

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	FLOTUS, Friday, September 24, 1999 (partial) (1 page)	09/24/1999	P6/b(6)
002. schedule	POTUS, Friday, September 24, 1999 (partial) (1 page)	09/24/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15409

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Numbers Announcement, 9/24/99 [1]

2012-1035-S

kc990

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

[001]

FINAL**WASHINGTON, DC / NEW YORK, NEW YORK / ALBANY, NEW YORK****NEW YORK****LEAD ADVANCE:****KEVIN PARKER**

P6/(b)(6)

CELL PHONE**ALBANY LEAD****ADVANCE:****EILEEN PARISE****OMNI HOTEL****ROOM 1426****518/462-6611****PHONE****518/462-2901****FAX**

P6/(b)(6)

CELL PHONE**SITE ADVANCE:****BETH COPE**

P6/(b)(6)

CELL PHONE**SITE ADVANCE:****KEN MACKINTOSH**

P6/(b)(6)

CELL PHONE**SCHEDULER:****EVAN RYAN****202/456-6751****PHONE****202/456-5340****FAX**

P6/(b)(6)

HOME**WECA PAGER****#4223****PREV RON****The White House**

9:15 am-

BRIEFING

9:30 am

Oval Office**CLOSED PRESS****CONTACT: Bruce Reed, Nicole Rabner**

9:30 am

PROCEED to Presidential Hall in OEOB

9:35 am-

ADOPTION EVENT

10:35 am-

Presidential Hall**OPEN PRESS****FORMAT:**

-Off-stage announcement of the President and the
First Lady, accompanied by Person TBD and Real
Person TBD.

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999**

PAGE 2

- The First Lady makes opening remarks and introduces Representative Camp.
- Representative Camp makes brief remarks and introduces Representative Rockefeller
- Representative Rockefeller makes brief remarks and introduces Dawn Keane, Adopted Parent.
- Dawn Keane makes brief remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 130 guests expected.

10:40 am-
11:10 am

MEETING WITH CHEVRON REPRESENTATIVES
Indian Treaty Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The First Lady is seated at the tables with Chevron representatives.
- The First Lady speaks briefly about corporate responsibility and philanthropy.
- The First Lady takes questions from the Chevron representatives.
- The First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 30 guests

CONTACT: Diana Sedney 202/408-5829

11:15 am-
3:50 pm

DOWN TIME

3:55 pm

DEPART South Portico
EN ROUTE Andrews Air Force Base
[drive time: 20 minutes]

4:15 pm

ARRIVE Andrews Air Force Base

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

PAGE 3

4:25 pm **WHEELS UP** Andrews Air Force Base
 EN ROUTE Albany International Airport
 [flight time: 1 hour]

5:25 pm **WHEELS DOWN** Albany International Airport
 CLOSED PRESS

5:35 pm **DEPART** Albany International Airport
 EN ROUTE Mayor's Office
 [drive time: 25 minutes]

6:00 pm **ARRIVE** Mayor's Office

6:05 pm-
6:35 pm **PRIVATE MEETING**
 Mayor's Building
 City Hall
 Washington and Eagles Streets
 Albany, New York
 CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:
 HRC
 Mayor Jerry Jennings

6:40 pm **DEPART** City Hall
 EN ROUTE University Club
 [drive time: 5 minutes]

6:45 pm **ARRIVE** University Club

6:50 pm-
7:20 pm **PRIVATE MEETING**
 University Club
 141 Washington Avenue
 Hold: tbd
 Phone: 518/463-1151
 CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:
 HRC
 Michael Breslin, County Executive
 Neil Breslin, State Senator

7:25 pm **DEPART** University Club
 EN ROUTE Rensselaer Technology Institute
 [drive time: 20 minutes]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

PAGE 4

7:45 pm **ARRIVE** Rensselaer Technology Institute

GREETERS:

Judge Arthur Gajarsa, Federal Court Judge
-appointed by President Clinton

7:50 pm- **MEET** with the Jackson Family

8:00 pm Hold

8:00 pm- **INAUGURAL GALA HONORING DR. SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON**

8:15 pm Dinner Tent

Outside Map Information Building

Rensselaer Technology Park

Attire: Business

Hold: Caspian Conference Room

Phone: 518/285-7572

Fax: 518/285-7583

Staff Hold: Adriatic Conference Room

Phone: 518/285-7574

Fax: n/a

OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC is announced into the room accompanied by
Dr. Shirley Jackson, and Judge Gajarsa, and
proceeds to stage.

-Dr. Jackson makes remarks and introduces Judge
Gajarsa.

-Judge Gajarsa introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks.

PARTICIPANTS: 600 guests

8:20 pm **DEPART** Rensselaer Technology Park

EN ROUTE Omni Albany Hotel

[drive time: 20 minutes]

8:40 pm **ARRIVE** Omni Albany Hotel

RON Omni Albany Hotel
Albany, New York

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

PAGE 5

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC: Sunny, breezy and pleasant.
High 80. Low 62.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR ALBANY, NEW YORK: Partly sunny. High 70.
Low 50.

Moynihan's defection to Bradley is latest gore

Senator's concern that the vice president can't win the election is echoed by some Democrats. The doubts are wounding his campaign.

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — When Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan endorsed Bill Bradley for president on Thursday, one of the reporters who jammed the 92nd Street Y in New York asked the obvious question: Why wasn't he endorsing Vice President Gore, the front-runner and Democratic Party favorite?

"Nothing is the matter with Mr. Gore," Moynihan replied, pausing dramatically. "Except he can't be elected president."

Concern that Moynihan's view just might be correct is rippling through the Democratic Party and complicating Gore's beleaguered campaign.

Bradley's unexpected strength in key states and Gore's weakness in poll matchups against Republican front-runner George W. Bush have made party regulars increasingly anxious over whether the horse most have chosen to ride is stumbling at the starting gate.

The impact on Gore: Some hoped-for endorsements have been delayed, fund-raising is more difficult than expected and the cloak of inevitability that once enveloped the vice president has been shredded.

"He's no longer the imperial front-runner," says Democratic strategist James Carville, a Gore supporter and occasional adviser. "Now he's got to get in

there and slug it out."

The next public round in that slugfest opens here Saturday morning at the Democratic National Committee meeting. The vice president and the former New Jersey senator are scheduled to make back-to-back speeches — though their entrances and exits have been choreographed to avoid actually crossing paths.

The audience is part of Gore's natural base, the activists he's been cultivating since winning the vice presidency seven years ago.

By and large, they are Clinton loyalists who appreciate the rubber-chicken dinners Gore has keynoted for their organizations and the patronage appointments the administration has delivered.

But they also are the downstream victims when the party's presidential candidate falters at the ballot box.

"If we elect a Democratic president, which I believe we will, we will help ourselves with congressional races and Senate races and other statewide races around the country," says Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., who is running for a fourth term next fall and is neutral in the presidential contest.

"If we're not able to do well in the presidential race, it'll drag us down somewhat."

Concern that Gore fails to connect with union rank-and-



By Brad Rickerly, Reuters

Gore 'can't be elected president': Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., right, announces his endorsement for Bill Bradley, left, for the Democratic nomination on Thursday in New York City.

file has been one factor in the reluctance by some labor leaders to deliver the prized early endorsement he's seeking from the AFL-CIO at its convention next month in Los Angeles.

The calculation that Bradley might be more electable than Gore — in large part because he's a fresh face not associated with the scandals and turmoil of the Clinton years — also is giving Bradley a more receptive audience at the DNC.

"I think the Democrats are eager to hear what we have to

say," Bradley spokesman Eric Hauser says, "and they're very eager to have a winner in 2000."

In three recent statewide polls, Bradley has pulled neck-and-neck with Gore in New Hampshire, which holds the nation's first primary on Feb. 8. A Marist Institute Poll conducted last week put the two men in a perfect 42%-42% tie in New York, which votes in a set of March 7 primaries that many analysts believe will be decisive in determining the nominees

for the parties.

Though the most recent nationwide USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll showed Gore leading Bradley 2-to-1 among Democrats, Bradley had significantly more appeal to Republican and swing voters. In the Sept. 10-14 survey, the two Democrats fared about the same in matchups against Bush, who beat Gore 56%-39% and Bradley 57%-37%.

An NBC-Wall Street Journal Poll released last week was more dramatic: Bush beat

Senate supporters

Al Gore has been endorsed by 92 members of the House of Representatives; one has endorsed Bill Bradley. Gore also leads in endorsements by Democrats in the Senate:

GORE

Blanche Lambert Lincoln, Ark.
Barbara Boxer, Calif.
Dianne Feinstein, Calif.
Joe Lieberman, Conn.
Max Cleland, Ga.
Daniel Akaka, Hawaii
Daniel Inouye, Hawaii
Evan Bayh, Ind.
Tom Harkin, Iowa
Barbara Mikulski, Md.
Paul Sarbanes, Md.
Frank Lautenberg, N.J.
Ron Wyden, Ore.
Jack Reed, R.I.
Tom Daschle, S.D.
Tim Johnson, S.D.
Patty Murray, Wash.

BRADLEY

Paul Wellstone, Minn.
Bob Kerrey, Neb.
Daniel Patrick Moynihan, N.Y.

Source: Gore and Bradley campaigns

Gore by 17 points but Bradley by only 9.

"Democrats are sort of asking themselves the question whether or not Bill Bradley doesn't have a better chance to win this race," says Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., the first member of Congress to endorse Bradley. "I think that is becoming much more important for Democrats."

But Sen. John Breaux, D-La., who supports Gore, says the vice president would fare better in the general election. "Bradley as a candidate is run-

ning too far to the left," he says. "The Republicans would be able to run to the center. Gore has the best chance to win."

However he adds, "This is my opinion. It's not shared by everybody."

