

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	FLOTUS, Tuesday, December 14, 1999 (partial) (1 page)	12/14/1999	P6/b(6)
002. bios	Foster Care Youth Biographies (4 pages)	nd	P6/b(6)
003. list	[foster care event attendees] (partial) (2 pages)	nd	P6/b(6)
004. list	National Foster Care Awareness Project Universe of Players (partial) (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Independent Living Bill Signing 12/14/99

2012-1035-S

kc984

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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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]

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR FOSTER CARE BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 14, 1999**

Welcome to the White House. This is truly a great day. In a few minutes, the President will sign into law landmark legislation to strengthen our foster care system. It is a bill that will give help and hope to the thousands of young people who are struggling to make a safe transition to adulthood and independence. None of this would be possible without so many of the people in this room.

Acknowledgments: Sec. Donna Shalala and her team at HHS, including Mary Bourdette, Pat Montoya, former Commission Carol Williams; Members of Congress (list TK); Mayor Williams and his mother, Virginia, who welcomed him into her family when he was three and authorities were about to give up and declare him unadoptable. They are among the best advertisements for the rewards and possibilities of adoption in America; the Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund, and all those tireless child advocates who worked to raise awareness about this issue. The Casey Family Program and Annie E. Casey Foundation for their support of young people in transition.

And I'd very much like to thank someone whom I am sure is here with us in spirit, the late Senator John Chafee. On the Friday before he died, I called the Senator to wish him a happy birthday. I also managed to do a little lobbying for the Foster Care Independence Act, which had hit a few roadblocks in the Senate. By the end of our conversation, we were both feeling re-energized and inspired to work even harder for the young people who were counting on this bill.

I understand that one of his last instructions to his staff was to set up meetings with the Senators he felt could be swayed to support the bill. We all know that, had he lived, John Chafee would not have rested until he had won over all the votes he needed. So we are all grateful today that his colleagues in the Senate have stepped forward to honor his final wish. I am pleased that Sen. Chafee's son, Sen. Lincoln Chafee, could join us today.

Since the President took office, we have seen a transformation in America's efforts to strengthen our foster care system. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we've helped adoptive parents -- and all new parents -- take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance. We've put an end to racial discrimination in adoption, prohibiting agencies from denying qualified parents of one race to adopt a child of another. Most important, in 1997, we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which cut dramatically the amount of time a child can spend in foster care, and set an ambitious goal of doubling the number of annual adoptions by the year 2002. And, as the President was able to announce in September, we are well on our way to meeting that goal.

But it wasn't long after we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act that we recognized the need to turn our efforts to a new challenge -- helping former foster children who never had the luck of finding a permanent family fulfill their promise in adulthood.

For so many Americans, the 18th birthday is an important and happy milestone. Turning 18 means that you can vote. It means that you can go away to college or get a job. But it should never mean that you are on your own. For too many young people, turning 18 is just the beginning of a lonely – and sometimes harrowing – journey toward adulthood. Just half of all young people who have aged out of foster care complete high school. Fewer than one in three have health care. One in four have been homeless.

Two years ago, I went to California to meet a group of young people who had “aged out” of foster care. They told me about being forced out of their foster homes on their birthdays, about staying in a cold dorm room, alone, during the holidays, about getting sick and having no insurance and no one to turn to for help. They also reminded me of so many of the smaller things those of us who have families take for granted long after we leave home. It was late November – and I will never forget what one young woman said to me: “It’s almost Thanksgiving and I have no one to call and ask how to bake a turkey.”

I have felt humbled by the resilience and determination I have seen in so many of the young people I have met. I think of Joy Warren – who spent all of her teen years in foster care. And still, she found the will not only to graduate from college, but to attend Yale Law School. I often think of Terry Harak, whom I had the honor of meeting at the White House last January. On her eighteenth birthday, in the middle of her senior year, Terry found herself without foster care, without a job, without a place to call home. But she didn’t give up. She spent the night at teachers’ and friends’ houses, in metro terminals, in hospital emergency rooms. And every morning, she would wake up and go to school. Last June, she graduated. Today she is working - and a student in college.

But for every Terry Harak, for every Joy Warren, how many more young people of promise are at risk of slipping through the cracks? That is why last winter, I was very proud to unveil a new proposal in the President’s budget that would extend the foster care safety net to those young people who have aged out of the foster care system but still need our help to become good, productive citizens.

And today, I am very proud to see that this bill – based largely on our proposal -- is about to become law. The Foster Care Independence Act recognizes one fundamental principle: All of us must take responsibility for helping these young people build lives worthy of their spirit and potential. We cannot allow the spark of possibility in any one of these young people to be extinguished simply because America didn’t do our part. From this day forward, we say to all Americans, no young person – especially those who have never known the support of a safe, loving permanent family -- should have to make the passage to adulthood alone.

This has truly been a remarkable bipartisan achievement. But it also is the achievement of so many others: The former foster children who stepped forward to make their stories known, the newspapers and television stations who publicized their plight, the researchers who backed up the stories with hard statistics, the advocates and private citizens who lobbied Congress. In this season of giving, I can think of no better gift to our children – and our future.

And now I am proud to introduce two people who can tell us why this law will truly make a difference. Alfred Perez, one of the eloquent young people I first met two years ago in California, will speak first. He will be followed by Kristi Jo Frazier of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both of them will tell you more about their challenges – and more importantly, their triumphs.

