want stronger investment in early childhood education.
- o Affirmative Action: Women express a strong desire to continue affirmative action.
- o Childcare: Women express a need for greater access to affordable quality childcare for all families.

Vice President Stresses Administration's Pro-Family Budget

Vice President Gore addressed approximately 800 guests on Nov. 29 at the General Assembly of Women of Reform Judaism, the women's arm of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The Vice President stressed the Administration's pro-family stand in the budget debate by questioning the Republican budget on several points:

"...how can you say you're for working families if you try to cut the Earned Income Tax Credit and increase their taxes? How can you say you are for the middle class if you make it harder for middle class families to pay for college or afford health care for their parents? How can you say you're for welfare reform

if you're willing to push a million children into poverty? And how can you say you're for the well-being of all Americans if you propose to virtually dismantle all of our public health and environmental protections?"

Dr. Laura Tyson Speaks to
National Committee on Pay Equity

Dr. Tyson spoke to the National Committee on Pay Equity on Nov. 28. She spoke about the budget debate and the Administration's objective to restore fiscal responsibility in such a way that we also address our society's major difficulties.

She listed some of the President's economic successes:

- The deficit has come down 50 percent since fiscal year 1992.
- The deficit is at a 17-year low compared to the size of the economy.

Secretary Shalala Unveils PSA's on AIDS Prevention

Secretary Shalala on Nov. 30 joined White House AIDS Policy Coordinator Patsy Fleming to unveil a new series of public service announcements about AIDS prevention. The series emphasizes the need for personal responsibility in preventing AIDS transmission.

-continued-

Page 3
Newsletter 4

Ellen Haas Speaks Out for School Lunches and Food Safety Net

Under Secretary for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas continues to stress that feeding the needy is a shared public-private partnership. At the Union Station Foundation emergency shelter in Pasadena Calif., Haas said recently: "...the federal government must take the primary responsibility for providing a national nutrition safety net. Congressional welfare reform efforts avoid taking this responsibility. The deep cuts in the Food Stamp and Child Nutrition Programs and the optional Food Stamp block grants in the budget reconciliation bill would place an enormous burden on the private sector that they could not possibly carry."

Women Who Are Making a Differencee for Other Women

With each newsletter, we will highlight some of the Presidential appointees who are inviting women to join them At the Table. In this issue, they are: Chantale Wong, senior advisor to the Director at OMB; Anne Elliott, Department of Energy; and Marie-Louise Caravatti, Department of Commerce.

Chantale met with Asian Business women in San Francisco and discussed several topics including welfare reform, immigration, the budget and Medicaid cuts.

Anne Elliott met with businesswomen and attorneys in Chicago -- with Russian women visitors looking on to learn the American

policy process. Marie-Louise Caravatti met with the state's most influential women leaders from the private and public sectors in Wilmington, Delaware. "For this group, turning our problems over to the invisible hand of the private sector was not seen as a solution," Marie-Louise wrote in her report to The Women's Office.

Be Counted, Get Included in
Women Presidential Directory

Currently, more than 42 percent of President Clinton's appointments are women. He has appointed more women to serve in his Administration than any President. We have six-Cabinet level appointees who are women and there are about 2,500 women appointees throughout the Administration. To help identify who is serving where, The Women's Office is working to publish a directory of women Presidential appointees to share with women groups and women appointees. To get included call The Women's Office, 202-456-7300.

Briefing for Women Appointees

The White House press and communications teams briefed women appointees on Dec. 13 in the OEOB on the Administration's message and priorities and the importance of At the Table outreach. Those briefing the women included Evelyn Lieberman, Mike McCurry, Don Baer and Peggy Lewis. Also briefing the group was Tony Lake who discussed Bosnia. The Women's Office organizes a briefing each month as well as a social event. Gloria Steinem will speak at a briefing soon.

Call Us: The White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach: Betsy Myers, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director. Staff: Barbara Woolley, Peggy Lussier, Carrie Wofford, Judy Gold, Beth Newburger, Mary Dixon.
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MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND WOMEN

General Background

- For thirty years, Medicare and Medicaid have been the only source of health insurance for many Americans - American women in particular:
 - Medicare is the primary health insurance for women 65 and older, providing a wide range of services such as treatment for heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer, and preventive services like Pap smears and mammograms.
 - More than 54 percent (20 million of the 37 million) of Medicare beneficiaries are women.
 - Medicaid is the only health insurance for millions of low-income women and provides services such as prenatal care, pap smears, mammograms, and long-term care.
 - Sixty percent of Medicaid beneficiaries (20.6 million of the 34 million) are women.
- The Republican proposed Medicare and Medicaid cuts would have a devastating impact on women of all ages and elderly women in particular.