Some note with dark humor that Bradley's surge carries benefits for Gore.

"The expectations game has changed," notes New Hampshire Democratic Chairman Kathy Sullivan, who is neutral in the contest. Now, even the narrowest of wins in the primary probably would be seen as a victory and boost for Gore.

Political insiders in both camps are waiting for financial reports for the three-month period ending next Thursday that will show how much money the campaigns have raised and spent. In the last reporting period, which ended June 30, Gore had out-raised Bradley but was also spending money at more than double Bradley's pace on consultants and staffers.

Close attention will be paid to third-quarter financial reports, due by Oct. 15, to see whether Bradley narrows or even erases Gore's lead when it comes to money in the bank.

Meanwhile, the Gore campaign had a sharp retort Thursday to Moynihan's jab.

"I'm sure President Bob Kerrey appreciated his support in 1992," spokeswoman Kiki Moore said, a reference to Moynihan's endorsement of the Nebraska senator in the last contested Democratic race.

An opponent named Bill Clinton ended up prevailing.

Contributing: Kathy Kiely, Jim Drinkard

Unprecedented surge in adoptions of foster kids

Incentives offered to families, states

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Adoptions of foster children across the country surged 29% in two years, boosted in part by tax credits for adoptive parents and cash incentives for states.

The increase in adoptions to 36,000 in 1998 from 28,000 in 1996 is the first significant increase since the national foster care program was established nearly two decades ago.

"There has been an increased emphasis on adoption that has been quite widespread," says Karabelle Pizzigati, director of public policy at the Child Welfare League of America, a nonprofit organization that works with agencies serving families in crisis. Tax credits and bolstered state services have made it possible for more families to adopt chil-

dren, especially those with disabilities or special needs.

"There are many families willing to do it, but they need a little help," Pizzigati says.

At a White House event today, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton will announce the first adoption "bonus awards" of \$20 million to 35 states that have increased the number of adoptions in 1998, compared with their average number of adoptions in 1995-97. The bonuses — up to \$4,000 per child and \$6,000 per child with special needs — are part of a program established in a 1997 bill.

A 1996 law also provided a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 credit for families adopting children with special needs.

Hawaii scored the largest percentage increase in adoptions, 249%, by placing 297 children in 1998 compared with an average of 85 per year in the previous period.

New York had only a 2% in-

crease, but 4,822 children were placed in adoptive homes in 1998, the largest number of any state.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that another 110,000 children still are waiting for adoption in the foster care system.

Dawn and Steven Keane of Hershey, Pa., went to an adoption site on the Internet in January 1998, filled out a form and saw Sarah's picture fill the screen. By June, after several visits, they had adopted Sarah and her brother Brian from foster homes in West Virginia. Both children have developmental disabilities.

Brian, now 11, Sarah, 7, and the Keanes' biological son, Sean, 10, will be in the audience today when their mother introduces Clinton.

"It hasn't been a completely smooth road," Dawn Keane, 39, says. But "I was very fortunate to have two children come into my home with adoption."

"All children are a blessing."

Hawaii's increase leads USA

The overall number of children adopted from foster care has jumped 29% as the federal government has begun offering financial incentives to states and tax breaks to families. The 35 states with increases:

	'95-'97'	1998	Change		'95-'97'	1998	Change
Ark.	138	251	82%	N.J.	621	755	22%
Calif.	3,287	3,958	20%	N.M.	147	197	34%
Colo.	417	560	34%	N.Y.	4,716	4,822	2%
Conn.	207	229	11%	N.D.	47	83	77%
Fla.	987	1,549	57%	Okla.	338	456	35%
Ga.	493	672	36%	Ore.	445	665	49%
Hawaii	85	297	249%	Pa.	1,224	1,494	22%
Ill.	2,200	4,656	112%	S.C.	256	465	82%
Ind.	495	774	56%	S.D.	56	58	4%
Iowa	350	517	48%	Texas	880	1,365	55%
Maine	108	112	4%	Utah	225	250	11%
Md.	342	420	23%	Vt.	75	116	55%
Mass.	1,116	1,137	2%	Wash.	607	759	25%
Mich.	1,905	2,254	18%	W.Va.	182	211	16%
Minn.	258	427	66%	Wis.	467	589	26%
Miss.	114	169	48%	Wyo.	15	30	100%
Mo.	557	616	11%				
Mont.	115	144	25%				
N.H.	45	50	11%				

1 - Average number of adoptions per year. Incentives to states are based upon increasing their number of adoptions above this average. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS ON ADOPTION

THE WHITE HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Acknowledgments: Olivia Golden, Pat Montoya, HHS; Members of Congress, the Brown, Manis, and Keane [KEEN] families, Carol Williams, former Children's Bureau Director and champion of adoption (t); adoption advocates; and one very special champion of foster children – 8-year old Mackenzie Snyder, who after hearing how so many foster children cannot afford to use anything but garbage bags for luggage, decided to collect suitcases for them. So far she has collected 1,000.

This summer, I saw a photograph that reminded me why the work we are doing to promote adoption in America is so vitally important.

It was a picture of a young woman in a green silk evening gown, high heels and a lace shawl. You could just see the anticipation and delight in her eyes.

It was a picture of 17-year old Deanna Collins -- taken by her adoptive parents on the night of her high school prom. Looking at that picture, it was difficult to believe that that smiling, confident young woman was the same girl I had welcomed to the White House just four years before. Back then, she was thirteen and had already spent eight years in foster care.

With her shoulders slumped, her eyes downcast, she told the audience gathered for National Adoption Month about her dreams of living in a place she could call home, a room she could call her own, a family she could love.

Not long after her visit, Deanna's dream came true. And it has been my privilege to watch this young person's life transformed by her adoption. With the love of her parents, with the confidence that comes from knowing that she will always have a place to go home to no matter what else happens in life, Deanna is thriving. She is a senior in high school now, and plans to major in social work in college.

Every time I need inspiration for our fight to strengthen and increase adoption in America, I think of Deanna. I think of Washington's Mayor Tony Williams, who told us at another Adoption Month commemoration last year how at age 3, he was about to be declared 'unadoptable' and institutionalized by the state when Virginia Williams opened her arms and welcomed him into her family. Mrs. Williams is here today and all of us are grateful that you gave your son his "second chance." And I think of the thousands of foster children in America who are still waiting and hoping for the same chance Deanna and Mayor Williams had to grow and blossom in a loving family.

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have worked to address the challenges of foster care and adoption in America. I have represented prospective parents in court, helping them navigate the bureaucratic mazes of adoption. I have listened to their frustrations with the red tape that too often kept them from sharing their lives with the children who so badly need their love. I have met foster children who have spent their childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home. Children such as the teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago, who, when asked where he lived, answered, "All over Fairfax County."

In many ways, giving more of our children the chance to know the love and support of a family has become a personal crusade. I have held meetings, roundtables, and annual celebrations of National Adoption Month here at the White House. I have worked with advocates, and business leaders such as Wendy's founder Dave Thomas, who as an adopted child himself, has dedicated so much of his time and personal resources to promoting adoption among his employees and across America. With each meeting, I became more and more convinced that the time was long overdue to reform our foster care system. Our children are simply spending too many years – the average is just under three – in foster care.

We need to identify and eliminate the obstacles that keep them there. We need to change our foster care system so that the speedy placement of children in loving, safe, *permanent* homes become its one, simple, driving mission.

Because of the commitment of so many of you in this room, we have made much progress toward that goal. We helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents -- including adoptive parents -- to take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs and health insurance.

We put an end to racial discrimination in adoption. The President signed and strengthened the Multiethnic Placement Act, prohibiting adoption agencies from keeping children of one race from the safe and loving arms of parents of another. We made adoption more affordable, putting in place tax credits for new adoptive families. We are taking steps to use the Internet to help match waiting children with loving homes.

And most important, together we crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of a time a child spends in foster care. We said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months -- down from 18 months -- before the court considered his or her permanent placement. For the first time, we offered states financial incentives to move more children out of foster care and into permanent homes; and gave them the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal. And we set a national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually -- from 28,000 to 56,000 by the year 2002. And though there were moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, we fought hard to make the Adoption and Safe Families Act law in 1997. In a few moments the President will offer new evidence of our continued success.

But we still have much more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people who had "aged out" of foster care. They told me about the struggles they had -- about being forced out of their foster homes on their eighteenth birthdays, about living in homeless shelters while trying to finish school, about getting sick and having no one to turn to for medical care or comfort.

These young people are our responsibility. We cannot ignore the potential of anyone of these children. One of the remarkable young women I met is now at Yale Law School. That is why I was pleased to announce a new proposal in the President's balanced budget to help former foster children make the transition to independence. The House, under the bipartisan leadership of Rep. Nancy Johnson and Rep. Ben Cardin, (who are here with us today), has passed a bill that would allow former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21, and give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live. Now I call on the Senate to take action on a companion bill sponsored by Sen. Chafee and Rockefeller. There is no reason we can't pass this bill this year.

The progress we celebrate today would not have been possible without so many of you in this room – adoption advocates, social workers, state and local leaders, but most of all our adoptive parents. I will never forget the boy I met three years ago at a Mother's Day roundtable for mothers and their adopted children. At the end of the discussion, we went around the room, asking the children if they had anything else to say. The final boy to speak looked up at the woman sitting next him, and said quietly, "I just want to thank my mother."

With that one simple adoring look and those few words, he summarized what we all had been trying to say all afternoon. So to our parents, we thank you for making that leap of faith, for opening your homes and your hearts, for seeing that spark of possibility and love in every child.

Now it is my privilege to introduce Dawn Keane, who with her husband Steven and son Sean, have just finalized their adoptions of Sarah and Brian.