Final 12/14/99 2:00 pm
Heather Hurlburt

· Chafee
· Collins
· Rockefeller
· Cardin

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT SIGNING OF
FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC
December 14, 1999**

Acknowledgements: Senator Rockefeller, Senator Collins; Representative Cardin; Tony Williams and his mom Mrs. Virginia Williams, an extraordinary foster care success story; Secretary Shalala, and her HHS staff who have done great work on this issue.

I am very pleased that Senator Lincoln Chafee, son of the late Senator John Chafee, could be with us today. John Chafee was a man of great independence and stature, and a fighter until the day he died for the needs of children and young people – and for this bill, as Hillary reminded us. I'm glad that the Independent Living Program will be named for him.

Thank you, Kristi Jo, and Alfred, and all of the young people here. You are our real heroes today, for what you have achieved in your own lives, and for your determination to make a difference in the lives of others.

I'd also like to thank the groups that have done so much to champion the cause of foster children – especially the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Casey Family Program.

I want to say a special thank-you to my wife Hillary. For as long as I have known her, she has been fighting to see that we, as individuals and as a society, meet our responsibilities to every child without a home. She has challenged us not to forget the almost 20,000 foster children who leave the foster care system each year and have no financial or emotional support, no one to turn to in need. She put a lot of herself into getting this bill passed, and she deserves a lot of credit.

Hillary likes to quote Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean poet who was also a teacher, about our responsibility to children: "Many things we need can wait, the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today."

We are here today because all of you, and many Members of Congress from both parties, stood as one to say that America's foster children must not wait any longer.

The Foster Care Independence Act expands access to health care, education, housing, and counseling for young people who must leave foster care when they turn 18. For the first time, states will be able to pay housing costs and health insurance for people under 21. This bill also gives states more resources and flexibility to help former foster children finish high school and

go to college. To help young people get jobs and vocational training. To provide counseling for young people learning to live on their own – and above all, to make sure that young adults leaving foster care know they are not out there alone.

This bill makes \$700 million available to the states over five years, under very flexible conditions. I challenge the states to use every bit of it. I know the same organizations and individuals that helped get us this far will be there to help the states design and implement good programs. We simply cannot afford – no state can afford – to have our high school students sleeping in Metro stations, as some of these young people had to do. We cannot afford to lose our future entrepreneurs and teachers and lawyers to the kinds of obstacles these young people faced. We cannot afford to give up on the future, and these young people are America's future – and our shared responsibility.

My Administration has made it a priority to help America's most vulnerable children to grow up healthy and safe; to make the transition into happy, productive adults; and to encourage adoption, so that we can end the sadness of young people shuttling from house to house without ever knowing a home. We've made adoptions easier and more affordable; given states more flexibility; and passed incentive programs for states to promote adoption. Those worked so well that we ran out of money to reward the states. I'm pleased that this bill authorizes the additional funds that program needs; and I'm even more pleased that our most recent figures show adoptions up 29 percent -- the first significant increase in almost 20 years.

Let me mention something else this bill does, that is not related to adoption. It includes a provision to honor and assist veterans from other lands who fought as part of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It creates a special cash benefit, under Social Security, for veterans who wish to leave the United States and return to their homelands. We have ten Filipino veterans with us today, and I want to recognize and thank them for their service.

In short, this bill keeps a promise to America's children, to help them grow up healthy and strong. And it keeps a promise to America's veterans, to let them live in comfort and dignity.

We did this with overwhelming support from both parties. What does that tell you? That Republicans and Democrats can put partisanship aside and act together in our country's interest. So I challenge Congress: work with me for America's future. Take the rest of the steps we need to make sure that Social Security and Medicare are on sound footing; that every child has health coverage; that the minimum wage is a living wage. Pass commonsense legislation on gun safety and hate crimes. Join me in doing all we can to support working families – and young people like those here today, who are overcoming tremendous odds to become good citizens. They are doing their part – and we have an obligation to do ours.

Thank you very much. I'd like to ask all the Members of Congress to come up here while I sign the bill.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1999**

PAGE 2

12:20 pm- **PHOTO** with 5 children from the Yachad program
12:25 pm Conference Room
Orthodox Union
11 Broadway
New York, New York
Hold: Elie Edelman's Office
Phone: 212/613-8117
Fax: 212/613-0717
CLOSED PRESS

12:20 pm- **ORTHODOX UNION LUNCHEON**
2:00 pm Large Conference Room
Orthodox Union
11 Broadway
New York, New York
Hold: Elie Edelman's Office
Phone: 212/613-8117
Fax: 212/613-0717
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

- HRC greets the guests assembled in the room.
- HRC is seated.
- Mandel Ganchrow, Executive Director, Orthodox Union, introduces Senator Joseph Lieberman.
- Senator Lieberman makes remarks.
- Mandel Ganchrow introduces HRC.
- HRC makes remarks.
- Mandel Ganchrow opens the floor to Q&A.
- Q&A.
- HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 65-70 guests

2:05 pm **DEPART** 11 Broadway
EN ROUTE 125 Barclay Street

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1999**

PAGE 3

2:15 pm **ARRIVE** 125 Barclay Street

2:20 pm- **PRESS AVAILABILITY**

2:50 pm DC37
125 Barclay Street
New York, New York
Hold: Room 662
Phone: 212/815-1990
Fax: 212/815-1347
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-Senator Lieberman makes remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes brief remarks and takes Q&A.

-HRC departs.

