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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. briefing paper	Families Agenda Roundtable Discussion (partial) (3 pages)	02/02/1999	P6/b(6)
002. list	New York Families Agenda Event [contact information] (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)
003. bios	"Ask a Working Woman" background on panel participants (partial) (1 page)	05/05/1999	P6/b(6)
004. briefing paper	Families Agenda Roundtable Discussion (partial) (3 pages)	02/02/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15414

FOLDER TITLE:

New York Roundtable-Working Families [2]

2012-1035-S
kc1026

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]
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[001]

FAMILIES AGENDA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Bedford YMCA
Brooklyn, New York
February 2, 1999

The First Lady

Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY)

Kevin Jeffrey, Executive Director, Bedford YMCA

Ellen Galinsky, President, Families & Work Institute

Ms. Eileen Quinones [Kin-yon-ez], Brooklyn, NY (Child Care)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: Eileen, please share with us your experience in searching for quality child care as you juggle your work and family responsibilities?

Mrs. Debbie O'Connor, Staten Island, NY (Family and Medical Leave)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: How did job security during your leave from work help you in this difficult time?

[001]

Mrs. Ameenah [A-MEAN-AH] Reed, Brooklyn, NY (After-School Program)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: I visited a Virtual Y program in Harlem, New York, and was so impressed with it. Please describe for us what your daughter does in the program and how it eases your concerns as a parent.

Mrs. Silvana [SIL-VANA] Carter, Brooklyn, NY (After-School Program)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: What are your children learning in the after-school program? Do you think it has enriched their development?

Mrs. Angelina Charriez [CHAR-EZ], Ozone Park or Queens, NY (Long Term Care)

P6/(b)(6)

[001]

P6/(b)(6)

Question: The President has proposed a new tax credit for families like yours providing informal long-term care for your family, because so often, as with your family, income is sacrificed because of these family responsibilities. Many families require significant help, but would a new tax credit be a step in the right direction in terms of providing more support for your family?

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CHILD CARE: A CHALLENGE FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES
January 7, 1998

Millions of Americans, struggling to be both good parents and good workers, rely on child care and after-school programs for part of each day. As the White House Conference on Child Care showed, America's working families, more than ever, are pressed to find safe, affordable care for their children.

Millions of America's children are in child care. In 1995, of the approximately 21 million infants, toddlers, and preschool children under the age of six in the U.S., more than 12.9 million children were in child care. Forty-five percent of children under age one were in child care on a regular basis. [National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education]

Children are in care for many hours each working day. In 1990, more than half of children under five with mothers in the workforce were in child care 35 hours or more each week. [*National Child Care Survey*, 1990]

Families struggle to afford child care. Working parents who rely on child care often have a hard time paying for it. In 1993, the average family with an employed mother and a child under five spent about $74 per week for child care for all preschoolers in the family. [U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1997] Infant care is generally more expensive: in 1995, center-based care for infants averaged $112 per week. [*Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers*, University of Colorado at Denver, 1995] For families with children between three and five, child care is the second or third greatest household expense. [U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1997]

In 1993, families with annual incomes under $14,400 paying for child care for children under five years old spent 25 percent of their income on child care, compared with six percent for families with incomes of $54,000 or more.[*What Does it Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Pop. Reports, 1995]

Many children are in settings that are not healthy or safe and do not promote early learning and development. Recent studies have raised concerns about the quality of care:

- A four-state study of quality in child care centers found that only one in seven centers (14 percent) were rated good quality. [*Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers*, University of Colorado at Denver, 1995]
- According to another study, 13 percent of regulated and 50 percent of unregulated family child care providers offer care that is inadequate. [*The Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care*, Families and Work Institute, 1994]
- In the words of one well-respected report, "Many children living in poverty receive child care that, at best, does not support their optimal development and, at worst, may compromise their health and safety." [*New Findings on Children, Families, and Economic Self-Sufficiency*, National Research Council, 1995]

The quality of child care matters. Research shows that when children are in better quality child care programs, they have have stronger language, pre-mathematics, and social skills; better relationships with their teachers; and stronger self-esteem. In some instances, quality has even greater impact on children who are typically at-risk. [*Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers*, University of Colorado, 1995]

After-school programs are in short supply. The Bureau of the Census estimates that in 1997 38.8 million children between the ages of five and 14 lived in the U.S., of whom 24 million had parents in the workforce or school. [1994 SIPP data from the Bureau of the Census] Experts estimate that nearly five million school-age children spend time as "latchkey kids" without adult supervision during a typical week. [National Institute for Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College]

Good after-school programs matter. Constructive activities for children and youth are critical to enhancing their development and keeping them out of trouble. Studies show that school-age children who are left alone after school are at greater risk of truancy, risk-taking behavior, substance abuse, poor grades, and stress. ["Characteristics of Eighth-Grade Students Who Initiate Self-Care in Elementary and Junior High School, *Pediatrics*, 1990] Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are most likely to commit violent acts or be victims themselves between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. [OJJDP 1997]

Studies also indicate that children under adult supervision in a formal program during after-school hours show improved academic achievement and better attitudes toward school than their peers in self- or sibling-care. [Miller and Marx, 1990, in Supplement to the National Assessment of Chapter 1]

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

February 2, 1999

"From now on, we must say to states and school districts: Identify your worst-performing, least improving schools, and turn them around, or shut them down ... We must make sure all schools are on the right track. If we fail to do this, and do it quickly, we are going to lose another generation of children to low expectations, low educational achievement, and low prospects of moving ahead in life."

President Bill Clinton
February 2, 1999

Today, President Clinton travels to Boston, where he will announce a $200 million initiative in fiscal year 2000 to ensure that states and school districts take necessary action to improve low-performing schools. Today's announcement builds on the President's State of the Union address, where he called for all states and school districts to identify and turn around their worst-performing schools -- or shut them down.

TURNING AROUND POOR PERFORMING SCHOOLS. As we move into the 21st Century, ensuring a quality education for all our children will be crucial. President Clinton is working to provide states and school districts with the resources to turn around poor performing schools. The President's fiscal year 2000 budget includes:

- $200 million in new funds for the Title I program, to be set aside for intervening in low-performing schools. This program would require states and school districts to identify schools with the lowest achievement levels and least improvement, assess each of their needs, and implement individual corrective action plans to turn these schools around.

States and school districts could take corrective action including: intensive teacher training, disciplinary assistance, and implementation of proven school reforms. If these actions fail to improve student achievement within two years, the President's proposal would require states and school districts to take additional corrective actions, such as permitting all students to attend other public schools, reconstituting the school by evaluating faculty and administrators and making appropriate changes, or closing the school and reopening it as a charter school or with an entirely new staff.

IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY THAT WORKS. The President's plan is supported by the experience of schools nationwide who have implemented these types of reforms to turn around their schools:

- North Carolina sent assistance teams into its 15 worst-performing elementary and middle schools in 1997. Within a year, 14 of these schools met state standards in reading and math;

- The Miami-Dade School District identified 45 low-performing schools in 1995, implemented an intensive three-year corrective action plan, including school wide reading programs and improved technology, and determined last year that all of the schools had made progress;

- In New York City, the Chancellor of the school system took direct control of the ten worst-performance schools in 1996 and determined just two years later that half the schools had made sufficient progress to be removed from the state's poor performing school list.

A PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS. Today's announcement is part of the President's comprehensive plan to provide our children with a world-class education for the 21st Century. The President's education agenda calls for:

- Strengthening accountability by ensuring that schools end social promotion, issue school report cards and adopt discipline policies, and that teachers are qualified to teach the subjects they are assigned to teach;
- Reducing class size in the early grades by hiring 100,000 well-prepared teachers;
- Building and modernizing more than 5,000 public schools nationwide and triple funding for after-school programs.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PLAN FOR TURNING AROUND LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS

February 2, 1999

In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton called on all states and school districts to identify and turn around their worst-performing schools -- or shut them down. Today, in a visit to the Jackson/Mann Elementary School in Brighton, Massachusetts, President Clinton will announce a $200 million initiative in the FY 2000 budget to ensure that states and school districts take the necessary corrective actions to improve low-performing schools.

$200 Million to Turn Around Low Performing Schools. The President's FY 2000 budget includes $200 million in new funds for the Title I program, to be set aside for intervening in low-performing schools. The President's proposal would require states and school districts to identify the schools with the lowest achievement levels and least improvement, assess each of their needs, and implement individual corrective action plans to turn these schools around. The corrective action plans could include such steps as intensive teacher training, disciplinary assistance, and implementation of proven school reforms. If these actions fail to improve student achievement within two years, the President's proposal would require states and school districts to take additional corrective actions, such as permitting all students to attend other public schools; reconstituting the school, by evaluating the staff (faculty and administration) and making appropriate changes; or closing the school and reopening it as a charter school or with an entirely new staff. The funds provided in the President's budget would support these interventions.

An Approach that Works. Experience demonstrates such interventions raise student achievement and improve schools when coupled with adequate resources to support change. After North Carolina sent assistance teams into its 15 worst-performing elementary and middle schools in 1997, 14 turned around within the year and met state standards in reading and math. Similar results have occurred in individual school districts across the country. The Miami-Dade School District identified 45 low-performing schools in 1995, implemented intensive three-year corrective action plans including schoolwide reading programs and improved technology, and determined last year that all of the schools had made progress. And in New York City, the Chancellor (superintendent) of the school system took direct control of the ten worst-performing schools in 1996 and determined just two years later that half the schools had made sufficient progress to be removed from his supervision.

Making Common Sense Common Practice -- Now. Holding every school accountable for results, providing extra help to schools that need it, and reconstituting or closing down schools that still fail to improve -- this is a common-sense approach to strengthening public education. President Clinton's proposal will dramatically accelerate efforts by states and school districts to turn around low-performing schools. In March 1996, President Clinton challenged every state and school district to take responsibility for intervening in low-performing schools. According to a recent *Education Week* study, 19 states currently have policies in place to help improve low-performing schools. A growing number of urban school systems, including New York City, San Francisco, Dade County, Philadelphia, and Chicago, also are taking steps to intervene aggressively in schools with the lowest achievement levels and least improvement. The Boston Public Schools will begin next year to place their lowest-performing schools under intensive corrective action plans. The President's proposal will ensure that every state and school district take responsibility to turn around low-performing schools, and that more of our children get a quality education.