Medicare

- Women would be disproportionately affected since they comprise the majority of Medicare beneficiaries
- To help achieve its 270 billion dollar target, the Republican's plan would require beneficiaries to pay higher premiums and other out-of-pocket costs.
- Also, new private plans could allow their providers to charge beneficiaries more for covered services through a practice called balance billing.
- The vast majority of Medicare beneficiaries, especially female beneficiaries, would have very difficult time making these additional payments because they have lower incomes.
 - Over 83 percent of female Medicare beneficiaries (compared to 71 percent of male beneficiaries) have incomes of \$25,000 or less.
 - 65 percent of Medicare beneficiaries with incomes below the poverty line are women.

- The gains we've made over the past decade to expand access to medical services to low-income women - services such as prenatal care, post partum services, and family planning services are in jeopardy.
 - All States now provide Medicaid to pregnant women with incomes at least 133 percent of the Federal poverty level.
 - At their option, twenty-seven States have expanded coverage for pregnant women up to 185% of the Federal poverty level.
 - Without additional federal funds to cover such expansions, states will not be able to continue to provide Medicaid to these women and these women will become uninsured.
- Cuts to Medicaid would impact women not only as Medicaid recipients, but as care givers.
 - Women may be forced to quit jobs to provide care to disabled children or elderly parents not eligible for Medicaid under the Republican proposal.
 - Women comprise 93% of low-paid long-term care workers.

- Unlike today, the poorest Medicare beneficiaries would not be guaranteed that the Medicaid program would pay for their out-of-pocket costs.

Medicaid

- The Republican proposal to cut \$182 billion from Medicaid would force States to reduce Medicaid coverage or essential services. These cuts would disproportionately affect women since they comprise the majority of Medicaid beneficiaries
- Acute and long-term care services to the disabled and elderly will be targeted for cuts, including Medicaid payment of Medicare premiums, deductibles and copayments.
 - Currently, 70 percent of Medicaid dollars are spent on services provided to the elderly and disabled beneficiaries.
- The Republican proposal eliminates guarantees of decent care and quality of life for America's nursing home residents.
 - The elimination of these guarantees will disproportionately affect women: Seventy-five percent of all Medicaid nursing home residents are women (1.2 million).
- Elderly women will also be hurt by the Republican proposal to eliminate protections against "spousal impoverishment."
 - Most spouses of nursing home residents are women.
 - These protections allow spouses of nursing home residents to keep their homes, cars and modest incomes.
 - Without these protections a spouse may be forced into poverty in order to pay for nursing home care for their loved one.
- Younger women also will be adversely affected by the Republican proposal.
 - One million pregnant women under 185% of the Federal poverty level received Medicaid pregnancy-related services this year.
 - Medicaid pays for approximately one third of all births annually.
 - The provision of prenatal care to low-income women is essential to assuring the birth of healthy babies and prevent infant mortality.
 - For every \$1 spent on prenatal care, \$3 are saved in costs of care for low birth weight babies.

WOMEN AND MEDICARE

The Congressional Republicans have outlined their plan to balance the budget which includes a \$270 billion Medicare cut. Their plan would increase premiums and other costs for senior citizens. It would reduce doctor choice. It would force many doctors to stop serving seniors altogether. It threatens to put rural hospitals and urban hospitals out of business. Brick by brick, it would dismantle Medicare as we know it...Hundreds of thousands of families would have a much harder time caring for a member of their family in their home, or helping their family members in some other way.

- President Bill Clinton - September 15, 1995

For 30 years, Medicare has been there for seniors overall, and in particular for American women. More than 20 million of the 37 million people who rely on Medicare are women. That means that when the GOP cuts \$270 billion in Medicare, women are disproportionately affected. And when parents and grandparents find themselves with no health care under the Republican plan, it is the women of America -- the caretakers -- whose lives will change drastically should a parent or grandparent need additional care.