Fostering Children's Hopes With Baggage and Bears

By Cindy Loose

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, September 15, 1999; Page B01

Margie Snyder tried to talk her daughter out of it.

The Bowie mother knew how much work it would take to do what 7-year-old Makenzie wanted: to collect luggage for foster care children she'd heard about, kids forced to carry their stuff in garbage bags as they moved from home to home.

It was a big job for a little kid. "You're too young," Margie Snyder kept telling Makenzie. But at each yard sale the family routinely stopped by, Makenzie would rummage for suitcases. Eventually her mother gave in.

Yesterday, after a year and a lot of suitcases, Makenzie went to the Ionia R. Whipper Home in Northwest Washington to receive a \$15,000 check from the Freddie Mac Foundation to fund her suitcase project.

In the past year, Makenzie, now 8, has collected and distributed about 1,000 used suitcases, with the help of her Brownie troop and schoolmates, who sold lollipops to raise money. (Makenzie said she is in third grade at St. Pius, "with a big X on the end.")

Makenzie arrived in jeans and sneakers, dragging a suitcase on wheels, duffle bags slung over each shoulder, ponytail swinging. She was greeted by Joan Hurley, the home's executive director.

Of the 5,600 foster children in the region, about 3,000 are from the District. Hurley said that over the last 20 years, she has seen a lot of children filled with pain walk through the doors of her home for teenage girls, the vast majority lugging garbage bags or old supermarket sacks.

"When you put everything you own into a garbage bag, from your teddy bear to your tennis shoes, it's hard to have any pride," said Hurley. "It tells the children they have nothing of value and suggests they have no value, either."

As her mother remembers it, Makenzie first heard about what social workers sarcastically call "state luggage" from a Reader's Digest article. Makenzie has a vague recollection of that but said what really got her was a movie.

"It was about a girl whose dad was always drunk and her mother died, and

she had to go to the house of an aunt who was mean," she said. "And when the whole family died, she went to this lady with lots of foster children, about 20 I think. And she didn't even have a suitcase."

Whatever the impetus, Makenzie is determined to provide more dignified containers.

She came to the Freddie Mac Foundation in a circuitous way. In 1996, Makenzie's two brothers saw a broadcast about three children dying in a fire because firefighters couldn't find them. Within six months, the boys had raised \$25,000 to buy a pair of special goggles for the local fire station. Then came the raffles and door-to-door campaigns as they and friends raised \$45,000 more for a rehabilitated fire engine.

A few months ago, Makenzie waited with her mom at the office of the Prince George's Community Foundation, where brothers, Cory, 15, and Brock, 13, were having serious discussions about how the foundation should distribute money the boys had raised for their fire rescue charity.

And there was Makenzie, jiggling, doing flips, getting bubble gum caught in her hair. At one point she blurted out, "Would you like to hear about my project?"

She described her mission and said she could use some money, too.

An official at the meeting called a former employer, Freddie Mac Foundation. The next day, Makenzie answered the phone and found a man from the foundation on the line, offering \$15,000.

"Do you know how much money that is?" he asked. "Yeah, a lot," said Makenzie, a baton-twirling, ballet-dancing girl who says she likes every sport.

In her letter thanking the foundation, Makenzie wrote: "Because of your help, 1,200 kids won't have to carry trash bags with their stuff in anymore. They will have a nice suitcase. You made a difference today. Sincerely, Makenzie." The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments will oversee spending and help identify children in need.

Each bag will come with a stuffed animal, and a note: "God told me you could use a duffle bag and a cuddly friend. So, I send this with love to you."

At yesterday's ceremony, Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) praised Makenzie for seeing a problem and saying, "I may not be able to solve it, but I can do something." He added he was relieved that the Snyder

children are too young to run for Congress.

The children's father, Dan, a safety director for a general contractor, said he doesn't know what inspires his children. He is a scout leader, and Margie, a homemaker, volunteers at school, but the children took things a step beyond the routine.

Makenzie explains it simply. "Foster kids aren't respected by their parents like they're supposed to be, so I want to respect them."

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Progress Report To The President On Adoption



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families

September 24, 1999



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 23 1999

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

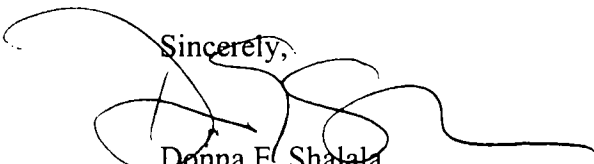
I am pleased to take this opportunity to report on the notable progress that we have made in the past few years to increase the number of children moved from our nation's foster care system into adoptive and permanent homes.

In December of 1996, you laid out ambitious goals for the adoption of vulnerable children. You also called on the Department of Health and Human Services to devise ways to make adoption easier and faster, to move more children out of the foster care system and into safe, permanent and loving homes. Central to these efforts was the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, designed both to remove barriers to adoption and to provide incentives to the States for increasing the number of children adopted each year. The Department responded with the Adoption 2002 report, which outlined specific recommendations on how to achieve the goals that you laid out for the country's child welfare system. We are happy to report that we are already seeing significant results from the implementation of those recommendations.

Because of your strong commitment to these goals, the unwavering dedication of the First Lady, diligent work here at the Department, bipartisan congressional leadership and truly outstanding efforts by State and local adoption agencies, we are well on our way toward meeting your goal of doubling the number of adoptions and permanent placements for these children by 2002. In fact, the total number of adoptions rose to over 36,000 in 1998 from 28,000 in 1996. We are especially pleased to announce today that thirty-five States earned adoption incentive awards for their exceptional achievements.

While we recognize and applaud these successful efforts, it is also important to underscore that more work needs to be done. The Department is committed to continuing to work in partnership with the States to promote adoption and improve our child welfare system, giving our nation's most vulnerable children what every child deserves – a safe, stable home and a loving family environment.

Sincerely,



Donna E. Shalala

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON ADOPTION

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON ADOPTION

INTRODUCTION

This report follows up on the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) 1997 report to the President entitled *Adoption 2002*, which provided a bold blueprint of recommendations for reaching the President's ambitious goal of doubling the number of adoptions from the nation's child welfare system in the year 2002. Today, just two years later, the Department is delighted to report that:

- The number of adoptions from the public child welfare system nationwide has already increased from 28,000 in 1996 to 36,000 in 1998, fully on track for the President's target of 56,000 in the year 2002.
- The President signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), bipartisan legislation that incorporates many of the critical recommendations from the 1997 blueprint.
- Across the country, with leadership and support from HHS, States, courts and adoption agencies are moving rapidly not only to implement the national legislation but also to develop creative ways to overcome barriers and move children to loving permanent homes as rapidly as possible.
- Adoption is more accessible and affordable to families, because of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the investments in adoption assistance and in adoption tax credits made under this Administration.

These results are especially impressive because, like the *Adoption 2002* report, this report focuses on a specific group of the nation's most vulnerable children: approximately 110,000 children in the nation's public foster care system who cannot return safely to their own homes and need adoptive families if they are ever to experience a safe, loving, permanent home. Many of these children have "special needs," that is, characteristics that historically have made them more difficult to place in adoptive homes. For example, they may be older children rather than infants, children who are part of a sibling group, children of minority heritage, or children who have physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities. Yet in response to the call by the President and the Congress for a clear commitment to permanent, loving homes for all children, we are proud to report that the response across the nation has been extraordinary.

The remainder of this report outlines the four strategies that we believe lie behind the results reported here:

- Aiming high and ensuring accountability for results
- Reforming national and State legislative frameworks to remove barriers to adoption
- Supporting and rewarding innovation
- Making adoption more accessible and affordable for families.

In addition, the appendix provides a detailed chart of the recommendations from the *Adoption 2002* report with their completion dates.

AIMING HIGH AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS

The President set an ambitious goal for this Administration: to increase the number of children adopted out of the public child welfare system to 56,000 adoptions in the year 2002. Each year since the national commitment to the goal, the number of adoptions has risen. In 1997, the total number of adoptions rose to 31,000 from 28,000 in 1996. In 1998, we are pleased to announce that States achieved 36,000 adoptions. This represents an unprecedented 29 percent increase in the number of adoptions nationwide over a three-year period (FY 1996-FY 1998).

As recommended in *Adoption 2002*, the Department followed up on the national goal by working with State partners to develop individual State goals that would add up to a national doubling of adoptions. For many States, the outcome focus has become a central part of their own approach to adoption. Iowa, for instance, has put in place a system to track key measures for the adoption program on a monthly basis and to closely monitor progress toward outcome goals. This outcome focus, a renewed utilization of adoption specialists and other targeted efforts, has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of adoptions in Iowa.

In addition, the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) provided an extraordinary new tool for focusing the nation and individual States on adoption outcomes. As a result of the commitment of the President and strong bipartisan Congressional leadership, ASFA included the first-ever outcome-based financial award in the child welfare field: an incentive to States to increase the number of adoptions for children waiting in the foster care system. The bonuses—up to \$4,000 per child and \$6,000 for each child with special needs—are awarded for States that exceed the number of children adopted compared to the previous year.

States are to use these awards to further improve services, including post-adoption services, that are provided to children and families in the foster care system.

In FY 1999, 35 States will receive a share of the \$20 million in adoption incentive awards based on their FY 1998 performance. The numbers of adoptions have increased so dramatically, that, as specified in the law, we have made prorated adjustments in the awards to States. In this first award of bonuses, the 1998 numbers are compared to a 3-year average baseline. The 35 States are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The following table indicates the increases in adoption by State.

REFORMING NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

In order to create the broad-based changes that were needed to support the President's goal, the Administration and a broad bipartisan majority in the Congress made significant changes in the legislative framework that undergirds the child welfare system.