2:55 pm **DEPART** 125 Barclay Street
EN ROUTE LaGuardia International Airport

3:35 pm **ARRIVE** LaGuardia International Airport

3:45 pm **WHEELS UP** LaGuardia International Airport
EN ROUTE Andrews Air Force Base
[flight time: 50 minutes]

4:35 pm **WHEELS DOWN** Andrews Air Force Base

4:45 pm **DEPART** Andrews Air Force Base
EN ROUTE The White House, West Executive Avenue

5:05 pm **ARRIVE** West Executive Avenue

5:15 pm- **SIGNING CEREMONY FOR FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT**
5:50 pm **OF 1999**

PRESIDENTIAL HALL
Old Executive Office Building
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-Off-stage announcement of Secretary Donna Shalala, accompanied by 10 Young People.

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1999**

PAGE 4

-Off-stage announcement of the President and the First Lady, and Alfred Perez and Kristie Frazier.

-The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Alfred Perez.

-Alfred Perez makes brief remarks and introduces Kristie Frazier.

-Kristie Frazier makes brief remarks and introduces the President.

-The President makes remarks and invites Members of Congress and Mrs. Chafee to join him at signing table.

-The President signs legislation, works a ropeline, and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 130 guests

5:55 pm-

6:00 pm

JOINT TAPING OF MTV MILLENNIUM GREETING

Room 459

Old Executive Office Building

CLOSED PRESS

6:00 pm

PROCEED to White House

6:05 pm-

7:05 pm

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Map Room

CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

The President and the First Lady participate in Photo Receiving Line and depart.

PARTICIPANTS: 600 guests

7:15 pm-

8:30 pm

DOWN TIME

Residence

8:30 pm-

9:30 pm

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Map Room

CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1999**

PAGE 5

The President and the First Lady participate in
Photo Receiving Line
and depart.

PARTICIPANTS: 600 guests

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC: Showers. High 52. Low 41.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Rain. High 44. Low
38.

**FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999 BILL SIGNING
INTERNAL Q&A**

December 14, 1999

Q: Some have claimed that this bill undermines the goal of adoption, because it pours more resources into the very services that have failed these young people. Is this true?

A: No. This Administration is indisputably committed to promoting adoption, and has taken numerous steps toward that goal. In fact, in 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent – from 28,000 to 36,000 – and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. The bill the President will sign today will help those young people for whom adoption will not be possible – those who “age out” of the system by turning 18 without being placed with adoptive parents or another permanent relationship. These young people will benefit from the enhanced access to services that this bill provides. The bill recognizes, however, that young people in foster care, including older teens, continue to need and deserve opportunities for permanent, adoptive families. Therefore, the bill provides independent living services that can be provided concurrent with adoption services.

Q: How does this bill differ from the President's proposal in his FY 2000 budget?

A: The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 is largely based on the President's request in his FY 2001 budget – providing additional funding to the Independent Living program which offers older youth in foster care educational, vocational and employment training, daily living skills, substance abuse prevention, and connections to dedicated adults as mentors. The bill also adopts the President's plan, enabling the program for the first time to include support for room and board, and provide states with the option to offer these young people Medicaid until their 21st birthday. In addition, the bill increases the asset limit and allows youths to have \$10,000 in savings and still be eligible for foster care payments, so that they can save for college, an apartment or other needs that are critical for successful independence. Finally, the bill establishes accountability for states in implementing their programs by requiring data collection and evaluation.

Q: The bill the President is signing authorizes the program at \$140 million, but the budget agreement included only \$105 million. How do you plan to secure the additional resources?

A: The Administration plans to request the \$35 million in a supplemental appropriations bill when the Congress returns.

Q: What does our nation's child welfare system look like today? How many children are in it and how long do they stay in foster care on average?

A: Today, approximately 520,000 of America's children live in our nation's foster care system. More than 100,000 of these children cannot return safely to their homes and need adoptive families. Our most recent data indicates that nearly half had been in care 24 months or longer. Of the children in care, the average age is 9 years old; 35 percent are white, 45 percent are black and 14 percent are Hispanic. Also, five percent of children turn 18 and leave the foster care system without having a permanent home.

Q: How much funding does the federal government invest in foster care and adoption services?

A: The federal government provides over \$5.5 billion to states to run their foster care, adoption and child welfare programs. The funding provides a variety of supports to states which include: preventive services, investigations of child abuse and neglect, caseworkers and administrators, foster care adoption benefits to families, training, recruitment of foster and adoptive families, demonstration grants to test innovative programs, services for teenagers who are leaving foster care to be on their own, and supports for children with special needs. States must provide matching funds in order to access a majority of these funds.

Q: What does this Act do with respect to veterans receiving benefits under the Social Security Act?

A: Previously, Filipino World War II veterans were not qualified for most veteran's benefits, including pensions, but many Filipino World War II veterans were eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and such veterans would lose these benefits if they were to return to the Philippines. This Act (H.R. 3443) amends the Social Security Act to allow such veterans to be eligible to receive a special monthly cash benefit if they were eligible for SSI during the month of this bill's enactment and later choose to move outside the United States.

We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. Today, the President is signing important legislation to assure that Filipino Veterans are eligible for assistance under the Social Security Income system. This legislation builds on the Presidential Proclamation and Congressional Resolution that the President signed in 1996 that recognized the valor and service of the Filipino World War II veterans.

Background: During World War II, the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines which was a territory of the United States at the time, were drafted to serve in the United States Armed Forces by Presidential Executive Order. However, in 1946, Congress passed legislation to deny benefits to Filipino World War II veterans. As a result, Filipino World War II veterans have been fighting to restore benefits that were

denied to them under this law. In Immigration Act of 1990, gave Filipino World War II veterans an opportunity to emigrate and naturalize as United States.