BACKGROUND:

- Of the 37 million Medicare recipients, over 20 million are women.
- Approximately two-thirds of Medicare home health users are women. Typically, they are lower income women over age 75.
- 65% of Medicare beneficiaries with incomes below the poverty line are women.
- The annual income of 83% of Medicare beneficiaries is less than \$25,000.

OLDER WOMEN AND MEDICARE SERVICES:

- Medicare is the primary health insurance for women 65 and older.
- Over 75% of Medicare recipients age 85 and older are women.
- Elderly women receive a wide range of services from Medicare, ranging from treatment for heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer, to preventive services like Pap smears and mammograms.
- Medicare pays for bi-annual mammograms. Women over age 65 are six times more likely to develop breast cancer and seven times more likely to die from it than younger women.

WOMEN AND MEDICAID

People say, oh, that's that welfare program. One-third of Medicaid does go to help poor women and their poor children on Medicaid. Over two-thirds of it goes to the elderly and the disabled.

- President Bill Clinton - September 15, 1995

For 30 years, Medicaid has protected women, children, the elderly, and the disabled. Nearly 70% of beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 64 are women. So when the Republican propose drastic cuts in Medicaid, women, especially elderly women, and children are disproportionately hurt.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Medicaid is the nation's principal low-income health program, providing coverage to 36 million people.
- About 2/3rds of the dollars spent on Medicaid are for services for elderly and disabled Americans.
- Medicaid provides health care for one year when families move from welfare to employment. The loss of health insurance is a major deterrent to leaving welfare.
- Mental Health Treatment: For adults aged 18-64, Medicaid covers institutional care in general hospitals or nursing homes, while states may opt to provide coverage for institutional care for children and seniors in facilities which specialize in mental health care.

MEDICAID AND WOMEN:

- Federally Mandated Medicaid Services for Women:
 - ✓ inpatient and outpatient hospital
 - ✓ physician, midwife and certified nurse practitioner
 - ✓ laboratory and x-ray
 - ✓ nursing home and home health
 - ✓ rural health clinics & federally qualified health centers
 - ✓ family planning
 - ✓ early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment for children under age 21

- 7 out of 10 Medicaid beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 64 are women -- that's 8.7 million women under the age of 64. Medicaid use is highest among these women; 11% of whom women depend upon Medicaid for their health insurance.
- Medicaid covers 61% of nursing home residents. 75% of elderly nursing home residents are women.
- Mammograms: 44 states and the District of Columbia cover mammograms under Medicaid.
- Pap Smears. All states provide reimbursement for Pap smears under Medicaid.
- Family Planning Services: Medicaid is the single largest source of public funding for contraceptive services, with the federal government reimbursing states for 90 percent of their expenditures on family planning services, serving 4 million women at 4,000 clinics. Publicly funded contraceptive services enable women to avoid up to 1.2 million additional unintended pregnancies each year.
- Reproductive Choice: Federal Medicaid funds are available for abortion only if a woman's life is endangered, or when a pregnancy results from rape or incest. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia use their own funds to provide abortion services to Medicaid-eligible women.
- Women as Care Workers: Women comprise 93% of low-paid long-term care workers.

MEDICAID AND CHILDREN:

- One out of every three pregnant women in America depends on Medicaid for prenatal care. Over 20 percent of children in the United States live in poverty, a figure that exceeds all other all other industrialized nations.
- Prenatal and Maternity Care: Medicaid covers prenatal and neonatal care for pregnant women with incomes below 133% of the poverty line, and allows states to extend coverage to pregnant women with incomes up to 185% of the poverty line. Women who qualify are also entitled to post-partum care and family planning services for 60 days after the pregnancy ends.
- About 1/3 of all babies born in the United States are covered by Medicaid.
- Medicaid currently covers 18 million children: one out of every five children in the nation.
- Over 90 percent of children with AIDS are covered by Medicaid.