In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997, a legislative milestone for child welfare reform. The key provisions of the Act closely followed the central recommendations of *Adoption 2002* to ensure that children's safety is paramount in child welfare decision making, that foster care is a temporary setting and not a place for children to grow up, and that the speed of decision making in the child welfare system respects a child's developmental needs and sense of time. Key provisions in the law shorten the time frame for making permanency planning decisions, establish a time frame for initiating proceedings to terminate parental rights, clarify reasonable efforts, and call for every State to ensure that its laws and regulations comply with the new provisions, so that children in the State's child welfare system are able to move to permanent placements or adoptive homes more quickly. To date, 49 States and Puerto Rico have made the required changes.

FY 1998 ADOPTION INCENTIVE BONUSES

<u>State</u>	<u>3-yr average baseline¹</u>	<u>FY 98 Adoptions</u>	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>Bonus²</u>
Arkansas	138	251	82%	\$280,320
California	3,287	3,958	20%	\$1,841,837
Colorado	417	560	34%	\$419,540
Connecticut	207	229	11%	\$41,390
Florida	987	1,549	57%	\$1,290,603
Georgia	493	672	36%	\$449,642
Hawaii	85	297	249%	\$518,311
Illinois	2,200	4,656	112%	\$6,869,733
Indiana	495	774	56%	\$842,843
Iowa	350	517	48%	\$371,566
Maine	108	112	4%	\$11,288
Maryland	342	420	23%	\$317,947
Massachusetts	1,116	1,137	2%	\$39,508
Michigan	1,905	2,254	18%	\$942,554
Minnesota	258	427	66%	\$480,684
Mississippi	114	169	48%	\$187,194
Missouri	557	616	11%	\$110,999
Montana	115	144	25%	\$54,559
New Hampshire	45	50	11%	\$9,407
New Jersey	621	755	22%	\$409,193
New Mexico	147	197	34%	\$94,067
New York	4,716	4,822	2%	\$199,423
North Dakota	47	83	77%	\$67,728
Oklahoma	338	456	35%	\$280,320
Oregon	445	665	49%	\$586,980
Pennsylvania	1,224	1,494	22%	\$592,624
South Carolina	256	465	82%	\$500,438
South Dakota	56	58	4%	\$3,763
Texas	880	1,365	55%	\$1,350,806
Utah	225	250	11%	\$47,034
Vermont	75	116	55%	\$100,652
Washington	607	759	25%	\$291,609
West Virginia	182	211	16%	\$60,203
Wisconsin	467	589	26%	\$301,015
Wyoming	15	30	100%	\$28,220

Source: HHS Administration for Children and Families

¹ Based on FY 1995 – 1997.

² As specified in ASFA of 1997, HHS has made pro-rated adjustments in the awards to States.

As States move to reform their own legislation, policy, and practice to come into compliance with ASFA and meet their adoption goals, the Department has played a forceful role both in holding States accountable for the rapid change called for in ASFA and supporting them, through hands-on assistance, information, and expertise. For example:

- To provide State policymakers in general and State legislators in particular with information that would help them reform their own State legislative frameworks, the Department convened a cross-disciplinary group of experts who produced Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children. The guidelines are a technical assistance tool reflecting the best thinking of child welfare administrators, lawyers, judges, advocates, and front-line workers. This document offers guidelines and model legislation that are intended to help those at the State and local levels examine their current processes and consider new directions to promote permanency.
- To help local and State experts share information and solutions, the Department convened 10 technical assistance conferences across the country focused on ASFA implementation.
- To help States work on the implementation of ASFA, the Department increased training and technical assistance to States regarding ASFA implementation through the Adoption Information Clearinghouse and the Child Welfare Resource Centers.

Another key element of these reforms is the elimination of racial and ethnic barriers to adoption required by the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA), and the Inter-ethnic Adoption Provisions (IEP), enacted as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. These laws ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture, and ethnicity. In order to support the success of the provisions, the Department has issued guidance and provided training and technical assistance that has helped the States in the implementation of this legislation. The Children's Bureau and the Office of Civil Rights at HHS have worked closely at the national and regional levels to help States examine their legislation and administrative practices to make sure they are in compliance with these laws.

SUPPORTING AND REWARDING INNOVATION

The Department recognizes that broad-based reform must happen at all levels—in federal legislation and policy, in State legislatures, in local court systems, and with public and private child welfare agency managers and line workers around the country. Creative leaders and programs throughout the country are working to ensure that foster care is a short-term safe haven for children as they move into a stable, permanent home. The Department has worked to spark

new models by giving States the flexibility to test new practices through its child welfare waiver system and by funding innovations through its grant programs and specialized technical assistance. We have captured the spirit of the success stories and promoted their replication through our Adoption Incentives Bonuses and Adoption Excellence Awards.

The Administration also forged partnerships with States to launch child welfare waiver demonstration projects, which allow States to test and evaluate child welfare service delivery and financing strategies. The Department approved 17 child welfare waiver demonstrations in FY 1997 and 1998 and will expect to approve up to eight by the end of FY 1999. The Department encouraged States to focus on adoption and post-adoptive services, to ensure that adoptive placements are successful and prevent re-entry into the foster care system. Maine, for instance, will provide training on special-needs adoption to mental health and other professionals who work with adoptive families, adoptable children, and public and private adoption providers, and subsequently provide post-adoptive services.

The Department also has provided financial support to stimulate innovation in State and private child welfare agencies and with other key child welfare partners, including court systems.

- The Adoption Opportunities Program, increased by \$10 million in FY 1998, funds a variety of service innovations that seek not only to increase the number of adoptions but also to support the success of adoptive placements. In FY 1999, the Department is awarding grants to recruit more minority adoptive families; to test new innovations in the placement of sibling groups, children with disabilities, and adolescents; and to provide post-legal adoptive services to prevent adoption disruptions. The Program also funds work to improve the system for interstate placement of children.
- The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program (formerly known as the Family Preservation and Support Services), signed into law in 1993, was revised to allow States to use the funds to promote and support adoptions.
- The Department's Court Improvement Program (CIP) provides funding to State courts to improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings. The CIP has strengthened the focus on judicial decisionmaking and the key role that courts play in attaining safe, permanent homes for children.

In response to the President's request to recognize the numerous changes in policy and practice that bolster adoptions, the Department established the annual Adoption Excellence Awards. For the past two years, the Department has honored those States, organizations, businesses, individuals, and others who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Winners have exhibited tireless commitment

and creativity in recruiting adoptive families and moving children to permanent placement more quickly. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and 13 in 1997:

- The 1998 winners were: Tim O'Hanlon, Ohio North American Council on Adoptable Children; Governor James and Brenda Edgar, IL; Georgia Department of Human Resources; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Hope for the Children, Inc., IL; Three Rivers Adoption Council, PA; Kansas Association of Broadcasters; and Judge Max Baer, PA.
- The 1997 winners were: North American Council on Adoptable Children, MN; Resources for Adoptive Parents, MN; Athens County Children's Services, OH; National Adoption Center, PA; Jack Williams, Senior News Anchor for WBZ-TV 4, MA; Sherry Coy, Adoptive Mother, NV; The Badeau Family, PA; The Scott Family, AZ; The Neal Family, NC; Wendy's International and Dave Thomas Foundation, OH; South Carolina Families for Kids; and Lucas County Children's Services, OH.

Finally, at the President's request, the Department is exploring innovations in the use of technology to increase adoptions. In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop a plan to expand use of the Internet to share information about children who are legally free for adoption in order to shorten the time needed to find them adoptive families. An effective national registry will help to break down geographic barriers to adoption and assist in meeting the President's adoption goal. HHS will launch a national Web site by September 2001, working with States, some of whom have already launched Internet registries, to reach all children who need a home and eliminate the delays in interstate adoptions.

MAKING ADOPTION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

The Administration has taken a several steps to make adoption more affordable for families and to support the formation of adoptive families. In 1993, President Clinton acted to help new adoptive families through the Family and Medical Leave Act, which enabled parents to take time off to adopt a child without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The Administration also has secured important financial support for adoptive families. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In addition, adoptive families are eligible to receive the \$500-per-child tax credit, which President Clinton enacted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

ON TRACK TO MEET OUR GOALS

The early progress of the *Adoption 2002* Initiative is an example of the way that an ambitious, common goal can galvanize a system to create widespread change. The challenges in the child welfare system are daunting. More than 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. Our most recent data indicate that the average time that these children are in out-of-home care is 2 years and 9 months. These sobering statistics underscore the need to continue the significant progress that has been made to date to move our country's most vulnerable children into safe, permanent, and loving homes more quickly.

The Administration also is working with Congress on another critical front to protect children for whom the child welfare system is not able to secure adoption and permanency. The President's Independent Living Program aims to help the nearly 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year, having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children with the transition to independence by helping them earn high school diplomas, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills like budgeting and securing housing and employment. Bipartisan legislation to increase funding for the Independent Living Program and provide health coverage for these young people to the age of 21 is moving through the 106th Congress.

The President recognized the critical importance of this issue when he challenged us all to undertake the *Adoption 2002* Initiative, with a goal that was bold enough to require fundamental changes throughout the child welfare system. In response, all of the partners in the system have demonstrated a commitment that has put the country confidently on track to meet the President's goal of our target of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. At the federal level, we have exercised leadership by creating a policy framework for child welfare reform, promoting and rewarding innovations at all levels, and providing financial assistance to individual families who choose to adopt. States and localities have responded by taking advantage of federal flexibility to design and implement policies that support permanence and adoptions and services that recruit adoptive families and provide ongoing support for adoptive placements. Moreover, non-profits and foundations have served as important partners in working to promote permanency, serving as contractors for the States, independent advocates for children and families, and sponsors of critical activities such as research for the National Adoption Exchange. Together, we have made tremendous progress in ensuring the safety, permanence, and well-being of our most vulnerable children.