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ADVANCES PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FAMILIES AGENDA: HELPING PARENTS MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AT HOME AND AT WORK

February 2, 1999

Today, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton travels to Brooklyn, New York, to take part in a roundtable discussion with working parents and listen to their concerns about balancing responsibilities at home and at work. Yesterday, the President unveiled a balanced budget that puts families first -- through a package of initiatives that will help parents struggling to meet their responsibilities to their jobs and, even more important, to their families. This Families Agenda includes important new investments to strengthen child care, increase before- and after-school opportunities, address growing long-term care needs, and expand access to family and medical leave. The President's proposals will help families by:

✔ **Improving Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care.** The President has proposed to significantly enhance assistance to low- and middle-income parents paying for child care. Today, working families are saddled with high child care costs, yet only 1.25 million of the 10 million low-income children eligible receive child care subsidies. The President's budget invests $7.5 billion over five years to serve an additional 1.15 million children with child care subsidies. The President has also proposed greater tax relief through the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, providing an additional average tax cut of $354 for qualifying families earning under $60,000. This proposal would eliminate income tax liability for nearly all families of four with incomes below $35,000 and high child care costs. Finally, the President's budget steps up investment in improving child care quality and ensuring that all children arrive to school ready to learn.

✔ **Increasing After-School Opportunities.** Experts agree that school-age children who are unsupervised during the hours after school are far more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, commit crimes, receive poor grades, and drop out of school than those who are involved in supervised, constructive activities. Yet, at least 5 million children -- and as many as 15 million -- are left alone at home each week. The President is committed to tripling funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, which supports the creation and expansion of after-school and summer school enrichment programs throughout the country. His historic budget increase -- from $200 million to $600 million for fiscal year 2000 -- would enable the program to serve over one million more school-aged children.

✔ **Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs.** The President Clinton has proposed an historic new initiative to support elderly and disabled Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of families caring for them. Today, millions of Americans voluntarily provide unpaid, informal long-term care to disabled family members and friends. Nearly 40 percent of all informal caregiving to aging Americans is provided by their children. The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options -- by 2030, the number of elderly Americans will have doubled, so that one in five Americans will be elderly. To address this growing need for support, the President's budget invests $6.2 billion over five years, including $5.5 billion to provide a $1,000 tax credit to compensate for the cost of long-term care services, and $625 million to provide respite, home care services, and information and referral assistance to the roughly 250,000 families caring for elderly relatives who are chronically ill or disabled.

✔ **Expanding Access to Family and Medical Leave.** This week marks the six year anniversary of the signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law. Millions of American workers have since benefited -- taking up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. Today, Americans are covered by the law if they work in a company with 50 or more workers. The President is proposing to extend the benefits of FMLA to ten million more Americans by covering workers in companies with 25 or more employees. The President is also proposing to expand the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations, including routine doctors appointments and parent-teacher conferences.

BACKGROUND ON ISSUES
May 5, 1999

Protecting Social Security as America's Family Protection System. The President has proposed a bold framework for saving Social Security for the 21st Century -- devoting 62 percent of the projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years to the Social Security system and investing a small portion of this surplus in the private sector to earn a higher return. Strengthening Social Security is particularly important to working families and to women. Social Security provides benefits to spouses of any age who care for children under 16 if the worker is retired, becomes disabled or dies. And, without Social Security, over 50 percent of elderly women would live in poverty. The President has also proposed using 12 percent of the projected budget surplus to create new Universal Savings Accounts -- USA Accounts -- to help all Americans build nest eggs for their retirement.

Advancing an Ambitious Education Agenda. President Clinton is committed to working with the Congress to finish the job of hiring 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size; building and modernizing 6,000 public schools across the country; and re-authorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in a way that holds states and school districts accountable for results. Also, the President is committed to (1) $35 million in funding -- up from $7.5 million last year -- to provide scholarships to 7,000 outstanding students who commit to teaching in high-poverty urban and rural public schools; (2) an $18 million initiative to build on the successful Troops-to-Teachers program to train and place thousands of retired military personnel and other mid-career professionals as new teachers in public schools, especially in high-need subject areas like math and science and in high-poverty schools; (3) a new $10 million initiative to begin recruiting and training 1,000 teachers who commit to teach in schools with high concentrations of Native American students; and (4) $18.5 million for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards -- a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nongovernmental body devoted to strengthening the teaching profession by developing rigorous standards of excellence in teaching, recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers, and keeping our best teachers in the classroom where they are most needed.

Fighting for a Strong Patient's Bill of Rights. The President is committed to achieving a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights that would include: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to assure patient care if a patient's health care provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process with a medical necessity standard; assurance that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options; and an enforcement mechanism ensuring recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of health plan actions.

Improving Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care. The President has proposed to significantly enhance assistance to low- and middle-income parents paying for child care. Today, working families are saddled with high child care costs, yet only 1.25 million of the 10 million low-income children eligible receive child care subsidies. The President's budget invests $7.5 billion over five years to serve an additional 1.15 million children with child care subsidies. The President has also proposed greater tax relief through the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, providing an additional average tax cut of $354 for qualifying families earning under $60,000. This proposal would eliminate income tax liability for nearly all families of four with incomes below $35,000 and high child care costs. Finally, the President's budget steps up investment in improving child care quality and ensuring that all children arrive to school ready to learn.

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Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs. The President Clinton has proposed an historic new initiative to support elderly and disabled Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of families caring for them. Today, millions of Americans voluntarily provide unpaid, informal long-term care to disabled family members and friends. Nearly 40 percent of all informal caregiving to aging Americans is provided by their children. The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options -- by 2030, the number of elderly Americans will have doubled, so that one in five Americans will be elderly. To address this growing need for support, the President's budget invests $6.2 billion over five years, including $5.5 billion to provide a $1,000 tax credit to compensate for the cost of long-term care services, and $625 million to provide respite, home care services, and information and referral assistance to the roughly 250,000 families caring for elderly relatives who are chronically ill or disabled.

Fighting to Raise the Minimum Wage. The President called on Congress to pass an increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and struggling to make ends meet. The President believes that parents who works hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. The President's proposal would increase the minimum wage from $5.15 to $6.15 over two years -- through a 50-cent increase on September 1, 1999 and a 50-cent increase on September 1, 2000 -- helping to restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was when President Reagan took office in 1981. This increase will help ensure that -- as costs continue to increase -- parents who work hard and play by the rules can bring up their children out of poverty. For someone who works full-time, this minimum wage increase will mean an additional $2,000 per year. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 12 million hourly paid workers would benefit directly from this pay raise.

Ensuring Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities. A recent Council of Economic Advisors report found that, although the gap between women's and men's wages has narrowed substantially since the signing of the Equal Pay Act in 1963, there still is a significant gap that can best be explained by discrimination in the workplace. President Clinton has called for new federal legislation to strengthen wage discrimination laws and provide for additional training and public education efforts on equal pay issues. The President has endorsed the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would increase penalties for equal pay violations, prohibit employers from punishing employees and applicants for sharing salary information, improve data collection, and provide for training, research and a new pay equity award. The President's budget also includes a new $14 million Equal Pay initiative that would enable the Department of Labor and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to increase compliance with federal wage discrimination laws and to provide technical assistance.

Expanding Access to Family and Medical Leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law, has enabled millions of American workers take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. Today, Americans are covered by the law if they work in a company with 50 or more workers. The President is proposing to extend the benefits of FMLA to ten million more Americans by covering workers in companies with 25 or more employees. The President is also proposing to expand the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations, including routine doctors appointments and parent-teacher conferences.

Making Work Pay. Welfare caseloads are at their lowest level since 1969 and the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since the President took office. The number of recipients fell from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 7.6 million in December 1998 -- 342,000 fewer recipients than 3 months earlier and more than 6.5 million since he took office, a drop of 46 percent. The rolls have declined by 4.6 million people, or 38 percent, since he signed the welfare law in August 1996. Since 1993, welfare rolls have declined in all states, with 29 states recording declines of half or more. The President's budget includes $1 billion for the Welfare-to-Work initiative in FY 2000, of which at least $150 million will be dedicated to fathers who agree to work, pay child support, and become part of their children's lives again. Remaining funds will go toward assisting long-term welfare recipients with the greatest challenges to employment move into lasting jobs, including doubling the funds available for Native American tribes. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and job retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers, on-the-job training, and other critical post-employment support services.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE UNVEIL HISTORIC LONG-TERM CARE INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND HELP ADDRESS GROWING LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS
January 4, 1999

Today, President Clinton is unveiling an historic new initiative to support Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of family members who care for them. This four-part, $6.2 billion (over five years) initiative takes important steps to address complex long-term care needs through: (1) an unprecedented $1,000 tax credit that compensates, for formal or informal costs, Americans of all ages with long-term care needs or the family caregivers who support them; (2) a new National Family Caregivers Support Program that provides a range of critical services for caregivers such as respite, home care services, and information and referral; (3) a national campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the programs' limited coverage and how best to evaluate long-term care options; and (4) a proposal to have the Federal government serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees at group rates.

The President will be joined by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary Rubin, Secretary Shalala, and OPM Director LaChance to unveil this initiative at the White House. The Vice President and Mrs. Gore are participating from an adult day care center in California, one of four states with model statewide family caregiving resource programs.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

More and more Americans have a range of long-term care needs. Over five million Americans have significant limitations due to illness or disability and thus require long-term care. Approximately two-thirds are older Americans. Also, millions of adults and a growing number of children have long-term care needs because of health conditions from birth or a chronic illness developed later in life.