OCTOBER 3, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR JENNIFER KLEIN

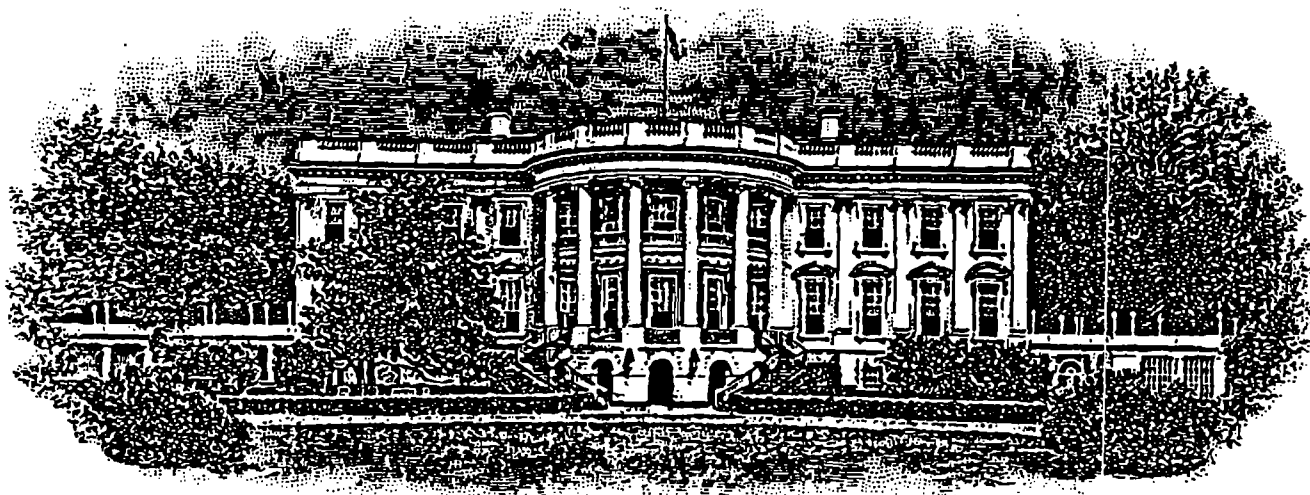
FROM: KAREN HANCOX

SUBJECT: ENCLOSED MEDICARE/MEDICAID PIECE

I would appreciate your assistance in vetting the enclosed talking points on women and Medicare/Medicaid.

Please call me or Gordon Li at x61125 with your findings.

The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Sen

FAX NUMBER: 6-2878

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FROM: Amanda

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): _____

COMMENTS: Here is a draft of the executive
summary for the W.H. report on the
Health Care Status of America's older
women and the impact of Republican
Budget Cuts.

This report discusses the present health care situation of America's older women and shows how the proposed Republican budget cuts will affect their future status.

Women represent 59% of the overall elderly population in America. This percentage increases among the very old, 85 years or older, and is growing quickly. Typically, older women are poorer than older men, and this poverty is greater among women of color, women over 85, women who live alone, and especially those without Social Security.

These demographic trends have important implications on the status of health care available to older women. Due to the longer life expectancies of women, on average, their need for affordable health care is greater than men's. Women, age 65 or older, are more likely than men to suffer from both serious and non-serious chronic diseases and disabilities. They are also more likely to rely on long term care, especially nursing home care. This situation becomes increasingly serious with age. As a result, elderly women end up spending significant amounts of their income on health care, and because older women have lower incomes than older men, their health care costs take a larger toll.

Elderly women make up the majority of beneficiaries for both Medicare and Medicaid and are more likely than men, due to their lower socio-economic status, to rely on Medicare or their coverage under Medicaid in providing them with a range of critical medical and essential services. Thus, the impact of the proposed Republican cuts in Medicare and Medicaid could have devastating effects on the financial and health care status of America's older women.

The Republican Medicare plan will cut benefits, increase premiums, and allow doctors to increase charges to beneficiaries through new, private, fee-for-service plans. As a result many poor elderly women will lose funding for their Medicare premiums. Furthermore, the Republican cuts completely eliminates coverage of coinsurance and deductibles for poor elderly people. These consequences combined mean that many elderly women will be forced to leave their past plans and enroll in a plan that does not require cost sharing, if one exists in their area. And unlike the President's plan, the Republican plan does not cover preventative benefits, which have been proven to increase beneficiary's health and reduce costs.

The Republican plan also repeals the Medicaid program and replaces it with a "block grant". This plan not only denies meaningful coverage for those Americans who need it most, but over 185,000 women, age 65 or older, will be thrown into poverty as a result of the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Finally, elderly women are especially hard hit by the Republican plan because of its policy concerning nursing homes, of which 75% of the residents are likely to be women. The Republican bill takes away federal protection and enforcement of nursing home quality standards enforced by OBRA '87, which dramatically improved the quality of nursing homes, and leaves responsibility to the states which might not have the necessary resources to maintain these standards. As a result spouses, if relevant, could be forced to pay for the necessary health care. Those with out family, are left uncovered.