Q: Does the Administration support legislation, H.R. 1594 proposed by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) to provide Veterans health benefits to Filipino World War II veterans?

A: We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. In the Administration's budgets for FY 1999 and 2000, the Administration proposed equitable compensation for those Filipino World War II Veterans with service-connected disabilities from 50 percent to 100 percent. We are pursuing a similar proposal for the upcoming budget. We do not have a formal position on H.R. 1594 but are currently reviewing this proposal.



Heather F. Hurlburt
12/13/99 06:06:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP, Laura Efurd/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: June Shih/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: foster care event

Attached is more or less what will go to the Staff Secretary tonight -- the more or less being further edits from Terry and further info on attendees. Just wanted to make sure you all saw.

Terry -- I think your edits work quite smoothly. Let me know if you want me to send this and get out of your hair, or what.

Draft 12/13/99 6:00 pm
Heather Hurlburt

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT SIGNING OF
FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999
WASHINGTON, DC
December 14, 1999**

Acknowledgements: Senator Rockefeller; Representative Cardin; [others TBD]; Tony Williams and his mom Mrs. Williams, together a great foster care success story; Secretary Shalala, who with her staff has done tremendous work on this issue; [TK advocacy groups].

Kristi, Alfred, and all of the young people here -- You are our real heroes today, for what you have achieved in your own lives, and your determination to make a difference in the lives of others. I also want to add my tribute to another American hero, Senator John Chafee -- a man of great independence and stature, and a fighter for the needs of children and young people. I'm glad that the Independent Living Program will be named for him -- and that his [TK-widow] and his son, Senator Lincoln Chafee, could be with us today.

I want to say a special thank-you to my wife Hillary. For as long as I have known her, she has been fighting to see that we, as individuals and as a society, meet our responsibility to every child without a home. She has led in reaching out to the almost 20,000 who leave the foster care system each year and have no financial or emotional support, no one to turn to in need. She put a lot of herself into getting this bill passed, and she deserves a lot of credit.

Hillary likes to quote Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean poet who was also a teacher, about children: "Many things we need can wait, the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are

formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today."

We are here today because all of you, and many Members of Congress from both parties, stood as one to say that America's foster children must not wait any longer.

*It all
more here
today*

The Foster Care Independence Act expands access to health care, education, housing, and counseling for young people who must leave foster care when they turn 18. For the first time, states will be able to pay housing costs and health insurance for people under 21. This bill also gives states more resources and flexibility to help former foster children finish high school and go to college. To help young people get jobs and vocational training. To provide counseling for young people learning to live on their own – and above all, to make sure that young adults leaving foster care know they are not out there alone.

This bill makes \$700 million available to the states over five years, under very flexible conditions. I challenge the states to use every bit of it. I know the same organizations and individuals who helped get us this far will be there to help the states design and implement good programs. We simply cannot afford – no state can afford – to have our high school students sleeping in Metro stations, as some of these young people had to do. We cannot afford to lose our future entrepreneurs and teachers and lawyers to the kinds of obstacles these young people faced. We cannot afford to give up on the future, and these young people are America's future – and our shared responsibility.

Hillary and I, and this Administration, have made it a priority to help America's most vulnerable children to grow up healthy and safe; to make the transition into happy, productive adults; and to encourage adoption, so that we can end the sadness of young people shuttling from house to house without ever knowing a home. We've made adoptions easier and more affordable; given states more flexibility; and passed incentive programs for states to promote adoption. Those worked so well that we ran out of money to reward the states. I'm pleased that this bill authorizes the additional funds that program needs; and I'm even more pleased that adoptions have risen by 29 percent in the last two years -- the first significant increase in almost 20 years.

96-98

Let me mention something else this bill does. It includes a provision to honor and assist veterans from other lands who fought as part of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It creates a special cash benefit, under Social Security, for veterans who wish to leave the United States and return to their homelands. We have ten Filipino veterans with us today, and I want to recognize and thank them for their service.

In short, this bill keeps a promise to America's children, to help them grow up healthy and strong. It keeps a promise to America's veterans, to let them live in comfort and dignity.

We did this with overwhelming support from both parties. What does that tell you? That Republicans and Democrats can put partisanship aside and act together for our country's future. So I challenge Congress: work with me for America's future. Take the rest of the steps we need to make sure that Social Security and Medicare are on sound footing; that every

child has health coverage; that the minimum wage is a living wage. Pass commonsense legislation on gun safety and hate crimes. Help make sure all our people can get and keep a good job – and can achieve their full God-given potential. ?

Thank you very much. I'd like to ask all the Members of Congress to come up here while we sign the bill.

I

● June Shih

12/13/99 08:06:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: acknowledgements [1]

Nicole -- I'm heading home... will come in early in the a.m.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR FOSTER CARE BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 14, 1999**

Welcome to the White House. This is truly a great day. In a few minutes, the President will sign into law landmark legislation to strengthen our foster care system. Today, we give hope to the thousands of young people who are struggling to make a safe transition to adulthood and independence. None of this would be possible without so many of the people in this room.

Acknowledgments: Members of Congress (list TK); Mayor Williams and his mother, Virginia, who welcomed him into her family when he was three and authorities were about to give up and declare him unadoptable. They are among the best advertisements for the rewards and possibilities of adoption in America; the Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund, and all those tireless child advocates who lobbied Congress and worked to raise awareness about this issue. The Casey Family Program and Annie E. Casey Foundation for their support of these young people in transition.