The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options. The number of Americans age 65 years or older will double by 2030 (from 34.3 to 69.4 million), so that one in five Americans will be elderly. The number of people 85 years or older, nearly half of whom need assistance with everyday activities, will grow even faster (from 4.0 to 8.4 million).

MULTI-FACETED INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND ADDRESS GROWING LONG TERM CARE NEEDS. The President is unveiling a four-part initiative that is designed to address the broad-based and varied long-term care needs. It will: (1) provide immediate support and assistance for the millions of Americans who care for family members with major long-term care needs; (2) educate the elderly and people with disabilities about long-term care issues and options; and (3) promote new promising strategy directions for long-term care policy for the twenty-first century. The President is also asking the Vice President to host a series of forums around the nation to raise awareness about the need to support family caregivers and address the growing need for long-term care options.

-more-

The long-term care proposal being unveiled today by the President and Vice President includes:

Supporting families with long-term care needs through an historic $1,000 tax credit. This initiative, for the first time, acknowledges and supports millions of Americans with long-term care needs or the family members who care for and house their ill or disabled relatives through a $1,000 tax credit. This new tax credit supports the diverse needs of families by compensating a wide range of formal or informal long-term care for people of all ages with three or more limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) or a comparable cognitive impairment. This proposal, which supports rather than supplants family caregiving, would provide needed financial support to about 2 million Americans, including 1.2 million older Americans, over 500,000 non-elderly adults, and approximately 250,000 children. It costs $5.5 billion over five years and phases out beginning at $110,000 for couples and $75,000 for unmarried taxpayers.

Creating an unprecedented National Family Caregiver Support Program. Recent studies have found that services like respite care can relieve caregiver stress and delay nursing home entry, and that support for families of Alzheimer's disease patients can delay institionalization for as long as a year. This new nationwide program, strongly advocated by the Vice President, would support families who care for elderly relatives with chronic illnesses or disabilities by enabling states to create "one-stop-shops" that provide: quality respite care and other support services; critical information about community-based long-term services that best meet a families' needs; and counseling and support, such as teaching model approaches for caregivers that are coping with new responsibilities and offering training for complex care needs, such as feeding tubes. This program, which costs $625 million over five years, would assist approximately 250,000 families nationwide.

Launching a national campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the programs' limited coverage of long-term care and how best to evaluate their options. Nearly 60 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are unaware that Medicare does not cover most long-term care, and many do not know what long-term care services would best meet their needs. This $10 million nationwide campaign would provide all 39 million Medicare beneficiaries with critical information about long-term care options including: what long-term care Medicare does and does not cover; how to find out about Medicaid long-term care coverage; what to look for in a quality private long-term care policy; and how to access information about home-and community-based care services that best fit beneficiaries' needs.

Having the Federal government serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees. The President will also call on Congress to pass a new proposal that allows OPM to use its market leverage and set a national example by offering non-subsidized, quality private long-term care insurance to all federal employees, retirees, and their families at group rates. This proposal, that costs $15 million over five years, will provide employers a nationwide model for offering quality long-term care insurance. OPM anticipates that approximately 300,000 Federal employees would participate in this program.

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212-644 0684
0687

Karen
Burchard

Work-Family Conflict
The Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA

202-456-9412 **February 2, 1999** Nicole Rabner

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John Brown	JRC
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Dorothy Johnson	NYC Department of Health
Merl Chavis (parent)	Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service
Sandra Walker (p)	BBCS
Eugene Milford (p)	BBCS
Deborah Hall (p)	BBCS
George Johnson (p)	BBCS

Diane Rideout	Family Dynamics
Latisha Boyd	Family Dynamics
LaNosha Boyd	FD
Yvonne Williams	FD
Nikloi Hyatt	FD
Willie Wren, Sr. (president)	Bridging the Gap
Matilda Wren	BG
Eddie Lacewell	BG
Ann Vanterpool-Brown	BG
Pierre Bolisea	BG
Carolyn Clarke	BG
Marie Waldron	BG
Pearl Sargeant	BG
Donzell Mitchell	BG
Lashawna Gordon	BG
Rene Lacewell	BG
Angela Y. Kidd	Community Counseling & Mediation
Cliff A. Brown	CC & M
Dailey Green	CC & M
Vanessa Funches	CC & M
Kimberly Edwards	CC & M
Jennifer Zanger	Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
Victor Vega	CFLSP
Lydia Cruz	CFLSP
Wanda Williams	CFLSP
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Iraida Maldonado	CFLSP
Adrienne Bradford	CFLSP

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 12, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT CHILD CARE/AFTER-SCHOOL EVENT

The East Room

2:54 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Rose, for giving us a wonderful example of what these endeavors are all about. Hillary and I are delighted to have all of you -- parents, administrators and teachers, child care advocates, grant recipients -- here in the White House today. We especially thank Congressman Castle, Congresswoman Lowey, Senator Robb, Senator Specter, Congressmen Hoyer and Cardin and King and Levin and Quinn.

I thank Olivia Golden, our HHS Administrator for Children and Families, for being here, along with Mike Smith and Kent McGuire, from the Education Department. We welcome Mayor Davis, Mayor Ganim, Mayor Schundler, and all of you.

I have enjoyed this day very much already because Hillary and I are, I think it's fair to say, virtually obsessed with the idea of expanding after-school programs and affordable child care. And to see this reaching across party lines to support our children, our families and our communities is a deeply moving thing to me. But I'd like to begin my remarks, since I essentially can't add much to what has already been said -- I want to ask you to think about a question that we have -- all of us who are parents at least who have ever taken our children on trips when they were young --have heard them say, "Are we there, yet? Are we there yet?" (Laughter.)

So in spite of what we come to celebrate today, the truth is that when it comes to raising our children in this new era, we are not there yet. (Applause.). But when I look at the people on this podium and the faces out in this crowd, I realize that this is clearly an area where we can put the progress of our people ahead of our partisan differences, and that if we continue to do that, we might be able to give a different answer to our children.

Even though our economy is the strongest in a generation, all of you know that one of the principal struggles faced by real people out there in America was the one that Rose Bowlz told us about today. Even with the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, even with the fasting rising wage rates in over 20 years, how are people doing at balancing the work of parenting and the work of working? How do people fulfill their obligation to their children and to their work place?

Well, first of all, it's not easy, in spite of the program that the First Lady described, in spite of the marvelous experience that Rose, as a parent, with her child have had, on any given day in America as many as 15 million school-age children are left to fend for themselves -- on the streets or alone at home. Half of all juvenile crime occurs in the few hours just after school lets out. And for families with children between the ages of 3 and 5, child care is the second or third greatest household expense.

Now, obviously, only parents can find the proper balance between work and child rearing, one that works for them or one that is imposed on them by their economic circumstances. What we have to do is to help them do the very best they can to meet their obligations at home and at work. That is the only responsible thing to do on the verge of this new century when the patterns of work and life are so very different.

As I have said many times, if you will indulge me I'd like to say once more, I know that all life is filled with choices and some of them are bound to be hard, but this is a choice we should not require our people to make, because if they have to choose, they lose and we lose. If a person cannot function at work for worrying about the children at home, but economically they must work, then that weakens the fabric of the American economy. If, in order to fulfill one's responsibility at work a parent has to neglect children, that is an even higher price, because in every society that is always the most important work that can be done.

That is why we have worked hard to help people reconcile these two obligations -- with the Family and Medical Leave law, with policies designed to promote the idea that if people who work full-time and have children in the home should not be in poverty, the doubling of the earned income tax credit, the $500 per child tax credit that was a part of the bipartisan balanced budget bill passed last year, the raise in the minimum wage, the dramatic increase in tax credits and scholarships and loan program options for college education, the welfare reform that I believe did a great deal -- Mike Castle and I were talking about this, because we've been working on this subject for more than 10 years together now and we believe it makes a very good start at striking the proper balance between work and family, protecting the health care and the nutrition of children as a national guarantee, providing many more resources for child care and for transportation, giving states the flexibility to design programs that are more likely to move people more quickly from welfare to work without sacrificing their parental responsibilities. And since we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years, I'd say we're off to a pretty good start.

Now, since those initiatives, we have focused on two other major priorities. First, the after-school programs; and second, child care for lower income, working families, who may not have been welfare and, therefore, are not eligible for the funds that were provided in welfare reform.

Last month, the bipartisan balanced budget bill, to which Senator Specter and others have referred, expanded Head Start and made new investments in improving the quality of child care. Thanks to that bill and especially to the extra child care put in under the welfare reform law, I can tell you that there are nearly 1.25 million low-income children now receiving child care under the child care block grant program. That is up from one million the year before. That's a 25-percent increase in one year. And to all these members of Congress who are here who supported this across party lines, I want to say a special thank you for doing that. (Applause.)

Now, that is the good news. But if a child asks you, are we there yet, here is the rest of the story. We've gone from a million to a 1.25 million in one year, a 25 percent increase -- by income, under the law, another 8.75 million children in low-income working families are eligible for child care assistance, but cannot receive it because we have not put sufficient funds into the program.

So this should continue to be a priority in the next Congress. Even though we were successful -- and I appreciate what Senator Specter said about the nature of the budget process -- Congress was very generous in the end in investing more money in education, we did not pass the child care proposal. I hope we can do better next time because of the large numbers of people out there.

Now I'd like to say just a little word about the after-school programs because I, too, think they're so important. The budget I signed last month included a fivefold increase in the number of children who will receive after-school programs. This program --this increase was funded under the 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative initially sponsored by Senator Jeffords of Vermont. It was strongly supported by Senator Boxer, Senator Kennedy, Congresswoman Lowey and others.

I want to tell you how fast and how far Congress has moved on this after-school program, again in a bipartisan fashion. In 1996 there was $1 million in this program. In 1997 there was $40 million in the program. In 1998, in this Congress -- thank you, Mr. Appropriator -- there was $200 million in the program. (Applause.)