APPENDIX
ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTION 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption 2002 Recommendations	Actions Completed	Description
Increase the Number of Adoptions	✓	Numerical targets leading to a doubling of adoptions over five years were set at the National and State levels. Adoptions are up 38% from FY 1995 to FY 1998, keeping us on track to reach our goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002.
Provide Technical Assistance to States and Communities	✓	Ten regional conferences were held in 1998, as well as technical assistance on drafting the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) State legislative requirements. The eight Resources Centers funded by the Children's Bureau, including the Resource Centers on Permanency Planning and Special Needs Adoptions, have provided critical information and expertise to the States.
Provide Financial Incentives	✓	In September 1999, \$20 million was awarded to 35 States that successfully increased adoptions in FY 1998.
Implement the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA)	✓	Guidance was issued in June 1997 and significant training and technical assistance was provided by the Children's Bureau and Office of Civil Rights to at least 40 States. The Office of Civil Rights has reviewed all State policies and practices for MEPA compliance and continues to work with States to ensure the appropriateness of any law changes in this area.
Track the Progress of States	✓	Through the Adoption Incentives component of ASFA, the Department is collecting data through the Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System and reporting on State progress.
Recognize Successful States	✓	The Department initiated the Adoption Excellence Awards in 1997 to honor States, organizations, businesses, and individuals who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.

APPENDIX
ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTION 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS (CON'D)

Adoption 2002 Recommendations	Actions Completed	Description
Promote Permanency for Children who Cannot Return Home	✓	The enactment of the ASFA of 1997 was a major achievement in promoting permanency for children. As of September 1999, 49 States and Puerto Rico have passed legislation to comply with ASFA. With \$10 million in additional funding for the Adoption Opportunities program, the Department has increased training and technical assistance to the States, and has supported new initiatives to achieve increased adoptions of children in foster care, provide post-legal adoptive services and build effective collaborations for timely adoptions. Finally, ASFA extended the Court Improvement Program for an additional three years. The Department has supported State efforts, and in early 1999, the Department issued a program instruction to help clarify elements of the program.
Address Permanency Planning Earlier Through Timely Hearings	✓	The Department's proposed regulation (published September 1998) expands on the provisions in ASFA that called for immediate permanency planning and shorter time frames for hearings. The Children's Bureau also convened a group of experts from throughout the field to draft <i>Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children</i> , which were published in June 1999.
Clarify "Reasonable Efforts" and Other Federal Policies Related to Permanency and Safety	✓	Both the ASFA legislation and the Department's proposed regulations have clarified "reasonable efforts" and other elements of promoting permanency.
Set Standards for Securing Permanency	✓	The ASFA legislation and subsequent Department proposed regulations require "reasonable efforts" to secure a permanent home for a child in foster care and clarify that plans for reunification and for alternate permanency options can be concurrent. The Department also encouraged States to use the Federal Parent Locator Service through the publication of an Information Memorandum in January 1999.
Examine Alternative Forms of Permanency	✓	Seven states and the District of Columbia have waivers to examine assisted guardianship/kinship permanence. In addition, a group of experts has convened several times in 1999 around kinship care issues, and a report to Congress is pending.

Friday, September 24, 1999

9:35 AM	Adoption Event	Tab A
	- Remarks	Tab B
	- State-by-State Adoption Bonuses	Tab C
	- HHS Adoption Progress Report	Tab D
11:20 AM	Remarks to DNC Annual Fall Meeting	Tab E
	- Remarks	Tab F To Be Forwarded
12:30 PM	DNC Democratic Business Council Reception and Lunch	Tab G
	- Talking Points	Tab H To Be Forwarded
	- Conference Agenda	Tab I
4:30 PM	Tape Radio Address	Tab J
	- Remarks	Tab K To Be Forwarded
5:30 PM	Press Picnic	Tab L
7:05 PM	Drop-By Senator Graham Dinner	Tab M To Be Forwarded
	- Remarks	Tab N To Be Forwarded
8:00 PM	DNC Dinner	Tab O
	- Talking Points	Tab P To Be Forwarded

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. schedule	POTUS, Friday, September 24, 1999 (partial) (1 page)	09/24/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15409

FOLDER TITLE:

Adoption Numbers Announcement, 9/24/99 [1]

2012-1035-S
kc990

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

[002]

199 SEP 23 16:47

Friday, September 24, 1999

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Final Schedule

SCHEDULING DIRECTOR:

STEPHANIE STREETT

HOME: P6/(b)(6)
OFFICE: 202-456-2823
WHCA PAGER: 4824

PRESS DESK:

DORI SALCIDO

HOME: P6/(b)(6)
OFFICE: 202-456-5771
WHCA PAGER: 4844

EVENT COORDINATOR:

JULIE EDDY

HOME: P6/(b)(6)
OFFICE: 202-456-5330
WHCA PAGER: 4560

EVENT COORDINATOR:

HEATHER DAVIS

HOME: P6/(b)(6)
OFFICE: 202-456-2811
WHCA PAGER: 4736

WEATHER:

WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Mostly sunny. Winds southwest at 8 to 12 knots.
Low 56°F. High 77°F.*

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

Friday, September 24, 1999

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999
Final Schedule

9:00	am-	MEETING
9:15	am	OVAL OFFICE
		Staff Contact: John Podesta
9:15	am-	BRIEFING
9:30	am	OVAL OFFICE
		Staff Contact: Bruce Reed, Nicole Rabner
9:30	am	THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Old Executive Office Building, Presidential Hall
9:35	am-	ADOPTION EVENT
10:35	am	PRESIDENTIAL HALL
		Remarks: Lowell Weiss
		Staff Contact: Bruce Reed, Nicole Rabner
		Event Coordinator: Julie Eddy
		OPEN PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 130 guests in attendance.

- Off-stage announcement of the President and the First Lady, accompanied by the Keane Family.
- The First Lady makes opening remarks and introduces Dawn Keane, Adoptive Parent.
- Dawn Keane makes brief remarks, introduces Sean, Brian, and Sarah Keane.
- Sean, Brian, and Sarah Keane introduce the President.
- The President makes remarks and departs.

10:45	am-	BRIEFING
11:00	am	PRESIDENTIAL HALL HOLD
		Staff Contact: Minyon Moore

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

Friday, September 24, 1999

11:05 am THE PRESIDENT departs West Executive Avenue via motorcade en route Washington Hilton
[drive time: 10 minutes]

11:15 am THE PRESIDENT arrives Washington Hilton

11:20 am- REMARKS TO DNC ANNUAL FALL MEETING
12:10 pm JEFFERSON BALLROOM

Washington Hilton

Remarks: Jeff Shesol

Staff Contact: Minyon Moore

Event Coordinator: Heather Davis

EXPANDED POOL PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 350 guests in attendance.

Note: There will be a pre-program.

-- On-stage announcement of the President by Person TBD.

-- Person TBD introduces the President.

-- The President makes remarks, works a ropeline and departs.

12:15 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Washington Hilton via motorcade en route Hyatt Regency
[drive time: 10 minutes]

12:25 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Hyatt Regency

Greeters: John Merrigan, Chairman, Democratic Business Council

12:30 pm- MIX AND MINGLE

12:40 pm COLUMBIA C

Hyatt Regency

Staff Contact: Minyon Moore

Event Coordinator: Heather Davis

CLOSED PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 10 guests in attendance.

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

Friday, September 24, 1999

12:45 pm- DNC DEMOCRATIC BUSINESS COUNCIL LUNCH
1:35 pm YORK ROOM
Hyatt Regency
Remarks: Josh Gottheimer
Staff Contact: Minyon Moore
Event Coordinator: Heather Davis
POOL PRESS (REMARKS ONLY)

Note: There will be approximately 200 guests in attendance.

-- Off-stage announcement of the President.

-- Lunch is served.

-- Upon conclusion of lunch, Joe Andrew, Chairman, Democratic National Committee, makes remarks and introduces John Merrigan.

-- John Merrigan, Chairman, Democratic Business Council, makes remarks and introduces the President.

-- The President makes remarks, works a ropeline, and departs.

1:40 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Hyatt Regency via motorcade en route The White House
[drive time: 10 minutes]

1:50 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives The White House

2:00 pm- PHONE AND OFFICE TIME
4:20 pm OVAL OFFICE

4:20 pm- MEETING
4:30 pm OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Stephanie Streett

4:30 pm- BRIEFING AND TAPE RADIO ADDRESS
5:15 pm OVAL OFFICE DINING ROOM AND OVAL OFFICE
Remarks: Sam Afridi
Staff Contact: Loretta Ucelli, Megan Moloney

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

Friday, September 24, 1999

5:30 pm- PRESS PICNIC
6:30 pm SOUTH LAWN
Staff Contact: Joseph Lockhart, Capricia Marshall
Event Coordinator: Laura Schwartz
CLOSED PRESS

6:50 pm THE PRESIDENT departs The White House via motorcade en route
Library of Congress
[drive time: 10 minutes]

7:00 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Library of Congress

Greeters: Senator Graham
Adele Graham
Dr. Tim Billington
Marjorie Billington

Note: The President will pause for a photograph with the Graham family inside.

7:05 pm- DROP-BY SENATOR GRAHAM DINNER
7:40 pm GREAT HALL
Library of Congress
Remarks: Sam Afridi
Staff Contact: Larry Stein
Event Coordinator: Julie Eddy
POOL PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 175 guests in attendance.

-- Off-stage announcement of the President, Senator Graham, and Adele Graham.

-- Senator Graham makes remarks and introduces the President.

-- The President makes remarks and departs.

7:45 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Library of Congress via motorcade en route
Private Residence
[drive time: 10 minutes]

Note: The Vice President will arrive prior to the President and Mix and Mingle with the 65 guests.