And I'd very much like to thank someone whom I am sure is here with us in spirit, the late Senator John Chafee. On the Friday before he died, I called the Senator to wish him a happy birthday. I also managed to do a little lobbying for the Foster Care Independence Act, which had hit a few roadblocks in the Senate. By the end of our conversation, we were both feeling re-energized and inspired to work even harder for the young people who were counting on this bill.

I understand that one of his last instructions for his staff was to set up meetings with those Senators he felt could still be swayed to vote for the bill. We all know that, had he lived, John Chafee would not have rested until he had won over all his colleagues. So we are all grateful today that his colleagues in the Senate have stepped forward to honor his final wish. I am pleased that Sen. Chafee's son and successor, Sen. Lincoln Chafee, could join us

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Since the President took office, we have seen a transformation in our nation's efforts to strengthen our foster care system. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we've helped adoptive parents – and all new parents -- take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance. We've put an end to racial discrimination in adoption, prohibiting agencies from denying qualified parents of one race to adopt a child of another. Most important, in 1997, we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which cut dramatically the amount of time a child can spend in foster care, and set an ambitious goal of doubling the number of annual adoptions by the year 2002. And, as the President was able to announce in September, we are well on our way to meeting that goal.

But it wasn't long after we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act that we turned our efforts to a new challenge – helping those young people who had never had the good fortune to find a permanent family fulfill their promise in adulthood.

For so many Americans, the 18th birthday is an important and happy milestone. Turning 18 means that you can vote. It means that you can go away to college or get a job. But it should never mean that you are on your own. For too many young people, turning 18 is just the beginning of a lonely – and sometimes harrowing – journey toward adulthood. Just half of all young people who have aged out of foster care complete high school. Fewer than one in three have health care. One in four have been homeless.

Two years ago, I went to California to meet a group of young people who had “aged out” of foster care. They told me about being forced out of their foster homes on their birthdays, about staying in a cold dorm room, alone, during the holidays, about getting sick and having no insurance and no one to turn to for help. They also reminded me of so many of the smaller things those of us who have families take for granted long after we leave home. It was late November – and I will never forget what one young woman said to me: “It's almost Thanksgiving and I have no one to call and ask how to bake a turkey.”

I have been humbled and inspired by the resilience and determination I have seen in so many of the young people I have met who have followed their dreams in face of so many daunting odds. I think of Joy Warren – who spent all of her teen years in foster care. And still, she found the will not only to graduate from college, but to attend Yale Law School. I often think of Terry Harak, whom I had the honor of meeting at the White House last January. On her eighteenth birthday, in the middle of her senior year, Terry found herself without foster care, without a job, without a place to call home. But she didn't give up. She spent the night at teachers' and friends' houses, in metro terminals, in hospital emergency rooms. And every morning, she would wake up and go to school. Last June, she graduated. Today she is working -- and a student in college.

But for every Terry Harak, how many more young people of promise are at risk of slipping through the cracks? That is why last winter, I was very proud to unveil a new proposal in the President's budget that would extend the foster care safety net to those young

people who have aged out of the foster care system but still our help to become good, productive citizens.

And today, I am very proud to see that ^{This bill} ~~most of that proposal~~ is about to become law. The Foster Care Independence Act recognizes one fundamental principle: All of us must take responsibility for helping these young people build lives worthy of their spirit and potential. We must not allow the spark of possibility in any one of these young people to be extinguished simply because America didn't do our part. From this day forward, we say to all Americans, no young person – especially those who have never known the support of a safe, loving permanent family -- should have to make the passage to adulthood alone.

This has truly been a remarkable bipartisan achievement. But it also is the achievement of so many others: the former foster children who stepped forward to make their stories known, the newspapers and television stations who publicized their plight, the advocates and private citizens who lobbied congress. In this season of giving, I can think of no better gift to our children – and our future.

And now I am proud to introduce two people for whom this law will truly make a difference. Alfred Perez, one of the young people I first met two years ago in California, will speak first. He will be followed by Kristi Frazier of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both of them will tell you more about their challenges – and more importantly, their triumphs.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LANDMARK LAW TO HELP FOSTER CARE YOUTH PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

December 14, 1999

President Clinton today will sign into law the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation, based on an initiative proposed by the President and the First Lady, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It empowers those leaving foster care by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling and other services. The new law is only the latest instance of the Administration's longstanding commitment to children and families.

FOSTER CARE YOUTH FACE CHALLENGES AS THEY ENTER ADULTHOOD. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth find themselves inadequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the women have given birth, and less than one in five are completely self-supporting.

NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES NEW HOPE FOR THESE YOUTH. Under previous laws, federal financial support for these young people ended just as they were making the transition to independence. The Act the President will sign today authorizes \$700 million over five years to help these young people cross this critical bridge:

- **Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program.** The Independent Living program, run through the states, helps older foster care children earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Today's new law doubles the program's funding to \$140 million per year, and invests \$350 million more over five years in these services. Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, enabling more young people to obtain a college education. It also enables states to provide time-limited financial assistance to help these youth with living expenses as they develop the skills and education needed to move successfully into the workforce. The Act the President will sign today also renames the program in honor of John Chafee, the late Senator who so effectively championed the needs of children.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The new law grants states the option for these young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. Today, HHS will issue guidance to all State Medicaid Directors encouraging them to take up this option.
- **Honoring America's Heroes.** In an unrelated provision, the Act provides a special monthly cash benefit to Filipino veterans who served under the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II if they were eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and later choose to move outside the United States. Previously, Filipino veterans who were eligible to receive SSI benefits would lose them if they were to return to the Philippines.