That's why 183 communities in 44 states and the District of Columbia today can receive $60 million, to set up these academically-enriched after-school programs. Roughly 75,000 more children will now have someplace to go other than the streets when school lets out. That's good news for America.

One of these recipients is Chicago's Lighthouse program, which the First Lady and I have both visited. Every day Lighthouse -- listen to this -- keeps 112,000 children in 248 Chicago schools off the street and out of trouble, while drilling them in math and reading, providing everything from computer instruction to supervised sports to a hot evening meal. Over 40,000 children in that school system now get three meals a day.

After-school programs like this honor our values and benefit our nation. They offer opportunity and peace of mind to hard-working parents who can't always be at home when school lets out. They bolster responsibility and academic achievement among students. Math and reading scores have shot up in nearly every one of the 40 Chicago schools where the program began two years ago. And, I might add parenthetically -- I'll plug something I believe in -- I am all for the proposition that in our most troubled inner-city schools we must raise academic standards, raise learning levels, and end social promotion, but it is wrong to brand a child a failure when the system has failed the child. (Applause.) So there have to be after-school programs and summer school programs.

So Chicago has ended social promotion. But they've got 112,000 kids in after-school programs and the summer school program is now the sixth largest school district in America.

So if we want our children to do well, and if we believe our children can do well across racial and income lines, no matter where they were born, where they grow up, whether they're on the most distant rural, Native American tribal reservation or in an absolutely abandoned inner-city neighborhood, and if we want to say, look, because we love you we're going to hold you to high standards, then we have to give them the tools they need to succeed.

So this is a terribly important thing to the strengthening of our community, to reducing juvenile crime, to doing the things that we all know we ought to do. Just think, in this huge budget of over $1.5 trillion, what started with $1 million, then went to $40 million, then went to $200 million, has the potential to have a bigger impact on more children's lives, more families and more communities' futures than virtually anything else we're doing around here -- because it empowers people, like the people who work with Rose Bowlz' daughter to do more of that daily.

Now, again -- are we there yet? When it comes to the end of the speech, the answer is "nearly." (Laughter.) But back to the subject -- are we there yet? One hundred and eighty-three new after-school grants. That's the good news. The rest of the news is, for every community that received a grant today there were seven more which applied. Actually, that's also good news if you think about it. Everybody gets this now. But because they get it, we have to try harder. Like child care, the need for after-school programs simply outstrips our investment.

So when children ask from the back of the car, are we there yet, it's always hard to give them a satisfactory answer. And how many of us as parents have explained how far we've come and that we've come further than we've still got to go -- all the answers that satisfy adults and never make it with kids. (Laughter.) On these issues, we should be as impatient as our children in the back seat of the car. We should be proud of what has been done. We should lift up the teachers, the community leaders, the parents, the child care workers who have done the right thing. But we should remember the impatience of our children.

In the new economy, we can no longer think of high-quality child care and after-school programs as luxury items. In every period of economic and social change, what once was a luxury item becomes quickly standard equipment.

So are we there, yet? No. But we'll get there together. Thank you very much. (Applause.).

END 3:05 P.M. EST

CCI FAX NEWS

Child Care, Inc. 275 Seventh Ave NY. NY 10001 Tel. 212-929-7604 Fax. 212-929-5785 E-mail:CCINYC@AOL.COM.

January 29, 1999

GOVERNOR PATAKI'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET:

CONTRADICTORY INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN CHILD CARE EXPANDED – UNIVERSAL PROGRAM ENDED

Governor Pataki released his Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 1999-2000 on Wednesday, January 27th . The governor revealed his child care initiative which included increased funding for child care. However, while the governor has taken a good first step in the right direction with additional funding for child care he has simultaneously eliminated the Universal PreK program. The governor has block granted all of the LADDER initiatives (one of which is Universal PreK) and has created a new Education Improvement Block Grant. Both proposals are outlined below. ***The next 30 days are a critical time to contact the Governor and urge him to restore the Universal Pre-K program with full funding.***

GOVERNOR'S CHILD CARE PROPOSAL:

Child Care Development Block (CCBG):

$120 Million

A new transfer of $120 million from the State's welfare (TANF) surplus will be added to the current Child Care Block Grant for market rate adjustments and child care subsidies. This would help serve an additional 13,000 children state wide.

A Child Care Reserve Fund:

$200 Million

An additional $200 million of the TANF surplus will be put in a reserve fund for a three year period (1999-2002). Counties would receive a supplemental allocation to their block grant. Counties could draw down from the reserve fund after spending down their allocation, including the new share from the $120 million.

Quality Set-a-Side: ***$45 Million (with some flexibility)***

The quality set-a-side portion of the CCBG remains at $45 million with some flexibility to support needed program and professional development costs. A portion of the reserve is available for additional quality set-a-side spending, equal to $25 million of the $200 million.

THE CHILD CARE *that* WORKS CALLS FOR:

- ***A six year commitment to serve 42,000 additional children in Year I by making subsidized child care available to families earning up to 85% of state median income.***
- ***Investments in professional development, salaries, college student child care and CCR&R s.***
- ***Investments in facilities expansion.***

GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSAL PRE-K PROPOSAL:

Educational Improvement Block Grant:

All LADDER grant initiatives funded in 1998 are eliminated including Universal PreK. Funding for the Early Grades Class Size Reduction to be implemented in the 1999-2000 school year is not included in the proposed budget. The proposal creates an Educational Improvement Block Grant from which counties can use to fund these programs.

This proposal dismantles the Universal Pre-K program. Without the specific legislative language and structure the program will not have a statewide framework for a committed systemic approach for an early learning program for four year olds.

The Universal PreK program should be restored as a separate clearly defined initiative.

CALL THE GOVENOR ! ! !

Tel: 518-474-8390
Email: gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us

MESSAGE: Restore designated funding for Universal PreK at a sufficient level to support a minimum of $2,700 per child for 40,000 children.

FEBRUARY 2ND IS CHILD CARE ADVOCACY DAY
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO ALBANY
GET YOUR MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR
VIA, LETTER, PHONE, OR FAX
NYS Assembly: 518-455-4100: NYS Senate: 518-455-2800

The CHILD CARE *that* WORKS Campaign

SFY 1999-2000 Funding Requests*
Child Care and Early Learning Initiatives

The **Child Care** *that* **Works** Campaign (CCtW) proposes that the SFY 1999-2000 State Budget include funding to support three core components of a quality child care/early learning system that will provide a strong foundation for New York's future.

AFFORDABILITY: Both low and moderate income families need assistance in paying for child care. The CCtW proposal would make subsidized child care available on a sliding fee scale to families in work, school or training with incomes under 85% of the State Median Income ($43,000 for a family of four); and, the proposal would ensure that no family spend more than 10% of their income on child care. The new federal welfare law allows for this higher eligibility level to help more working parents keep their jobs and help parents leave welfare faster. New York State must invest $178 million in the first year to address one-sixth of the calculated need of 42,000 additional children.

QUALITY: Market rates and professional salaries must be adjusted upward to reflect the real costs of providing quality child care and to ensure quality staff and program continuity. The CCtW proposal would earmark $45 million in SFY 1999-2000 to begin addressing these issues. Additionally, because all children need quality early childhood experiences, $19 million or 3% of the total subsidy pool in SFY 1999-2000 would be set aside for program and professional development and quality initiatives that enhance early learning.

SUPPLY: New York State should assure that children have access to quality environments by allocating resources for construction and renovation of child care facilities. An investment of $35 million in SFY 1999-2000 can leverage over $100 million in private capital to support facilities expansion.

*These funding requests would implement the first year of a multi-year proposal to expand child care/early learning in New York. The proposal was released by the Child Care *that* Works Campaign on December 8, 1998.

For more information regarding the proposal and this year's funding requests contact: New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, Phone (518) 463-8663; Fax (518) 427-6603.

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edday/narrrqst

The Child Care *that* **Works** Campaign is co-convened by the
New York State Child Care Coordinating Council
and the State Communities Aid Association

The following organizations have endorsed the "Multi-year Proposal to Expand Child Care/Early Learning in New York" proposal (list in formation):

Child Care Council at City University

Child Care Inc.

Children's Defense Fund - NY

New York State AFL-CIO

DC 1707, Local 205 Day Care, Local 95 Head Start

AFSCME

NY Union Child Care Coalition, AFL-CIO

Council of Supervisors and Adminstrators, Local 1

Citizen's Committee for Children of NY

Day Care Council of NY, Inc.

Early Childhood Policy Research

Family Child Care Association of New York State, Inc.

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

Greater Upstate Law Project

League of Women Voters of NYS

National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter

New York State Association for the Education of Young Children

New York State Child Care Coordinating Council

New York State Head Start Association

New York State League of Women Voters

New York State Not-for-Profit Early Childhood Directors Association

New York State School Age Care Coalition

State Communities Aid Association

Statewide Youth Advocacy

Success by 6 of Buffalo and Erie County

UJA-Federation of New York

United Neighborhood Houses

Welfare Reform Network

Women's City Club

Youth Policy Institute

The "CHILD CARE *that* WORKS..." Campaign

SFY 1999 - 2000 Funding Requests*

Child Care and Early Learning Initiatives

Child Care *that* Works is: → The Solution

Affordable: to all families who need it	Provide $178 million in new child care subsidies to support an additional 42,000 children (1/6 of the unmet need).
High Quality: to meet the educational and developmental needs of children	Provide $18.5 million to increase market rates; Provide $26.5 million to increase professional salaries; Provide $13.0 million to enhance professional and program development, including accreditation, teacher training and credentialling, director certification, and family day care networks; Provide $2.0 million to increase Child Care Resource & Referral services and supports for families; Provide $4.0 million to restore college student child care funding.
Available: when and where families need it	Provide $35 million for capital construction and renovation of child care facilities, to be leveraged with private capital.

The first year cost of phasing in the Child Care *that* Works multi-year proposal would require a total $277 million investment. This investment will build a strong foundation for New York's future to allow parents to work, to allow children to succeed in school, and to make our state's welfare reform and education initiatives a success.