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

Friday, September 24, 1999

7:55 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Private Residence

Greeters: Bob Kogod
Arlene Kogod
Bob Smith
Clarice Smith

8:00 pm- INFORMAL RECEIVING LINE

8:15 pm ENTRYWAY

Private Residence

Staff Contact: Minyon Moore

Event Coordinator: Heather Davis

CLOSED PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 65 guests in attendance.

8:20 pm- DNC DINNER

9:20 pm OUTDOOR TENT

Private Residence

Remarks: Josh Gottheimer

Staff Contact: Minyon Moore

Event Coordinator: Heather Davis

PRINT REPORTER (REMARKS ONLY)

Note: There will be approximately 65 guests in attendance.

-- The President proceeds to his seat.

-- Dinner is served.

-- Upon conclusion of dinner, Bob Kogod makes welcoming remarks.

-- Joe Andrew, Chairman, makes brief remarks and introduces Bob Smith.

-- Bob Smith makes brief remarks and introduces the Vice President.

-- The Vice President makes remarks.

-- Bob Kogod introduces the President.

-- The President makes remarks and departs.

9:30 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Private Residence via motorcade en route The White House

[drive time: 10 minutes]

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

Friday, September 24, 1999

9:40 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives The White House

BC RON THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

HRC RON ALBANY, NEW YORK

September 23, 1999 (7:17 PM)

A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1999

ADOPTION EVENT

DATE: September 24, 1999
LOCATION: Presidential Hall, OEOB 450
BRIEFING TIME: 9:15am – 9:30am
EVENT TIME: 9:35am – 10:35am
FROM: Bruce Reed, Mary Beth Cahill

I. PURPOSE

To announce significant increases in the national rate of adoption, award the first adoption bonus awards to 35 states, as well as Adoption Opportunity grants, and receive an HHS national progress report on adoption.

II. BACKGROUND

Today, you and the First Lady will announce bonus awards of \$20 million to 35 states that have increased the number of children adopted from the public foster care system, and \$5.5 million in grants to innovative programs that remove barriers to adoption. You will also unveil a national progress report on adoption that documents the success of the Administration's strategy. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent – from 28,000 to 36,000 – and is on a pace to meet your goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

Incentive Awards Succeed In Increasing Adoptions. In the Administration's Adoption 2002 proposal and the adoption law of 1997, you created the first-ever financial incentive for states to increase adoptions of children from the foster care system. Today, you will release \$20 million in bonus awards to 35 states that in 1998 had exceeded their average adoption rate from 1995-1997. The \$20 million in bonuses provide for up to \$4,000 per adopted child, and \$6,000 for each child with special needs. In fact, the states' performance in 1998 entitled them to an additional \$22.5 million.

Innovative Grants Reduce Barriers To Adoption. You will also announce \$5.5 million in new awards under the Adoption Opportunities program. This program provides grants to public and private organizations to eliminate barriers to adoption, particularly for children with special needs. This year's grants reward a variety of initiatives, including efforts to increase adoptions of minority children, targeted field

research, and awards for collaborative planning to increase adoptions across jurisdictional lines.

Report Shows Clinton Administration Strategy Is Working. Since taking office, you have championed efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption. Today you will receive a progress report from the Department of Health and Human Services that documents the effectiveness of the Administration's strategy.

- **Reforming the Child Welfare System.** In 1997, you signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. This landmark law was based largely on recommendations from the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which you requested by executive memorandum in order to meet your goal of doubling adoptions by 2002. The law expedited permanent placement decisions for children, ensured health insurance coverage for all special-needs children in subsidized adoptions, and created the bonus awards released today.
- **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, you signed in 1996, provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision helps middle class families for whom adoption – particularly of children with special needs – might have been prohibitively expensive.
- **Giving States More Flexibility and Support.** The Administration has granted waivers to 20 states and the District of Columbia to test innovative strategies for improving child welfare systems. In addition, it has secured new funds to support state implementation of the 1997 law and has, through the Adoption Opportunities program, supported local initiatives to promote adoption and provide post-adoptive services.
- **Using the Internet to Make Adoption Easier.** In 1998, you directed HHS to develop Internet tools to link children in foster care more quickly to possible adoptive families. Secretary Shalala reported that HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001 to break down geographic barriers to adoption.
- **Removing Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, help ensure that the adoption process is free of delays and discriminatory practices driven by race, culture and ethnicity. They do so by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which you signed in 1994.
- **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** The Family and Medical Leave Act, which you signed in 1993, enables working parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The 1996 welfare reform law you signed also maintains child protection and adoption guarantees.

Now Is The Time To Take Important Next Steps. To follow through on this record of achievement, today you and the First Lady will urge Congress to provide new support for young people leaving foster care. Under the current system, federal financial assistance for young people in foster care ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Your FY 2000 budget request increases funding by nearly \$300 million to help these youth secure health care, life skills training, and educational opportunities. With the Administration's strong support, the House has already passed bipartisan legislation to address these needs. Today you will urge the Senate to take prompt action on the companion measure and to safeguard the interests of vulnerable young people leaving foster care.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

The First Lady

Bruce Reed

Melanne Verveer

Mary Beth Cahill

Nicole Rabner

Lowell Weiss

Stage Participants:

The Manis Family

John and Brenda Manis recently adopted 3-year-old Mackenzie, and have been foster parents for 10 years. They have two biological children, Christopher, age 19, and Lindsay, age 16.

The Brown Family

Adrienne and Gilbert Brown adopted two children, Christopher, age 14, and Rodney, age 11, in 1994. They are also currently in the process of finalizing the adoption of Joshua, age 12.

Program Participants:

YOU

The First Lady

The Keane Family

Dawn and Steven Keane finalized their adoption of siblings Sarah, age, 8, and Brian, age 11, in May 1999. They located Sarah and Brian through an Internet site sponsored by the National Adoption Center in Philadelphia. They have one biological son, Sean.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** and the First Lady are announced, accompanied by the Keane family, onto the stage.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Dawn Keane.
- Dawn Keane makes remarks and introduces Sean, Brian, and Sarah Keane.
- Sean, Brian, and Sarah Keane introduce **YOU**.
- **YOU** make remarks, work a ropeline, and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Chart of state-by-state adoption bonuses
- HHS Adoption Progress Report

B

Draft 9/23/99 8:45 pm
Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON ADOPTION GRANTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
September 24, 1999**

Acknowledge: introducer Dawn Keane [KEEN] and the whole Keane family; Sec. Shalala; Olivia Golden, Asst. Sec. for Children and Families; Pat Montoya, Commissioner of HHS's Admin. on Children, Youth and Families; Sens. Harkin, Levin, Craig, Landrieu, Specter; Reps. Dave Camp, Nancy Johnson, Ben Cardin, Maxine Waters, Sandy Levin, James Oberstar, Deborah Pryce, William Delahunt, Tom DeLay; children's advocates; the Manis and Brown families behind me on this podium and the other families that have opened their homes and their hearts to adopted children.

I want to say a special hello to the Badeau [bah-DOE] family. Almost two years ago, Sue and Hector Badeau joined us here at the White House when I signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act – and they brought 18 of the 22 beautiful children they have adopted. This past summer, they also welcomed into their loving home a family of 8 Kosovar refugees. If you ever need proof that there is no limit to the goodness in this world, I say: just look at Sue and Hector Badeau.

Finally, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to the First Lady. For as long as I have known her, making sure every child has a stable and loving home has been a consuming passion in her life. I remember when we were newly married, and she waged and won a long and often lonely battle to help two wonderful parents surmount legal obstacles and adopt their foster child. While many people have played a role in the successes we are here to celebrate today, I have never known a more dedicated activist than Hillary. If you ever need proof that there is no limit to the good that one can do through public service, I say: Just look at my wife.

After years of often heated debate, I believe that a new consensus on the proper role of government is emerging across America. One that recognizes that government does not have all the answers, but also that we cannot leave people to sink or swim on their own. A consensus that believes that government has a unique ability to provide the tools to help people make the most of their own lives. And if you ever need proof of the power of this new consensus, I tell you: Just look at what governments at every level have done to increase the number of good, caring adoptions across the United States.

You have already heard about – and many of you have participated in – our ambitious efforts to double the number of children we help move from foster care to permanent homes by the year 2002. Today, we have new evidence that these efforts are bearing fruit. The Department of Health and Human Services has just presented me with a comprehensive report that tracks America's progress in meeting our adoption goals. It shows that the number of adoptions from the foster care system increased from 28,000 in 1996 to a remarkable 36,000 in 1998. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was created nearly 20 years ago. We are well on our way to meet our goal of 56,000 in 2002.

As pleased as I am by this news, I am not surprised. If you look at the HHS report, you will see all the hard work and bipartisan cooperation that lies behind this success story. You will see a

stunning example of what we can accomplish when we put politics aside and put our children first. You will see that by working together we have fundamentally changed the approach to foster care and adoption in America. You will see that together we have acted on each and every one of the 11 recommendations set forth in the original Adoption 2002 report – by breaking down barriers to adoptions, ensuring accountability, rewarding innovation, and supporting adoptive families themselves.

One of the key recommendations we adopted into law in 1997 was to give states, for the very first time, financial incentives to help children move from foster homes to adoptive homes. Under this new bonus system, states are entitled to up to \$4,000 or \$6,000 – depending on whether the child has special needs – for each adoption above their previous average.

Today, I have the honor of presenting the first round of these awards, worth \$20 million, to 35 states. The good news is that these states produced remarkable results – using creative new approaches and exceeding their own high goals. Illinois, for example, increased its adoptions by 112%. The bad news – if you could even call it that – is that we did not anticipate just how successful the states would be, and too little money was appropriated. But the fact is, we are incredibly proud of what all of these states have done for some of their most vulnerable citizens. We are committed to working with Congress to make up the shortfall and give the states their full awards.