- **A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION.** With today's new law, the Administration adds to an unprecedented record of promoting the well-being of children and providing them permanent, loving homes. In 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent -- from 28,000 to 36,000 -- and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. Among the President's other steps to improve child welfare and encourage adoption:
- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** Last month the President secured in the budget agreement a 40 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents. The program will now be funded at \$20.7 million.
- **Enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.** Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, this landmark law made the health and safety of children a clear priority, provided the first-ever financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, tightened the time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed other barriers to adoption.
- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton enacted a \$5,000 tax credit for families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President provided more support for families who adopt with a \$500 per-child tax credit. And under the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time with a newly adopted child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed into law by the President ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** The Clinton Administration has given 25 states waivers to test innovative strategies for improving state child welfare systems. The Administration has provided states technical support to improve court operations and grants to support local adoption projects, and has also secured federal funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program to serve at-risk children and families.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. bios	Foster Care Youth Biographies (4 pages)	nd	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Independent Living Bill Siging 12/14/99

2012-1035-S

kc984

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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- 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]

Q: What does H.R. 3443 do with respect to veterans receiving benefits under the Social Security Act?

A: Under current law, Filipino World War II veterans are not qualified for most veteran's benefits, including pensions. However, they may be eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Filipino World War II veterans who are eligible to receive SSI benefits lose them if they were to return to the Philippines. H.R. 3443 amends the Social Security Act to allow such veterans to be eligible to receive a special monthly cash benefit if they were eligible for SSI during the month of this bill's enactment and later choose to move outside the United States.

We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. Today, the President is signing important legislation to assure that Filipino Veterans are eligible for assistance under the Social Security Income system. This legislation builds on the Presidential Proclamation and Congressional Resolution that the President signed in 1996 that recognized the valor and service of the Filipino World War II veterans.

Background: During World War II, the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines which was a territory of the United States at the time, were drafted to serve in the United States Armed Forces by Presidential Executive Order. However, in 1946, Congress passed legislation to deny benefits to Filipino World War II veterans. As a result, Filipino World War II veterans have been fighting to restore benefits that were denied to them under this law. **In Immigration Act of 1990, gave Filipino World War II veterans an opportunity to emigrate and naturalize as United States.**

Q: Does the Administration support legislation, H.R. 1594 proposed by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) to provide Veterans health benefits to Filipino World War II veterans?

A: We are indebted to the Filipino Veterans for their service to the U.S. military during World War II. In the Administration's budgets for FY 1999 and 2000, the Administration proposed equitable compensation for those Filipino World War II Veterans with service-connected disabilities from 50 percent to 100 percent. We are pursuing a similar proposal for the upcoming budget. We do not have a formal position on H.R. 1594 but are currently reviewing this proposal.

ATTENDEE LIST
FOTER CARE BILL SIGNING
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Last	First	Organization
Abellera	Eufemio	Filipino Veterans
Allen	Mary Lee	Children's Defense Fund
Antonovich	Paula	Benton Foundation
Aranal	Margarito	Filipino Veterans
Arcebal	Franco	Filipino Veterans
Aureus	Mariano	Filipino Veterans
Badeau	Sue	Sen. Rockefeller
Bailey	Percy	Foster Care Youth - Child Welfare League of America
Banks	Dorothy	IGA
Barbell	Kathy	Child Welfare League of America
Barth	Richard	School Of Social Work, Univ of NC
Beless	Don	Council on Social Work Education
Bevan	Cassie	Rep. Nancy Johnson
Bourdette	Mary	Dep Assistant Sec for Human Services Legislation
Butler	Judith Ann	Podesta .com
Casintahan	Ernesto	Filipino Veterans
Clark	Barbara	Office of Human Services Legislation
Clark	James	NILA
Clay	Amy	Foster Care Youth - Child Welfare League of America
Collins	Gail	Office of Legislation & Budget, ACF
Collins	Ronee	Foster Care Youth - The Casey Family Program
Collins	Gail	HHS
Coltoff	Phillip	The Children's Aid Society
Cook	Ronna Joy	Westat
Crowe	Kathi	RI Department of Children and Families *
Dahl	Ellen	Office of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Dale	Nancy	The Children's Village
Davalos	Shelly	NILA
Davidson	Howard	ABA Center on Children and the Law
Davis	Charles C.	NY State Foster & Adoptive Parent Assn, Inc.
Diehm	Cynthia	National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth
Dunkle	Margaret	Institute for Educational Leadership
Edelman	Marian Wright	Children's Defense Fund
English	Abigail	National Center for Youth Law - UNC Chapel Hill
Faulkrier	Clare	United Friends of The Children *
Files	Ashley	Office of Assistant Secretary for Mangt & Budget
Foley	Mary Elizabeth	The Council for Exceptional Children
Ford	Richard	The Casey Family Program
Frazier	Kristi Jo	Foster Care Youth - Lighthouse Youth Services
Freedman	Robin	The Casey Family Program
Fried	Nora	Sen. Chafee