* These funding requests would implement the first year of a multi-year proposal to expand child care/early learning in New York The proposal was released by the Child Care *that* Works Campaign on December 8, 1998.

For more information regarding the proposal, and this year's funding requests, contact: New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, Phone: (518) 463-8663, Fax: (518) 427-6603.

over

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FAX 212•929•5785

FAX COVER PAGE

DATE:

FROM: *NANCY KOLBEN*
Voice: (212) 929-7604, Ext.3010

TO: Nicole Rattner

202-456-9412

My apologies - I was sure you had received this information yesterday.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

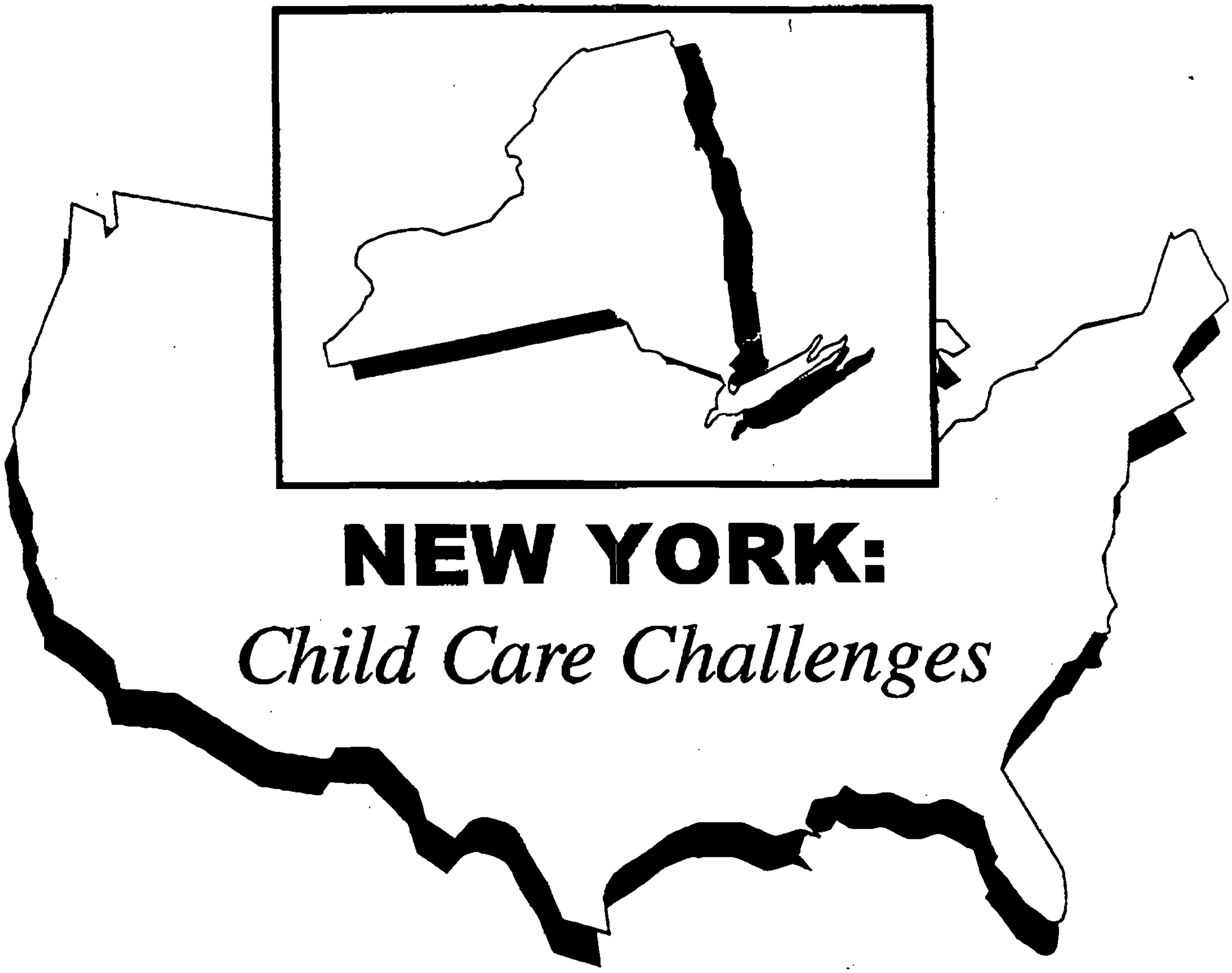
Thanks

5 **page(s) will follow this cover page**

If you did not receive all pages, please call.

The 1997 National Study of the Changing Workforce is funded by the following cosponsors: KPMG Peat Marwick LLP (lead sponsor); Allstate Insurance Company; The Boeing Company; Ceridian; Citibank, N.A.; The Commonwealth Fund; Fannie Mae; GE Fund; IBM Corporation; Johnson & Johnson; Merck & Co., Inc.; Mobil Corporation; NCR Corporation; Salt River Project; and Xerox Corporation.

General support for all of the Families and Work Institute's efforts is received from members of its Corporate Leadership Circle: Aetna, Inc.; Allstate Insurance Company; AT&T; Baxter Healthcare Corporation; Bright Horizons Family Solutions; Burson-Marsteller; Ceridian Corporation; Champion International Corporation; Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.; Chevron Corporation; Chubb Group of Insurance Companies; CIGNA Corporation; Eli Lilly and Company, Fel-Pro Incorporated; First Tennessee Bank; General Electric Company; GTE; Hallmark Cards, Inc.; IBM Corporation; John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company; Johnson & Johnson; Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.; Marriott International; Merck & Co.; Mutual of New York; Pfizer Inc.; PriceWaterhouseCoopers; Prudential Insurance Company of America; Royal Bank of Canada; Sequent Computer Systems, Inc.; State Farm Insurance; Texas Instruments; Time Warner, Inc.; Viacom Inc.; WFD; Warner-Lambert Company; and Xerox Corporation.



NEW YORK:
Child Care Challenges

Gina Adams and Karen Schulman

Children's Defense Fund

May 1998

Overview

This document is one in a 50-state series examining the range of child care challenges facing families in each state. As shown in these state reports, families in *every state* are struggling to find quality child care they can afford—yet face serious problems because costs are too high, they cannot find the quality they are looking for, or the demands of their work schedules limit their choices. There is no state in the country that has successfully addressed the full range of problems facing families who need child care.

The problems described in this series highlight the need for a significant new commitment to child care. Increased state and federal investments, and greater involvement from other sectors, are essential to make improvements possible. We cannot continue to jeopardize the success of working families and their children. Because of the urgency of these problems, the Children's Defense Fund and thousands of national, state, and local organizations and individuals are working together to improve the quality and affordability of child care and after-school activities for America's children and families. To learn more about these efforts, call (202) 662-3671 or visit CDF's website at www.childrensdefense.org.

While this series focuses on the child care problems facing families across the country, there are positive steps that states and communities are taking to address these issues. Many of these initiatives are described in other CDF child care publications, such as *State Developments in Child Care and Early Education: 1997.* Yet despite these efforts, very serious challenges remain in every state, and much more must be done to help parents get the quality, affordable care they need to support their families.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who helped on this project. They include the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), who worked with us to survey selected state CCR&R agencies for information on child care costs, as well as on other issues. Our thanks go to key NACCRRA members and staff—including Diane Adams, Fran Kipnis, Kirsta Millar, Yasmina Vinci, Bobbie Weber, and Gail Wilson—as well as the many state and local child care resource and referral agency staff who took the time to answer the survey and verify the information. We are also grateful to state child care advocates across the country who helped to document the child care needs in their communities and provided input on drafts.

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NEW YORK:
CHILD CARE CHALLENGES

I) CHILD CARE ABC'S: The need for child care and early education has become a fact of life for many New York parents.

- Every day, about 960,900 children younger than six are in child care in New York if national patterns hold true. This is three out of five young children—and half of all children younger than three—who spend some or all of their day being cared for by someone other than their parents.[1] Children enter care as early as six weeks of age and may be in care for 40 hours a week until they reach school age.
- Most mothers in New York work to help support their families. An estimated 53 percent of New York mothers with children younger than six, and 72 percent of women with children between the ages of six and 17, are in the labor force.[2]
- For many mothers in New York and across the country, work is not optional. Nationally, the majority (55 percent) of working women provide half or more of their household income,[3] about half of America's families with young children earn less than $35,000 per year,[4] and one out of three children of working mothers are poor even though their mothers work or *would* be poor if their mothers did not work.[5]

II) CHILD CARE COSTS: Quality child care is unaffordable for many working families in New York.

Child care is costly for many families in New York.

- Child care often costs more than a college education at a public university. For example, the average annual cost of public college tuition in New York in 1997 was $3,797[6]—about two-thirds the average cost of care for a four-year-old in a center.
- Many families in New York earn too little to be able to afford the quality child care their children need. Families in New York with both parents working full-time at the federal minimum wage earn only $21,400 per year. There are about 1,529,000 children younger than 13 who live in low-income families (with incomes below 200 percent of poverty, or about $27,000 for a family of three).[7]
- In New York, child care for one four-year-old in a child care center cost an average of $5,612 in 1995, with fees as high as $8,580. Child care is costly for families whether they live in urban or rural areas. For example, the average annual cost of care for a four-year-old in a center in Albany County was $6,708, and the average cost in Binghamton/Broome County was $5,148.[8] These expenses are for only one child—families with more than one child in care spend significantly more.

Annual Cost of Child Care in New York[9]						
Child Care Centers (1995)						
	Statewide		Albany County		Binghamton/ Broome County	
Age of child	Average	High	Average	High	Average	High
12 months	$6,346	$9,360	$7,956	n.a.	$5,616	n.a.
4 years	$5,612	$8,580	$6,708	n.a.	$5,148	n.a.
8 years[10]	$3,378	$5,103	$4,660	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Family Child Care Homes (1995)						
	Statewide		Albany County		Binghamton/ Broome County	
Age of child	Average	High	Average	High	Average	High
12 months	$5,020	$7,800	$5,980	n.a.	$4,680	n.a.
4 years	$4,718	$7,280	$5,200	n.a.	$4,420	n.a.
8 years	$3,378	$5,103	$3,450	n.a.	$3,127	n.a.