Today, I also have the honor of awarding \$5.5 million in Adoption Opportunities Grants to outstanding public and private organizations in 16 states. The grants will help fund not only rigorous research but also new ways of increasing interstate adoptions and adoptions of minority children. Together, the bonuses and grants we are awarding today will help accelerate the remarkable progress we have seen these past two years.

Of course, as the First Lady has pointed out, even if we meet all of our adoption goals, every year there will still be many young people in foster care who reach their 18th birthday and “age-out” of the system. I join Hillary in calling on the Senate to schedule a vote on Senators Chafee and Rockefeller’s bipartisan bill to ensure that these foster children are not cast out in the cold when their time in foster care ends. The bill will surely pass with the same overwhelming support that we saw in the House this past summer. Together, let’s resolve to help foster children make the transition to independence. Let’s give them the tools – the help with health care, education, housing, and counseling – to make the most of their lives.

Although we still have more to do, we’ve worked hard to do our part to increase the number of children who find the stable, caring homes they desperately need. But ultimately, we know that the only way we can reach our goals is if good people in every community – people like the Keanes, the Manises, the Browns, and the Badeaus – look within and decide to adopt a child and share their unconditional love. To those of you who have already done so, I say: You are the proof that there is unlimited goodness in this world. I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you all and God bless you.

###

C

FY 1998 ADOPTION INCENTIVE BONUSES

State	3 Year Adoption Average (FY 95-97)	FY 98 Adoptions	% Increase	Bonus
Arkansas	138	251	82%	\$280,320
California	3,287	3,958	20%	\$1,841,837
Colorado	417	560	34%	\$419,540
Connecticut	207	229	11%	\$41,390
Florida	987	1,549	57%	\$1,290,603
Georgia	493	672	36%	\$449,642
Hawaii	85	297	249%	\$518,311
Illinois	2,200	4,656	112%	\$6,869,733
Indiana	495	774	56%	\$842,843
Iowa	350	517	48%	\$371,566
Maine	108	112	4%	\$11,288
Maryland	342	420	23%	\$317,947
Massachusetts	1,116	1,137	2%	\$39,508
Michigan	1,905	2,254	18%	\$942,554
Minnesota	258	427	66%	\$480,684
Mississippi	114	169	48%	\$187,194
Missouri	557	616	11%	\$110,999
Montana	115	144	25%	\$54,559
New Hampshire	45	50	11%	\$9,407
New Jersey	621	755	22%	\$409,193
New Mexico	147	197	34%	\$94,067
New York	4,716	4,822	2%	\$199,423
North Dakota	47	83	77%	\$67,728
Oklahoma	338	456	35%	\$280,320
Oregon	445	665	49%	\$586,980
Pennsylvania	1,224	1,494	22%	\$592,624
South Carolina	256	465	82%	\$500,438
South Dakota	56	58	4%	\$3,763
Texas	880	1,365	55%	\$1,350,806
Utah	225	250	11%	\$47,034
Vermont	75	116	55%	\$100,652
Washington	607	759	25%	\$291,609
West Virginia	182	211	16%	\$60,203
Wisconsin	467	589	26%	\$301,015
Wyoming	15	30	100%	\$28,220

Source: HHS Administration for Children and Families

D

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to take this opportunity to report on the notable progress that we have made in the past few years to increase the number of children moved from our nation's foster care system into adoptive and permanent homes.

In December of 1996, you laid out ambitious goals for the adoption of vulnerable children. You also called on the Department of Health and Human Services to devise ways to make adoption easier and faster, to move more children out of the foster care system and into safe, permanent and loving homes. Central to these efforts was the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, designed both to remove barriers to adoption and to provide incentives to the States for increasing the number of children adopted each year. The Department responded with the Adoption 2002 report, which outlined specific recommendations on how to achieve the goals that you laid out for the country's child welfare system. We are happy to report that we are already seeing significant results from the implementation of those recommendations.

Because of your strong commitment to these goals, the unwavering dedication of the First Lady, diligent work here at the Department, bipartisan congressional leadership and truly outstanding efforts by State and local adoption agencies, we are well on our way toward meeting your goal of doubling the number of adoptions and permanent placements for these children by 2002. In fact, the total number of adoptions rose to over 36,000 in 1998 from 28,000 in 1996. We are especially pleased to announce today that thirty-five States earned adoption incentive awards for their exceptional achievements.

While we recognize and applaud these successful efforts, it is also important to underscore that more work needs to be done. The Department is committed to continuing to work in partnership with the States to promote adoption and improve our child welfare system, giving our nation's most vulnerable children what every child deserves – a safe, stable home and a loving family environment.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala

INTRODUCTION

This report follows up on the Department of Health and Human Services's (HHS) 1997 report to the President entitled *Adoption 2002*, which provided a bold blueprint of recommendations for reaching the President's ambitious goal of doubling the number of adoptions from the nation's child welfare system in the year 2002. Today, just two years later, the Department is delighted to report that:

- The number of adoptions from the public child welfare system nationwide has already increased from 28,000 in 1996 to 36,000 in 1998, fully on track for the President's target of 56,000 in the year 2002.
- The President signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), bipartisan legislation that incorporates many of the critical recommendations from the 1997 blueprint.
- Across the country, with leadership and support from HHS, States, courts and adoption agencies are moving rapidly not only to implement the national legislation but also to develop creative ways to overcome barriers and move children to loving permanent homes as rapidly as possible.
- Adoption is more accessible and affordable to families, because of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the investments in adoption assistance and in adoption tax credits made under this Administration.

These results are especially impressive because, like the *Adoption 2002* report, this report focuses on a specific group of the nation's most vulnerable children: approximately 110,000 children in the nation's public foster care system who cannot return safely to their own homes and need adoptive families if they are ever to experience a safe, loving, permanent home. Many of these children have "special needs", that is, characteristics which have historically made them more difficult to place in adoptive homes. For example, they may be older children rather than infants, children who are part of a sibling group, children of minority heritage, or children who have physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities. Yet in response to the call by the President and the Congress for a clear commitment to permanent, loving homes for all children, we are proud to report that the response across the nation has been extraordinary.

The remainder of this report outlines the four strategies that we believe lie behind the results reported here:

- Aiming high and ensuring accountability for results;
- Reforming national and State legislative frameworks to remove barriers to adoption;
- Supporting and rewarding innovation; and
- Making adoption more accessible and affordable for families.

In addition, the appendix provides a detailed chart of the recommendations from the *Adoption 2002* report with their completion dates.

AIMING HIGH AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS

The President set an ambitious goal for this Administration: to increase the number of children adopted out of the public child welfare system to 56,000 adoptions in the year 2002. Each year since the national commitment to the goal, the number of adoptions has risen. In 1997, the total number of adoptions rose to 31,000 from 28,000 in 1996. In 1998, we are pleased to announce that States achieved 36,000 adoptions. This represents

an unprecedented 29 percent increase in the number of adoptions nationwide over a three-year period (FY 1996-FY 1998).

As recommended in *Adoption 2002*, the Department followed up on the national goal by working with State partners to develop individual State goals that would add up to a national doubling of adoptions. For many States, the outcome focus has become a central part of their own approach to adoption. Iowa, for instance, has put in place a system to track key measures for the adoption program on a monthly basis and to closely monitor progress towards outcome goals. This outcome focus, a renewed utilization of adoption specialists and other targeted efforts, has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of adoptions in Iowa.

In addition, the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) provided an extraordinary new tool for focusing the nation and individual States on adoption outcomes. As a result of the commitment of the President and strong bipartisan Congressional leadership, ASFA included the first-ever outcome-based financial award in the child welfare field: an incentive to States to increase the number of adoptions for children waiting in the foster care system. The bonuses -- up to \$4,000 per child and \$6,000 for each child with special needs -- are awarded for States that exceed the number of children adopted compared to the previous year. States are to use these awards to further improve services, including post-adoption services, that are provided to children and families in the foster care system.

In FY 1999, 35 States will receive a share of the \$20 million in adoption incentive awards based on their FY 1998 performance. The numbers of adoptions have increased so dramatically, that, as specified in the law, we have made prorated adjustments in the awards to States. In this first award of bonuses, the 1998 numbers are compared to a 3-year average baseline. The 35 States are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The following table indicates the increases in adoption by State.

REFORMING NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

In order to create the broad-based changes that were needed to support the President's goal, the Administration and a broad bipartisan majority in the Congress, made significant changes in the legislative framework that undergirds the child welfare system. In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997, a legislative milestone for child welfare reform. The key provisions of the Act closely followed the central recommendations of *Adoption 2002* to ensure that children's safety is paramount in child welfare decision-making, that foster care is a temporary setting and not a place for children to grow up, and that the speed of decision-making in the child welfare system respects a child's developmental needs and sense of time. Key provisions in the law shorten the time frame for making permanency planning decisions,

establish a time frame for initiating proceedings to terminate parental rights, clarify reasonable efforts, and call for every State to ensure that its laws and regulations comply with the new provisions, so that children in the State's child welfare system are able to move to permanent placements or adoptive homes more quickly. To date, 49 States and Puerto Rico have made the required changes.

As States move to reform their own legislation, policy, and practice to come into compliance with ASFA and meet their adoption goals, the Department has played a forceful role in both holding States accountable for the rapid change called for in ASFA and supporting them, through hands-on assistance, information, and expertise. For example:

- To provide State policy-makers in general and State legislators in particular with information that would help them reform their own State legislative frameworks, the Department convened a cross-disciplinary group of experts who produced Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children. The guidelines are a technical assistance tool reflecting the best thinking of child welfare administrators, lawyers, judges, advocates and front-line workers. This document offers guidelines and model legislation that are intended to help those at the State and local levels examine their current processes and consider new directions to promote permanency.
- To help local and State experts share information and solutions, the Department convened ten technical assistance conferences across the country focused on ASFA implementation.
- To help States work on the implementation of ASFA, the Department increased training and technical assistance to States regarding ASFA implementation through the Adoption Information Clearinghouse and the Child Welfare Resource Centers.