Furnas	Mary	Independent Living Coord., Nebraska
Ganio, Sr.	Patrick	Filipino Veterans
Garin	Maria	Child Welfare League of America
Garvey	Kevin	United Parcel Service *
Gitelson	Paul	The Jewish Child Care Assoc of NY
Gleason	Mary Ann	National Coalition of the Homeless
Gould	Karolyn	South Bronx Human Development Org
Grasso	Kathi	ABA Center on Children and the Law
Gray	Ernestine Steward	Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
Greenblatt	Sarah	Nat Resource Center for Foster Care and Permancy Planning
Griffith	Vince	United Parcel Service *
Guernsey	Janis	American Academy of Pediatrics
Guitierrez	John	United Friends of The Children
Guyer	Florence	American Association of Community Colleges
Gwynn	Nick	Rep. Bangel <i>Cavdlin</i>
Harrak	Terry	Foster Care Youth - Child Welfare League of America
Harrell	James	Deputy Com. Admin on Children, Youth & Families, ACF
Harris	Lurene Patricia	Stuart Foundation
Hartman	Robin Elizabeth	Child Welfare League of America
Hedges	Shirley	National Foster Parent Association
Hefner	Willis	Youth Communications/NY Center, Inc.
Hill	Talmira	Anne E. Casey Foundation
Housden	Irene	Administration on Children, Youth & Familes, ACF
Huffer	Joan	Sen. Daschle
Hughes	Della	National Network for Youth
Ivon	Cynthia	Foster Care Youth - RI Dept of Children & Families
Jaffe	Craig	Foster Care Youth - CWLA
Johnson	Pam	Children's Bureau, ACF
Jorgenson	Karen	National Foster Parent Association
Joseph	Danielle	Youth Advocacy Center
Kearney, Judge	Kathleen	FL Dept of Children and Families
King	Andi	Rep. Gepardt
Knipe	Janet	California Youth Connection *
Kroll	Joseph Michael	North American Council on Adoptive Children
Kroner	Mark	Lighthouse Youth Services *
Lachica-Furbeyre	Eric	Filipino Veterans
Larson	Jamila	Childrens Defense Fund
Lewis	Terry	Acting Assoc Com for the Children's Bureau, ACF
Liederman	David	Council on Accreditation
Luft	Janet	Independent Living Coord., Texas
Mallon	Gerald	Green Chimneys Children's Services *
Marte	Roberto	Foster Care Youth - Green Chimneys Child. Ser.
Massinga	Ruth	The Casey Family Program
Mathis	Laura Rebecca Whitley	Mississippi Foster & Adoptive Parents Assoc.
McCaffrey	Eileen	Orphan Foundation of America
McGeady	Sister Mary Rose	Covenant House
Mecum	Robert	Lighthouse Youth Services
Meitner	Elizabeth	Child Welfare League of America

Menor, Jr.	Ben	<i>Filipino Veterans</i>
Millar	Mark	The Casey Family Services
Montoya	Patricia	Commissioner, Admin.on Children, Youth & Families, ACF
Morse	Joan	CWLA *
Murphy	Richard	Center on Youth Development and Research
Nixon	Robin	Child Welfare League of America
Patrong	Patrick	Independent Living Coord., Maryland
Perez	Alfred	Foster Care Youth - CA Youth Connection
Pinto	William	Adolescent Services Coord., CT
Pizzigati	Karabelle	Child Welfare League of America
Pryor	Barbara	Sen. Rockefeller
Ragalia	Kristine	Commissioner, CT Dept of Children & Families
Reeg	Robert Kenneth	National Coalition for the Homeless
Reeves	Joan	Commissioner, Philadelphia Dept. of Human Services
Ritter	Daniel	Preston, Gates, Ellis & Ruvelas Meads
Rollin	Mariam	Nat. Network for Youth
Roman	Nan Patrice	National Alliance to End Homelessness
Rubiner	Laurie	Sen. Chafee
Rudnick	Sandra	United Friends of The Children
Rumingan	Guillermo	<i>Filipino Veterans</i>
Semidei	Joseph	Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau, ACF
Severson	Gary	The Casey Family Program
Shauffer	Carole B.	Youth Law Center
Stark	Donna	Annie E. Casey Foundation
Steiger	Doug	Sen. Moynihan
Steisel	Sheri	Nat. Conf. Of State Legislatures
Stracuzzi	Gina	Orphan Foundation of America
Street	Calvin	IGA
Svolos	Marinos	Health Care Financing Administration
Tejada	Joaquin	<i>Filipino Veterans</i>
Thompson	Ebony	United Parcel Service
Tolliver	Don	One Church One Child
Torres	Raymond	Casey Family Services
Vachon	Alexander	Sen. Roth
Waldman	William	Executive Dir., American Public Health Sves Assn.
Wallace	Sondra	Office of the General Counsel
Walsh	Susanne	Rep. Cardin
Warren	Joy	Foster Care Youth - CA Youth Connection
Weiss	Susan	The Casey Family Program *
Welsh	Catherine	National Independent Living Assoc
Whalen	Joseph	Green Chimneys Children's Services
Williams	Anthony	Mayor, Washington, D.C.
Williams	Carole B.	University of Pennsylvania
Williams	Patricia	National One Church, One Child, Inc.
Williams	Virginia	Mother of Mayor Williams

DRAFT - NOT FOR RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3443, the "Foster Care Independence Act of 1999", which builds on proposals in my FY 2000 Budget to ensure that young people in foster care can make the successful transition to independent adult living. I am particularly pleased that this bill pays tribute to a chief sponsor of this Act, the late Senator John Chafee. The Senator was a champion of children, particularly of our Nation's most vulnerable youth, and H.R. 3443 is an especially fitting memorial to his service to this country.

The number of young people ages 16 and over in foster care has increased from approximately 62,000 in Fiscal Year 1992 to 77,000 in Fiscal Year 1998. Furthermore, each year, nearly 20,000 youth who have reached age 18 leave the foster care system and must assume the full responsibilities of adulthood without the benefit of the emotional and financial support that a family provides.