- To buy child care for an infant and a four-year-old in a child care center at the average price in New York, a two-parent family with both parents working full-time at the minimum wage ($21,400 a year before taxes) would have to spend *56 percent* of their income for child care.

Many low-income working families in New York are unable to get the child care assistance they need to work and help their children thrive.

- New York allows only low-income working families earning less than $26,964 (for a family of three) to be eligible for any child care help, although federal law allows the state to serve families with incomes up to $36,179. New York's income cutoff is lower than that in a number of other states, including Pennsylvania.[11]
- Although New York's cutoff is not at the level allowed under federal law, the state does not have enough funds to serve all eligible families who apply for child care help and must place many of these families on waiting lists.[12] In New York City alone, there are about 28,000 low-income families waiting to receive subsidized child care, one-third of whom are welfare recipients.[13] Research has shown that parents waiting for child care assistance are likely to face serious financial difficulties, have difficulty staying employed, go on welfare, and/or to have serious concerns about their children's care because they cannot afford good quality child care.[14]
- New York's waiting lists for child care assistance may underestimate the number of eligible families who need help paying for care and are not receiving it. The state reports that there are some eligible families who do not apply for assistance because they do not even know it is available. If these additional families were to apply for help, the state is not confident that it could serve them, according to a recent survey.[15]
- New York does not invest enough to help families pay for the good care that children need. The state spent only 90 cents out of every $100 in state tax revenues on child care and early education in 1994. Despite the critical importance of brain development in the first three years of life, New York spent 16 times as much in state funds on higher education than on child care and early education.[16]

Parents need child care so they can work

A mother in Ferndale tells what child care assistance means to her family: "Without child care I would have to depend on welfare to provide for my family. My children have been at Twin Bridge day care for almost six years. I'm very thankful for day care. It's hard enough being a single parent but without day care it would be impossible."[17]

In the coming years, New York will face even greater challenges trying to provide child care assistance to all families who need it as welfare work requirements rise.

- Welfare reform efforts will significantly expand the need for child care for very young children (younger than age three). Under the new welfare rules, the parents of as many as 135,000 infants and toddlers in New York will no longer be exempt from the work requirements and will be subject to sanctions if they fail to find work. Even factoring in recent welfare caseload reductions, it was estimated that for families moving from welfare to work, the number of additional infants and toddlers needing child care would rise from more than 27,000 more infants and toddlers in FY 1997 (when work participation rates were 19.5 percent) to 67,500 more needing care by year 2002 (when participation rates will reach 50 percent). These figures are conservative estimates based on minimal participation rates—they do not reflect the goal of moving *all* recipients to work, which would mean providing care for significantly higher numbers of children.[18]
- In New York City alone, welfare reform could nearly double the demand for child care services, according the Office of the State Deputy Comptroller. While an additional 61,000 children may need care by the end of FY 1999 (assuming the state enforces the two-year work requirement and the City does not displace the working poor who are currently receiving subsidized child care), the City has provided funding for only an additional 27,500 children by FY 2001. Estimates are that an additional $135 to $225 million will be needed (beginning in FY 2000) to serve the remaining 33,500 children.[19]

The inadequate supply of child care for low-income families in New York City seriously undercuts the success of welfare reform and jeopardizes children's safety

A shortage of child care in New York City means that families trying to comply with welfare reform work requirements face a series of terrible dilemmas, as reported by the New York Times in April 1998.[20]

The city faces an acute shortage of child care for low-income families.

* *Estimates are that while almost 48,000 children of welfare mothers currently need child care in New York City, there is only room for about 19,000 of them in licensed child care.*
* *The shortage is particularly severe in areas where there are many families trying to move off welfare. The New York Human Services Administration estimates that more than two-thirds of the children needing child care in the Morrisania section of the Bronx (67 percent) and in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn (71 percent) lack child care options.*

As a result, mothers on welfare are unable to participate in welfare to work activities,...

* *The city has excused nearly 3,000 mothers from having to work because they are unable to find child care. However, these mothers are still subject to time limits for welfare, which means that they are losing valuable time needed to build their work skills and work experience.*

...caseworkers are illegally threatening to reduce the welfare checks of women who are unable to find care,...

* *Although it is against the law, caseworkers are threatening to reduce welfare benefits—a survey of 73 mothers on welfare by the Public Advocate found that 46 (almost two-thirds) had been told they were in jeopardy of losing their benefits. Many other mothers report similar experiences, and the New York Times reporter witnessed a caseworker telling a mother she would face sanctions if she could not find care.*
* *While the New York City Office of Employment Services (OES) requires caseworkers to offer each parent two child care opportunities (one of which has to be registered), a recent report by the Public Advocate found that OES does not give parents sufficient information to make informed decisions and instead steers parents into unregulated, unmonitored and decidedly less expensive informal care.*[21]

...and low-income mothers are facing the unacceptable choice of either using unsafe child care, or losing their basic financial support.

* *When her caseworker threatened to reduce her benefits, Wendy Virgos had to leave her 17-month-old daughter with a woman who kept her strapped in a dirty stroller all day to "protect" her from the older children.*
* *Digna Jimenez begged her caseworker to help her find child care because the only babysitter she knew had slapped her child. When the caseworker refused her plea, Digna was left without child care and lost $50 out of her $260 in cash benefits.*
* *Gloria Santiago's cash benefits were reduced because she refused to accept a slot in a program that would have required her three-year-old son to ride on the bus 45 minutes each way. "It's hard on me," she said, "but he is my only baby boy."*

III) CHILD CARE QUALITY: Although child care shapes children's futures, too many children in New York are in care that may be harmful to their development, health, and safety.

- Every day, the quality of the child care in New York affects the way children develop and grow. A recent Carnegie Corporation study confirmed that the quality of child care has an impact on children's well-being and ability to learn.[22] While research shows that *good* quality child care can help children's development in a range of areas (including language, social skills, relationships with teachers, and self-perception),[23] it also shows that children in *poor* quality child care are delayed in language and reading skills, and display more aggression toward other children and adults.[24]

Basic health and safety protections for children in child care are inadequate in New York.

- It is important to protect the health and safety of New York's children who are in child care. To meet this critical goal, New York—like all states—must ensure that child care providers meet basic health and safety protections, and that these protections are adequately enforced. Such efforts (such as ensuring that providers have CPR and first aid training, that there are no safety hazards, and that there are not too many children per teacher) protect New York's children from harm.
- New York is one of the many states that do not adequately protect their children. For example, child care providers do not receive prompt background checks for a history of child abuse and neglect—as of January 1998, there was a six- to nine-month delay across the state for checks through the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry.[25]

High turnover rates, low wages, and inadequate training for child care providers threaten the quality of care.

- Staff education and training are critical in improving children's experiences in child care. Although hairdressers are required to complete 1,500 hours of training at an accredited school before they get a license,[26] New York is one of 40 states that do not require providers who care for children in their homes to have *any* early childhood training prior to serving children.[27] It is also one of 32 states that allow teachers in child care centers to start work without prior training.[28]
- Professional, quality care is hard to find in a marketplace where child care teachers and providers do not earn as much as bus drivers ($20,150) or garbage collectors ($18,100)—and barely make as much as bartenders ($14,450).[29] In 1996, the average annual wage of child care workers in New York was only $14,400.[30] Furthermore, national studies of child care providers find that they tend to receive no benefits or paid leave.[31]
- Low wages are closely linked to rapid turnover rates among child care providers, which breaks the stable relationship that children need to have with their caregivers to feel safe and secure. Turnover rates are high among child care providers; nationwide, about one-third of child care teachers leave their centers each year.[32] In contrast, turnover rates for public school teachers are only 6.6 percent.[33]

Other evidence demonstrates problems with the quality of child care in New York.

- Many parents want their children to get the high quality care provided by nationally accredited child care programs—yet such programs are scarce in New York. In 1997, only about 248 of New York's 3,426 licensed child care centers (or 7 percent) were accredited.[34] Only 83 of the 17,715 state's licensed family and group child care homes had accreditation.[35]

IV) CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY: Families across New York face difficulties finding quality, affordable care. The lack of such care is even greater for some groups of families, including families with school-age children and families with children younger than three.

The scarcity of good after-school options leaves many New York school-age children home alone and at risk of harm.

- Many New York families with school-age children are low-income and have difficulty affording child care. For example, the Census Bureau estimates that 780,756 school-age children (ages five to 17) in New York live in families with incomes below the poverty line ($13,300 for a family of three in 1997).[36]

> *"My concern, now that I'm working, is how to pay for summer child care since I will not have enough money for food."*
>
> *A single mother of two school-age children, from Suffolk County, New York*[37]

- New York children are among the nearly five million children nationwide who are home alone after school each week,[38] during the afternoon hours when juvenile crime peaks.[39] However, studies show that children who are left unsupervised after school are at greater risk of problem behaviors such as smoking and substance abuse[40] and that constructive activities can keep children out of trouble.
- Good after-school options in schools, churches, and community organizations can help children and teens do well in school and stay out of trouble, but they are inadequate in many communities. In New York, only one in four public schools (3,904 or 23 percent) offered extended-day programs in 1993-1994. Nationwide, this problem is even more serious in low-income neighborhoods.[41]
- In many areas of New York, there are few options for school-age children, either in the public schools or in other locations. In 20 of state's 62 counties, there are three or fewer registered school-age programs and in four rural counties (Allegany, Hamilton, Washington, and Yates) there are no registered programs for school-age children at all.[42]

Our youngest children are particularly vulnerable to poor care, yet quality affordable care for children younger than three is scarce in New York.