Another key element of these reforms is the elimination of racial and ethnic barriers to adoption required by the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA), and the Inter-ethnic Adoption Provisions (IEP), enacted as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. These laws ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity. In order to support the success of the provisions, the Department has issued guidance and provided training and technical assistance that has helped the States in the implementation of this legislation. The Children's Bureau and the Office of Civil Rights at HHS have worked closely at the national and regional levels to help States examine their legislation and administrative practices to make sure they are in compliance with these laws.

SUPPORTING AND REWARDING INNOVATION

The Department recognizes that broad-based reform must happen at all levels – in federal legislation and policy, in State legislatures, in local court systems, and with public and private child welfare agency managers and line workers around the country. Creative leaders and programs throughout the country are working to ensure that foster care is a short-term safe haven for children as they move into a stable, permanent home. The Department has worked to spark new models by giving States the flexibility to test new practices through its child welfare waiver system and by funding innovations through its grant programs and specialized technical

assistance. We have captured the spirit of the success stories and promoted their replication through our Adoption Incentives Bonuses and Adoption Excellence Awards.

The Administration also forged partnerships with States to launch child welfare waiver demonstration projects, which allow States to test and evaluate child welfare service delivery and financing strategies. The Department approved seventeen child welfare waiver demonstrations in FY 1997 and 1998 and will expect to approve up to eight by the end of FY 1999. The Department encouraged States to focus on adoption and post-adoptive services, to ensure that adoptive placements are successful and prevent re-entry into the foster care system. Maine, for instance, will provide training on special-needs adoption to mental health and other professionals that work with adoptive families, adoptable children, and public and private adoption providers, and subsequently provide post-adoptive services.

The Department also has provided financial support to stimulate innovation in State and private child welfare agencies and with other key child welfare partners, including court systems.

- The Adoption Opportunities Program, increased by \$10 million in FY 1998, funds a variety of service innovations that seek not only to increase the number of adoptions, but also to support the success of adoptive placements. In FY 1999, the Department is awarding grants to recruit more minority adoptive families; to test new innovations in the placement of sibling groups, children with disabilities, and adolescents; and to provide post-legal adoptive services to prevent adoption disruptions. The Program also funds work to improve the system for interstate placement of children.
- The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program (formerly known as the Family Preservation and Support Services), signed into law in 1993, was revised to allow States to use the funds to promote and support adoptions.
- The Department's Court Improvement Program (CIP) provides funding to State courts to improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings. The CIP has strengthened the focus on judicial decision-making and the key role that courts play in attaining safe, permanent homes for children.
- In response to the President's request to recognize the numerous changes in policy and practice that bolster adoptions, the Department established the annual Adoption Excellence Awards. For the past two years, the Department has honored those States, organizations, businesses, individuals and others who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Winners have exhibited tireless commitment and creativity in recruiting adoptive families and moving children to permanent placement more quickly. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.
- The 1998 winners were: Tim O'Hanlon, Ohio North American Council on Adoptable Children, OH; Governor James and Brenda Edgar, IL; Georgia Department of Human Resources, GA; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Hope for the Children, Inc., IL; Three Rivers Adoption Council, PA; Kansas Association of Broadcasters, KS; and Judge Max Baer, PA.
- The 1997 winners were: North American Council on Adoptable Children, MN; Resources for Adoptive Parents, MN; Athens County Children's Services, OH; National Adoption Center, PA; Jack Williams, Senior News Anchor for WBZ-TV 4, MA; Sherry Coy, Adoptive Mother, NV; The Badeau Family, PA; The Scott Family, AZ; The Neal Family, NC; Wendy's International and Dave Thomas Foundation, OH; South Carolina Families for Kids; and Lucas County Children's Services, OH.

Finally, at the President's request, the Department is exploring innovations in the use of technology to increase adoptions. In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop a plan to expand use of the internet to share information about children who are legally free for adoption in order to shorten the time needed to find them adoptive families. An effective national registry will help to break down geographic barriers to adoption and assist in meeting the President's adoption goal. HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001, working with States, some of whom have already launched internet registries, to reach all children who need a home and eliminate the delays in interstate adoptions.

MAKING ADOPTION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

The Administration has taken a several steps to make adoption more affordable for families and to support the formation of adoptive families. In 1993, President Clinton acted to help new adoptive families through the Family and Medical Leave Act, which enabled parents to take time off to adopt a child without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The Administration also has secured important financial support for adoptive families. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive, and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who were adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by over 60 percent. In addition, adoptive families are eligible to receive the \$500 per-child tax credit, which President Clinton enacted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

ON TRACK TO MEET OUR GOALS:

The early progress of the *Adoption 2002* Initiative is an example of the way that an ambitious, common goal can galvanize a system to create widespread change. The challenges in the child welfare system are daunting. More than 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. Our most recent data indicate that the average time that these children are in out-of-home care is 2 years and 9 months. These sobering statistics underscore the need to continue the significant progress that has been made to date to move our country's most vulnerable children into safe, permanent, and loving homes more quickly.

The Administration also is working with Congress on another critical front to protect children for whom the child welfare system is not able to secure adoption and permanency. The President's Independent Living proposal aims to help the nearly 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year, having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children with the transition to independence by helping them earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills, like budgeting and securing housing and employment. Bipartisan legislation to increase funding for the Independent Living

Program, and provide health coverage for these young people to the age of 21, is moving through the 106th Congress.

The President recognized the critical importance of this issue when he challenged us all to undertake the *Adoption 2002* Initiative, with a goal that was bold enough to require fundamental changes throughout the child welfare system. In response, all of the partners in the system have demonstrated a commitment which has put the country confidently on track to meet the President's goal of our target of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. At the federal level, we have exercised leadership by creating a policy framework for child welfare reform, promoting and rewarding innovations at all levels, and providing financial assistance to individual families who choose to adopt. States and localities have responded by taking advantage of federal flexibility to design and implement policies that support permanence and adoptions and services that recruit adoptive families and provide ongoing support for adoptive placements. Moreover, non-profits and foundations have served as important partners in working to promote permanency, serving as contractors for the States, independent advocates for children and families, and sponsors of critical activities such as research for the National Adoption Exchange. Together, we have made tremendous progress in ensuring the safety, permanence, and well-being of our most vulnerable children.

APPENDIX A: ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTION 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption 2002 Recommendations	Actions Completed	Description
Increase the Number of Adoptions	√	Numerical targets leading to a doubling of adoptions over five years were set at the National and State levels. Adoptions are up 38% from FY 1995 to FY 1998, keeping us on track to reach our goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002.
Provide Technical Assistance to States and Communities	√	Ten regional conferences were held in 1998, as well as technical assistance on drafting the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) State legislative requirements. The eight Resources Centers funded by the Children's Bureau, including the Resource Centers on Permanency Planning and Special Needs Adoptions, have provided critical information and expertise to the States.
Provide Financial Incentives	√	In September 1999, \$20 million was awarded to 35 States that successfully increased adoptions in FY 1998.
Implement the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA)	√	Guidance was issued in June 1997 and significant training and technical assistance was provided by the Children's Bureau and Office of Civil Rights to at least 40 States. The Office of Civil Rights has reviewed all State policies and practices for MEPA compliance and continues to work with States to ensure the appropriateness of any law changes in this area.
Track the Progress of States	√	Through the Adoption Incentives component of ASFA, the Department is collecting data through the Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System and reporting on State progress.
Recognize Successful States	√	The Department initiated the Adoption Excellence Awards in 1997 to honor States, organizations, businesses, and individuals who have demonstrated excellence in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Eight winners were recognized in 1998 and thirteen in 1997.

Promote Permanency for Children who Cannot Return Home	√	The enactment of the ASFA of 1997 was a major achievement in promoting permanency for children. As of September 1999, 49 States and Puerto Rico have passed legislation to comply with ASFA. With \$10 million in additional funding for the Adoption Opportunities program, the Department has increased training and technical assistance to the States, and has supported new initiatives to achieve increased adoptions of children in foster care, provide post-legal adoptive services and build effective collaborations for timely adoptions. Finally, ASFA extended the Court Improvement Program for an additional three years. The Department has supported State efforts, and in early 1999, the Department issued a program instruction to help clarify elements of the program.
Address Permanency Planning Earlier Through Timely Hearings	√	The Department's proposed regulation (published September 1998) expands on the provisions in ASFA that called for immediate permanency planning and shorter timeframes for hearings. The Children's Bureau also convened a group of experts from throughout the field to draft <i>Guidelines for Public Policy and State Legislation Governing Permanence for Children</i> , which were published in June 1999.
Clarify "Reasonable Efforts" and Other Federal Policies Related to Permanency and Safety	√	Both the ASFA legislation and the Department's proposed regulations have clarified "reasonable efforts" and other elements of promoting permanency.
Set Standards for Securing Permanency	√	The ASFA legislation and subsequent Department proposed regulations require "reasonable efforts" to secure a permanent home for a child in foster care and clarify that plans for reunification and for alternate permanency options can be concurrent. The Department also encouraged States to use the Federal Parent Locator Service through the publication of an Information Memorandum in January 1999.
Examine Alternative Forms of Permanency	√	Seven states and the District of Columbia have waivers to examine assisted guardianship/kinship permanence. In addition, a group of experts has convened several times in 1999 around kinship care issues and a report to Congress is pending.

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