If Republican budget cuts occur the impact on the health of America's older women will be severe.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON OLDER WOMEN	Long-Term Care: Provides grants to states for home- and community-based services for disabled elderly Americans.	Cuts \$182 billion from Medicaid. Republicans propose to repeal nursing home reforms, enacted with bipartisan support during the Reagan Administration, that serve to protect quality of care in nursing homes. Republicans also propose to repeal current protections against spousal impoverishment that allow spouses of nursing home residents receiving Medicaid to retain enough monthly income and assets to avoid destitution.	HHS estimates that states may be forced to eliminate coverage for about 350,000 nursing home residents and another 330,000 people needing home care in FY 2002.
EFFECTS ON HEALTH CARE	Medicare: Extends solvency of Medicare Trust Fund through 2006 by saving \$124 billion, without any new cost increases for beneficiaries. Eliminate the co-payment for mammograms for senior women.	Cuts \$270 billion from Medicare. No Republican proposal.	About \$70 billion of the cuts in the Senate Finance plan would come from increased out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries in the form of higher Medicare premiums and deductibles.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON HEALTH CARE	Medicaid Funding: Contains a mix of policies that save \$54 billion between now and 2002 and protects critical coverage for all women.	Cuts \$182 billion from Medicaid over the next seven years by making the program a block grant to states.	Up to 8.8 million children, elderly, and disabled people could lose coverage in FY 2002 alone.
	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Demonstration Grants: Roughly maintains 1995 level of \$566 million.	The House Committee level cuts 64%, or \$364 million, compared to the President's plan.	Jeopardizes substance abuse and mental health services for thousands of pregnant women and high-risk youth.
EFFECTS ON OLDER WOMEN	Options: Expands Medicare's managed care options available to beneficiaries to include preferred provider organizations and point-of-service plans.	Limits growth on Medicare spending per beneficiary to 33% less than private sector health plans. Increases costs to stay in fee-for-service, so that many beneficiaries may be forced into managed care.	May threaten Medicare access of the elderly to high quality medical care.
EFFECTS ON HEALTH CARE (ABORTION)	Ensures Medicaid funding for medically-necessary abortions for victims of rape or incest or when the woman's life is in danger.	The House bill allows states the option to deny Medicaid funding for victims of rape and incest abortions.	

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON HEALTH CARE (ABORTION)	Title X. Requested \$199 million for Family Planning grants, \$6 million above the FY 1995 level.	Funding was abolished and then restored at FY95 level in the House bill which is \$6 million below the President's request.	
	Human Embryo Research.	The House bans federal funding of human embryo research.	A ban would jeopardize advances in reproductive health areas affecting women, such as infertility treatment, in vitro fertilization, prevention of birth defects, contraception, and miscarriage prevention, as well as treatment of diseases such as leukemia, sickle cell anemia, Parkinson's disease, and spinal cord injury.
	Funding for Residency Accreditation Related to Abortion Procedures	The House prohibits Federal funds from being dependent on residency accreditation requirements that include abortion training.	