- Many of our youngest and most vulnerable children are in child care—nationwide, almost half of all babies younger than 12 months are regularly spending their day being cared for by someone other than their parents.[43] This means as many as 115,100 babies in New York are in child care if national patterns hold true.[44]

- Both common sense and research tell us that children's brains are growing most quickly during their first three years of life, and that their experiences during these critical early years lay the foundation for the rest of their lives. The quality of the care New York's young children receive affects the way they think, learn, and behave.
- Far too many of our youngest children are not getting the quality care they need. Although a close nurturing relationship with an attentive caregiver is critical to helping babies grow, in 1997 New York was one of only 13 states that met recommended levels for the number of babies and toddlers a single caregiver was allowed to care for.[45]
- Care for infants is more costly than for older children—which makes it even more difficult for families in New York to be able to afford the quality care their children need to thrive. Child care for a 12-month-old in a child care center in New York in 1995 averaged $6,346, but could cost as much as $9,360.[46]

CHILD CARE FACTS AT A GLANCE

Children and Families in New York

Number of children younger than one[47]	255,704
Number of children younger than six[48]	1,601,561
Number of children ages six to 17[49]	2,938,973
If national trends hold true, estimated number of:	
children under one cared for by someone other than their parents[50]	115,100
children under six cared for by someone other than their parents[51]	960,900
Percentage of mothers with children under six in the labor force[52]	53%
Percentage of mothers with children ages six to 17 in the labor force[53]	72%

Child Care Not Affordable for Many Families in New York

Number of children younger than 13 living in low-income families (< 200% of poverty)[54]	1,529,040
Earnings of two-parent families with both parents working full-time at minimum wage	$21,400
Average cost of tuition at a public university in New York[55]	$3,797

Annual Child Care Costs in New York[56]

Child Care Centers (1995)

	Statewide		Albany County		Binghamton/Broome County	
Age of Child	Average	High	Average	High	Average	High
12 months	$6,346	$9,360	$7,956	n.a.	$5,616	n.a.
4 years	$5,612	$8,580	$6,708	n.a.	$5,148	n.a.
8 years[57]	$3,378	$5,103	$4,660	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Family Child Care Homes (1995)

	Statewide		Albany County		Binghamton/Broome County	
Age of Child	Average	High	Average	High	Average	High
12 months	$5,020	$7,800	$5,980	n.a.	$4,680	n.a.
4 years	$4,718	$7,280	$5,200	n.a.	$4,420	n.a.
8 years	$3,378	$5,103	$3,450	n.a.	$3,127	n.a.

Many Children in New York Do Not Get the Quality Child Care They Need

Does New York require any training for teachers in child care centers prior to serving children?[58]	No
Does New York require any training for family child care providers prior to serving children?[59]	No
Average salary for a child care worker in New York in 1996[60]	$14,400
Percentage of child care centers in New York that were accredited as of 1997[61]	7%

Number of Children of Different Ages Allowed per Caregiver in Child Care Centers in 1997 in New York[62]

Age of Child	Number of Children Allowed per Caregiver	Recommended Level[63]	Does State Requirement Meet Recommended Level?
9 months	4	3-4	Yes
18 months	5	3-5	Yes
27 months	5	4-6	Yes
3 years	7	7-10	Yes
4 years	8	8-10	Yes

Other Child Care Indicators in New York

Number of licensed child care centers in 1997[64]	3,426
Number of licensed group child care homes in 1997[65]	2,537
Number of registered family child care homes in 1997[66]	15,178
Number of registered school-age care programs in 1997[67]	1,590
Percentage of public schools offering extended-day programs 1993-1994[68]	23%

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[1] National data from National Center for Education Statistics. *Child Care and Early Education Program Participation of Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*. National Center for Education Statistics (Washington, DC: October 1996). Estimates of the number of children in each state in child care based on calculations by the Children's Defense Fund, applying NCES data to Census population data: Population Estimates for July 1996. (Released April 1997). Obtained on the World Wide Web at http://www.census.gov.

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[7] Estimate for the number of children younger than 13 below 200 percent of poverty was computed by multiplying Census Bureau state estimate of children younger than 19 below 200 percent of poverty by the nationwide ratio of poor children younger than 13 to poor children younger than 19 in 1996. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund based on data from U.S. Census Bureau, *Low Income Uninsured Children By State: Number and Percent of Children under 19 Years of Age, at or below 200 Percent of Poverty, by State: Three-Year Averages for 1993, 1994, and 1995*. Data from March 1996, 1995, and 1994 Current Population Surveys. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce).

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[9] Information from New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, Albany, NY; collected by a joint survey of the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, February 1998.

[10] Annual school-age child care costs were calculated from hourly and/or weekly costs reported by resource and referral agencies for a joint survey by the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The annual costs include costs for before- and after-school care during school days and costs for care during summer vacations and school holidays. In calculating school-age costs, CDF assumed that children of working parents are in before- and after-school care for a total of 3.5 hours per day, 180 days per year and in full-day care (8 hours per day) during 71 non-school weekdays (the remaining days would be either weekends or the parents' vacation time).

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[12] Adams, Schulman, and Ebb, *Locked Doors: States Struggling to Meet the Child Care Needs of Low-Income Working Families* (Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund, March 1998).

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[52] Bureau of the Census. (1990). Census of Population and Housing, STF4. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.
[53] Bureau of the Census. (1990). Census of Population and Housing, STF4. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.
[54] Estimate for the number of children younger than 13 below 200 percent of poverty was computed by multiplying Census Bureau state estimate of children younger than 19 below 200 percent of poverty by the nationwide ratio of poor children younger than 13 to poor children younger than 19 in 1996. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund based on data from U.S. Census Bureau, *Low Income Uninsured Children By State: Number and Percent of Children under 19 Years of Age, at or below 200 Percent of Poverty, by State: Three-Year Averages for 1993, 1994, and 1995.* Data from March 1996, 1995, and 1994 Current Population Surveys. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce).
[55] Data on average university costs from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment" and "Institutional Characteristics" surveys. October 1997.
[56] Information from New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, Albany, NY; collected by a joint survey of the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, February 1998.
[57] Annual school-age child care costs were calculated from hourly and/or weekly costs reported by resource and referral agencies for a joint survey by the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The annual costs include costs for before- and after-school care during school days and costs for care during summer vacations and school holidays. In calculating school-age costs, CDF assumed that children of working parents are in before- and after-school care for a total of 3.5 hours per day, 180 days per year and in full-day care (8 hours per day) during 71 non-school weekdays (the remaining days would be either weekends or the parents' vacation time).
[58] Azer and Capraro. (1997). *Data on Child Care Licensing* (Boston, MA: Center for Career Development in Early Care and Education, Wheelock College, 1997).
[59] Azer and Capraro. (1997). *Data on Child Care Licensing* (Boston, MA: Center for Career Development in Early Care and Education, Wheelock College, 1997).
[60] From Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1996 Occupational Employment and Wage Data—found on the BLS website address http://stats.bls.gov/oes/state/oesstate.htm.
[61] Percentage of licensed child care centers that are accredited by NAEYC calculated by CDF based on: data on the number of programs accredited by NAEYC from NAEYC National Academy of Early Childhood Programs: Summary of Accredited Programs/Programs in Self Study—on the website www.america-tomorrow.com:80/naeyc/accreditate/accrdsum.htm; and data on number of licensed child care centers from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, *Providers/Capacity Report*, September 1997.
[62] Data from the Center for Career Development in Early Care and Education at Wheelock College, Boston, Massachusetts.
[63] Level recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
[64] New York State Office of Children and Family Services, *Providers/Capacity Report*, September 1997.

[65] New York State Office of Children and Family Services, *Providers/Capacity Report*, September 1997.
[66] New York State Office of Children and Family Services, *Providers/Capacity Report*, September 1997.
[67] New York State Office of Children and Family Services, *Providers/Capacity Report*, September 1997.
[68] State data from National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey, 1993-94 (School Questionnaire).

About the Children's Defense Fund

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) exists to provide a strong and effective voice for all the children of America, who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. Our goal is to educate the nation about the needs of children and encourage preventive investment in children before they get sick, drop out of school, suffer family breakdown, or get into trouble.

CDF is a unique organization. CDF focuses on programs and policies that affect large numbers of children, rather than on helping families on a case-by-case basis. Our staff includes specialists in health, education, child welfare, mental health, child development, family income, and youth employment. CDF gathers data and disseminates information on key issues affecting children. We monitor the development and implementation of federal and state policies. We provide information, technical assistance, and support to a network of state and local child advocates, service providers, and public and private sector officials and leaders. We pursue an annual legislative agenda in the U.S. Congress and in states where we have offices. CDF educates hundreds of thousands of citizens annually about children's needs and responsible options for meeting those needs.

CDF is a national organization with roots in communities across America. Although our main office is in Washington, D.C., we reach out to towns and cities across the country to monitor the effects of changes in national and state policies and to help people and organizations concerned with what happens to children. CDF maintains state offices in Minnesota and Ohio, and local project offices in Marlboro County (South Carolina), Columbus, Greater Cincinnati, and New York City. CDF has developed cooperative projects with groups in many states.

The Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), developed by Black leaders and coordinated by CDF, is an initiative to mobilize the African American community behind a targeted effort to address the special problems facing Black children. The BCCC is part of CDF's overall work to ensure that *no* child is left behind and that *all* American children have a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life.

CDF is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundations, corporate grants, and individual donations.