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON HEALTH CARE (ABORTION)	Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program. (FEHBP)	Precludes Federal employees and their families from purchasing health insurance coverage through FEHBP that covers abortions.	
	Abortion Services.	Bans privately funded abortion services at U.S. military hospitals and other federal facilities.	The ban would affect women serving in the armed forces, especially those uniformed women stationed overseas, in addition to spouses of male service members living on military bases.
EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY	Department of Labor Wage & Hour Administration: Provides \$117 million to enforce the Family and Medical Leave Act and other worker protections particularly for low wage workers.	The House bill cuts 12% of the Wage & Hour Administration's budget, which threatens their ability to conduct enforcement of the Family & Medical Leave Act.	The Wage and Hour Administration currently handles 100,000 enforcement calls per year. Reduces the number of low-wage women (e.g., in garment sweatshops) whose minimum wage and hour rights are protected (women account for the majority of minimum wage earners).
	Small Business Administration, National Women's Business Council.	Reduces budget from \$500,000 in 1994 to \$200,000 in 1996.	These cuts would eliminate over 5,500 opportunities for elderly low-income women to work in part-time community service jobs.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY	Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership: Provides \$4 million for the Women's Demonstration Site Program.	House cuts 50% of the funding of the President's 1996 request to \$2 million for the Women's Demonstration Site Program. Senate funds POTUS request	Significantly reduces the amount of business education and training SBA can provide to women-owned small businesses.
	Department of Labor, Women's Bureau: Provides \$9 million to promote the interests of wage-earning women.	House and Senate bills cut 7.5% in the Women's Bureau budget.	These cuts would jeopardize programs for millions of working women, employers, constituent groups, and elected officials that make a real difference in making work better for women and their families.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY	The Earned Income Tax Credit: Continues the already in law final phase of the 1993 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) increase currently scheduled to become effective in 1996, while taking five additional steps to enhance compliance.	Proposes to tax social security payments. Eliminates the modest EITC that was first made available last year to very low-income workers who do not reside with qualifying children. For the first time ever the child support payments received by working parents will be taxed simply because they are fortunate enough to collect those payments.	The EITC is received by approximately 1 million widowed, retired and disabled taxpayers who care for about 2 million of their own children, grandchildren, or other children. These social security recipients will be subject to an average tax increase of \$859. Eliminating the so-called childless worker component will subject 4.3 million taxpayers to an average tax increase of \$173. Among EITC recipients who collect child support, annual payments average about \$3,200. Under this aspect of the proposal alone, about 700,000 custodial parents will be subject to an average tax increase of \$549 in 1996.
EFFECTS ON SERVICE PROGRAMS	Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA): Increases funding by \$12 million to allow an additional 800 VISTA volunteers to work in low-income communities to alleviate poverty.	House bill cuts the VISTA program by 57%.	These cuts would deny nearly 2,400 women the opportunity to serve in their communities as VISTA volunteers and earn a monetary award to help them further their education or training.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON SERVICE PROGRAMS	Community Service Employment for Older Americans: Increases 1996 funding by \$15 million to provide almost 2,500 additional part-time work opportunities for low-income persons age 55 and older to work in community service activities.	House and Senate bills cut funding by \$46 million.	These cuts would eliminate over 5,500 opportunities for elderly low-income women to work part-time in community service activities.
	AmeriCorps: Increases funding by \$211 million and adds 20,000 new service opportunities for Americans to address vital local community needs such as health care, crime prevention and education.	House and Senate bills terminate the AmeriCorps program.	AmeriCorps provides nearly 25,000 opportunities a year for women to serve their communities and earn a monetary award to help them further their education or training.
	National Senior Volunteer Corps: Increase funding by \$32 million to provide Americans age 55 and over the opportunity to help the homebound elderly, disabled children, troubled adolescents and others in their communities.	House and Senate bills cuts funding by \$53 million.	Approximately 130,000 older women would be denied the opportunity to serve their communities.

Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach
October 5, 1995

CUTS TO PROGRAMS IMPACTING WOMEN

	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Women's Educational Equity Act Program: Maintains \$4 million which supports the research, development, and dissemination of curricular materials, training programs, guidance and testing activities, and other projects to promote educational equity for women and girls.	House and Senate appropriation bills eliminate this program that shares curricular materials with over 4,000 organizations and individuals yearly, helps schools implement non-discriminatory practices, and trains hundreds of teachers.	
	Federal Direct Student Loan Program: Supports direct loans and phase out of guaranteed loans in order to save money for taxpayers. Lowers cost of borrowing for students and reduces costs for schools.	Republican proposals cut the direct loan program and allow the old, inefficient guaranteed program to expand. Administrative Funding is drastically reduced, threatening timely payment to schools and students.	These cuts will stop growth of efficient, cost-effective direct lending in order to keep paying banks, state agencies, and secondary markets. Schools and students bear the brunt of the cuts, which will force students to pay significantly higher interest costs over the life of their loans.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Education for Disadvantaged Students: Boosts funding by \$302 million, to over \$ 7 billion per year, to help states raise academic achievement of 6.4 million disadvantaged children.	House bill reduces funding by \$1.1 billion.	Cuts up to 1.1 million children from the program, and eliminates as many as 29,000 teacher and aide jobs.
	Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities: Provides funding at \$500 million per year, for a safer, more drug- free learning environments for 39 million children in over 14, 000 school districts.	House and Senate bills reduce funding to \$200 million, a 60% cut from the President's request.	Deprives over 23 million students of services next year.
	Head Start: Increases 1996 funding by \$400 million and adds 32,000 new Head Start slots for children in 1996-- 50,000 new slots by 2002.	The House bill cuts funding by \$137 million from 1995 level.	Shuts out 45,000-50,000 children from Head Start in 1996.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations: Maintains funding at \$774,000 to promote training and employment opportunities for women in nontraditional fields. Over 1,000 women were directly served by the program last year, and several thousand more benefitted indirectly.	House bill reduces funding by 18%.	Hundreds of women could be denied from the program.
	Goals 2000: Provides \$750 million in 1996 to raise academic standards and student achievement eventually in all schools, and in 1996 in more than 16,000 schools serving 8.8 million students in 47 states.	House bill eliminates all funding for Goals 2000.	These cuts severely undermine state and local efforts to improve student achievement. Without this funding, much needed improvements in teacher training, educational technology and parental involvement will not be implemented.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING	School-to-Work: Boosts funds to \$400 million, a 60% increase over 1995, to support all states' building school-to-work systems with 1-year planning and 5-year implementation grants.	House bill cuts funds from the President's 1996 request to \$190 million.	Impairs efforts of 27 states to complete reforms begun in 1994 and 1995, and denying 23 states the chance to implement their reform plans to raise student skills and build a more competitive workplace.
EFFECTS ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): Provides \$1.319 billion in 1996, matching pre-recision 1995 level.	The House bill eliminates the LIHEAP program.	Ends assistance to between five and six million low income families.
	Food Stamp Program: Will serve 27 million people in 1996, about 60% of whom are female.	The House 1996 appropriations bill decreases benefits by \$190 million (according to CBO estimates), freezing the food stamp standard deduction at the 1995 level. Cuts Food Stamps by over \$35 billion over seven years.	

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN	School Meals Initiative: Provides \$26 million to help schools meet Dietary Guidelines for healthy meals.	The conference bill provides \$10 million for the School Meals Initiative, \$16 million below the President's request.	This will cut, by over one-half, the resources necessary to help ensure schools adhere to dietary guidelines.
	Public Housing: Provides \$8.1 billion in 1996 for public housing capital and operating funds, enough to reduce a backlog of capital needs, tear down or reconfigure the worst projects, and prepare for a proposed transition to portable assistance, giving choices to public housing residents.	House cuts 1996 funding by 37%, or \$3 billion. Senate cuts 1996 funding by 22%, or \$1.8 billion.	This will force public housing authorities to under-maintain and abandon projects or cut security and services.
EFFECTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS	Violence Against Women Programs at the Department of Justice: Increases funding from \$25 million to \$175 million.	House cuts funding by \$50 million; Senate funds POTUS request.	These cuts threaten the full enforcement of the VAWA, which concentrates at the local level. These cuts will be felt in local shelters, police stations, and courthouses, where they are desperately needed.

CUTS CONT.	PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL	REPUBLICAN CUTS	IMPACT NUMBERS
EFFECTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS	Violence Against Women Programs at the Department of Health and Human Services: Increases Crime Trust Fund funding for rape and domestic violence prevention, domestic violence education, battered women's shelter, and a domestic violence hotline from \$1 million to \$61.9 million.	The House cuts \$21.9 million from the President's 1996 request, eliminating programs to reduce sexual abuse of youth and providing less funding for battered women's shelters.	Nearly 1000 shelters nationwide receive funds from the Family Violence and Prevention Services program. A loss of family violence funding would directly jeopardize the operation of many shelters.
EFFECTS ON OLDER WOMEN	Administration on Aging: Boosts funds by \$21 million, to \$897 million. Maintains 1995 level for nutrition programs that include Meals on Wheels.	Ends 7 of 12 elderly programs and cuts funds for all others, but one.	Organizations like Meals on Wheels would be reimbursed for 12 million fewer meals served to older Americans.
	Respite Care for Families of People with Alzheimer's Disease: Helps Medicare beneficiaries who suffer from Alzheimer's disease by providing respite services for their families for one week each year.	No Republican proposal.	