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First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Advances President Clinton's FAMILIES AGENDA: Helping Parents Meet Their Responsibilities at Home and at Work

February 2, 1999

Today, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton travels to Brooklyn, New York, to take part in a roundtable discussion with working parents and listen to their concerns about balancing responsibilities at home and at work. Yesterday, the President unveiled a balanced budget that puts families first -- through a package of initiatives that will help parents struggling to meet their responsibilities to their jobs and, even more important, to their families. This Families Agenda includes important new investments to strengthen child care, increase before- and after-school opportunities, address growing long-term care needs, and expand access to family and medical leave. The President's proposals will help families by:

✔ **Improving Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care.** The President has proposed to significantly enhance assistance to low- and middle-income parents paying for child care. Today, working families are saddled with high child care costs, yet only 1.25 million of the 10 million low-income children eligible receive child care subsidies. The President's budget invests $7.5 billion over five years to serve an additional 1.15 million children with child care subsidies. The President has also proposed greater tax relief through the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, providing an additional average tax cut of $354 for qualifying families earning under $60,000. This proposal would eliminate income tax liability for nearly all families of four with incomes below $35,000 and high child care costs. Finally, the President's budget steps up investment in improving child care quality and ensuring that all children arrive to school ready to learn.

✔ **Increasing After-School Opportunities.** Experts agree that school-age children who are unsupervised during the hours after school are far more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, commit crimes, receive poor grades, and drop out of school than those who are involved in supervised, constructive activities. Yet, at least 5 million children -- and as many as 15 million -- are left alone at home each week. The President is committed to tripling funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, which supports the creation and expansion of after-school and summer school enrichment programs throughout the country. His historic budget increase -- from $200 million to $600 million for fiscal year 2000 -- would enable the program to serve over one million more school-aged children.

✔ **Addressing Growing Long-Term Care Needs.** The President Clinton has proposed an historic new initiative to support elderly and disabled Americans with long-term care needs and the millions of families caring for them. Today, millions of Americans voluntarily provide unpaid, informal long-term care to disabled family members and friends. Nearly 40 percent of all informal caregiving to aging Americans is provided by their children. The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options -- by 2030, the number of elderly Americans will have doubled, so that one in five Americans will be elderly. To address this growing need for support, the President's budget invests $6.2 billion over five years, including $5.5 billion to provide a $1,000 tax credit to compensate for the cost of long-term care services, and $625 million to provide respite, home care services, and information and referral assistance to the roughly 250,000 families caring for elderly relatives who are chronically ill or disabled.

✔ **Expanding Access to Family and Medical Leave.** This week marks the six year anniversary of the signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) -- the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law. Millions of American workers have since benefited -- taking up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. Today, Americans are covered by the law if they work in a company with 50 or more workers. The President is proposing to extend the benefits of FMLA to ten million more Americans by covering workers in companies with 25 or more employees. The President is also proposing to expand the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations, including routine doctors appointments and parent-teacher conferences.

BACKGROUND ON ISSUES
May 5, 1999

Protecting Social Security as America's Family Protection System. The President has proposed a bold framework for saving Social Security for the 21st Century -- devoting 62 percent of the projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years to the Social Security system and investing a small portion of this surplus in the private sector to earn a higher return. Strengthening Social Security is particularly important to working families and to women. Social Security provides benefits to spouses of any age who care for children under 16 if the worker is retired, becomes disabled or dies. And, without Social Security, over 50 percent of elderly women would live in poverty. The President has also proposed using 12 percent of the projected budget surplus to create new Universal Savings Accounts -- USA Accounts -- to help all Americans build nest eggs for their retirement.

Advancing an Ambitious Education Agenda. President Clinton is committed to working with the Congress to finish the job of hiring 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size; building and modernizing 6,000 public schools across the country; and re-authorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in a way that holds states and school districts accountable for results. Also, the President is committed to (1) $35 million in funding -- up from $7.5 million last year -- to provide scholarships to 7,000 outstanding students who commit to teaching in high-poverty urban and rural public schools; (2) an $18 million initiative to build on the successful Troops-to-Teachers program to train and place thousands of retired military personnel and other mid-career professionals as new teachers in public schools, especially in high-need subject areas like math and science and in high-poverty schools; (3) a new $10 million initiative to begin recruiting and training 1,000 teachers who commit to teach in schools with high concentrations of Native American students; and (4) $18.5 million for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards -- a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nongovernmental body devoted to strengthening the teaching profession by developing rigorous standards of excellence in teaching, recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers, and keeping our best teachers in the classroom where they are most needed.

Fighting for a Strong Patient's Bill of Rights. The President is committed to achieving a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights that would include: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to assure patient care if a patient's health care provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process with a medical necessity standard; assurance that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options; and an enforcement mechanism ensuring recourse for patients who have been harmed as a result of health plan actions.

Improving Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care. The President has proposed to significantly enhance assistance to low- and middle-income parents paying for child care. Today, working families are saddled with high child care costs, yet only 1.25 million of the 10 million low-income children eligible receive child care subsidies. The President's budget invests $7.5 billion over five years to serve an additional 1.15 million children with child care subsidies. The President has also proposed greater tax relief through the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, providing an additional average tax cut of $354 for qualifying families earning under $60,000. This proposal would eliminate income tax liability for nearly all families of four with incomes below $35,000 and high child care costs. Finally, the President's budget steps up investment in improving child care quality and ensuring that all children arrive to school ready to learn.

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Fighting to Raise the Minimum Wage. The President called on Congress to pass an increase in the minimum wage. Despite the strongest economy in a generation, there are still millions of workers trying to raise a family and struggling to make ends meet. The President believes that parents who works hard and play by the rules should not have to raise their children in poverty. That is why, in 1993, he expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and, in 1996, fought for and won a minimum wage increase. The President's proposal would increase the minimum wage from $5.15 to $6.15 over two years -- through a 50-cent increase on September 1, 1999 and a 50-cent increase on September 1, 2000 -- helping to restore the real value of the minimum wage to what it was when President Reagan took office in 1981. This increase will help ensure that -- as costs continue to increase -- parents who work hard and play by the rules can bring up their children out of poverty. For someone who works full-time, this minimum wage increase will mean an additional $2,000 per year. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 12 million hourly paid workers would benefit directly from this pay raise.

Ensuring Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities. A recent Council of Economic Advisors report found that, although the gap between women's and men's wages has narrowed substantially since the signing of the Equal Pay Act in 1963, there still is a significant gap that can best be explained by discrimination in the workplace. President Clinton has called for new federal legislation to strengthen wage discrimination laws and provide for additional training and public education efforts on equal pay issues. The President has endorsed the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would increase penalties for equal pay violations, prohibit employers from punishing employees and applicants for sharing salary information, improve data collection, and provide for training, research and a new pay equity award. The President's budget also includes a new $14 million Equal Pay initiative that would enable the Department of Labor and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to increase compliance with federal wage discrimination laws and to provide technical assistance.

Expanding Access to Family and Medical Leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the first piece of legislation that the President signed into law, has enabled millions of American workers take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. Today, Americans are covered by the law if they work in a company with 50 or more workers. The President is proposing to extend the benefits of FMLA to ten million more Americans by covering workers in companies with 25 or more employees. The President is also proposing to expand the law to allow FMLA-eligible workers take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet specified family obligations, including routine doctors appointments and parent-teacher conferences.

Making Work Pay. Welfare caseloads are at their lowest level since 1969 and the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since the President took office. The number of recipients fell from 14.1 million in January 1993 to 7.6 million in December 1998 -- 342,000 fewer recipients than 3 months earlier and more than 6.5 million since he took office, a drop of 46 percent. The rolls have declined by 4.6 million people, or 38 percent, since he signed the welfare law in August 1996. Since 1993, welfare rolls have declined in all states, with 29 states recording declines of half or more. The President's budget includes $1 billion for the Welfare-to-Work initiative in FY 2000, of which at least $150 million will be dedicated to fathers who agree to work, pay child support, and become part of their children's lives again. Remaining funds will go toward assisting long-term welfare recipients with the greatest challenges to employment move into lasting jobs, including doubling the funds available for Native American tribes. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and job retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers, on-the-job training, and other critical post-employment support services.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. bios	"Ask a Working Woman" background on panel participants (partial) (1 page)	05/05/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15414

FOLDER TITLE:

New York Roundtable-Working Families [2]

2012-1035-S
kc1026

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]

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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]

[003]

"ASK A WORKING WOMAN" ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
BACKGROUND ON PANEL PARTICIPANTS, 5/5/99

Mary Heaton

P6/(b)(6)

Judette Samborski

P6/(b)(6)

Vastye Gillespie (VAS-TEE GILL-ES-PEE)

P6/(b)(6)

Barbara Pieczynski (PEH-ZIN-SKI)

P6/(b)(6)

Shirica Salter (SURE-EE-KAH)

P6/(b)(6)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. briefing paper	Families Agenda Roundtable Discussion (partial) (3 pages)	02/02/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15414

FOLDER TITLE:
New York Roundtable-Working Families [2]

2012-1035-S
kc1026

RESTRICTION CODES

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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]

[004]

FAMILIES AGENDA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Bedford YMCA
Brooklyn, New York
February 2, 1999

The First Lady

Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY)

Kevin Jeffrey, Executive Director, Bedford YMCA

Ellen Galinsky, President, Families & Work Institute

Ms. Eileen Quinones [Kin-yon-ez], Brooklyn, NY (Child Care)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: Eileen, please share with us your experience in searching for quality child care as you juggle your work and family responsibilities?

Mrs. Debbie O'Connor, Staten Island, NY (Family and Medical Leave)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: How did job security during your leave from work help you in this difficult time?

[004]

Mrs. Ameenah [A-MEAN-AH] Reed, Brooklyn, NY (After-School Program)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: I visited a Virtual Y program in Harlem, New York, and was so impressed with it. Please describe for us what your daughter does in the program and how it eases your concerns as a parent.

Mrs. Silvana [SIL-VANA] Carter, Brooklyn, NY (After-School Program)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: What are your children learning in the after-school program? Do you think it has enriched their development?

Mrs. Angelina Charriez [CHAR-EZ], Ozone Park or Queens, NY (Long Term Care)

P6/(b)(6)

(004)

P6/(b)(6)

Question: The President has proposed a new tax credit for families like yours providing informal long-term care for your family, because so often, as with your family, income is sacrificed because of these family responsibilities. Many families requirc significant help, but would a new tax credit be a step in the right direction in terms of providing more support for your family?