H.R. 3443 expands the resources available to the States to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their independent living programs, which provide educational, vocational, practical, and emotional supports to youth in foster care. For example, the bill will enable these youth to complete a high school diploma, receive post-secondary education, find employment, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse. In addition, for the first time, H.R. 3443 will allow funds to be used to help pay for the housing costs of former foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who no longer qualify for foster care maintenance payments.

Of particular importance, H.R. 3443 will allow States to extend health care coverage to young people "aging out" of foster care who have not yet reached the age of 21. This provision will help to ensure that such youth retain the good health necessary to

make the most of their lives. I urge States to avail themselves of this option.

I am also pleased that H.R. 3443 authorizes additional funds for adoption incentive payments, which reward States that increase the number of children adopted from public foster care. This additional funding will enable States to receive, in full, the bonuses they have earned for outstanding performance.

H.R. 3443 also includes several of my proposals to improve the integrity of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs, while ensuring that privacy protections are maintained. For example, the bill will enable the Social Security Administration (SSA) to identify unreported income, assets, and living arrangements sooner so that SSI overpayments can be prevented. It also will close loopholes and strengthen provisions that currently allow individuals to qualify for SSI benefits by disposing of resources for less than their fair market value or by transferring their assets to trusts. In addition, H.R. 3443 will authorize SSA to impose specified periods of ineligibility for Social Security and SSI benefits on any individual who provides false or misleading information to qualify for such benefits.

I am heartened that H.R. 3443 contains a provision designed to honor certain veterans who served under the United States Armed Forces during World War II, including Filipino veterans. Specifically, the bill will create a special cash benefit for SSI beneficiaries who are qualifying World War II veterans and wish to leave the United States to return to their homelands. The benefits provided by this legislation are a special recognition of the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of those who fought for our Nation's Armed Forces during the Second World War.

In closing, I would like to thank the House and Senate Leadership, as well as Representatives Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, Chairman Roth, and Senators Rockefeller, Moynihan, Grassley, Breaux, Jeffords, Reed, and Collins for their committed efforts to secure passage of H.R. 3443. I am happy to sign this legislation that will help youth leaving foster care forge a path to living securely and successfully on their own.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 24, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT ADOPTION EVENT

Presidential Hall

10:00 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, and please be seated. And welcome to the White House for a celebration and a wonderful announcement for so many children and families around our country.

I'm delighted that we've been joined by members of Congress, including Senator Carl Levin and Representative Dave Camp and Representative Nancy Johnson and Representative Tom DeLay and Representative Ben Cardin and Representative Maxine Waters.

This is an issue that has been at the real heart of our efforts in the last several years to do what we could to give every child a chance to have a permanent loving home. And there are many people who have played a role in bringing us to this day. I want to acknowledge Olivia Golden and Pat Montoya, from HHS. I want to acknowledge the Brown, the Manis, the Keane and the Vasquez family. Carol Williams, the former Children's Bureau director and a champion of adoption; the many adoption advocates who are here.

And there's one very special champion of foster children who I would like to introduce to you. She is an eight-year-old girl who heard about how many foster children could not afford to use anything but garbage bags for luggage when they were told they had to move. So she decided to collect suitcases for them, and so far she has collected 1,000. And I'd like to ask MacKenzi Snyder to stand, please. (Applause.)

This summer I saw a photograph that reminded me why the work we're doing to promote adoption in our country is so vitally important. It was a picture of a young woman in a green silk evening gown, with high heels and a lace shawl, and you could see the anticipation and excitement in her eyes. That was a picture of 17-year-old Deanna Collins. It was taken by her parents, her adoptive parents, on the night of her high school prom.

Looking at that picture, it was difficult for me to believe that the smiling, confident young woman was the same girl I had welcomed to the White House just four years ago. Back then, she was 13, and she'd already spent eight years in foster care. With her shoulders slumped forward, and her eyes downcast, she told the audience gathered in the East Room for National Adoption Month about her dreams of living in a place she could call home, with a room of her own and a family she could love.

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

Every time I need inspiration for our fight to strengthen and increase adoption in America, I think of Deanna. I think of so many of the other children whom I've know. I think of the adult adoptees, who are telling us their stories, including Washington D.C.'s own Mayor, Tony Williams, who told us at another Adoption Month commemoration last year how, at the age of three, he was about to be declared unadoptable, and institutionalized by the state, when Virginia Williams opened her arms and welcomed him into her family.

Mrs. Williams is here today, and all of us are grateful for the love you gave that young three-year-old boy, and the second chance you gave to him. And I'd like to ask Mrs. Williams to please stand. (Applause.)

But we can't gather today and celebrate Dianna or Mayor Williams without thinking of the thousands of foster children in America who are still waiting for the same chance, either to go back safely to their own families where they will be given the love and the attention and the discipline that every child needs, or be given the chance in a new family.

For more than 25 years, as an advocate and an attorney, I have tried to work with so many others to address the challenges of foster care and adoption. I've represented perspective parents in court. I've represented foster children. I've worked on behalf of changes in legislation. I've listened to the frustrations that social workers and judges and police officers and parents and others feel about the red tape that so often keeps them from sharing their lives with children who badly need their love.

I've met foster children who have spent childhoods feeling alone and unloved, moving from home to home. Children such as the teenage boy the President and I met in the Oval Office two years ago. When we asked him where he lived, he looked down and he said, "All over Fairfax County."

In many ways, giving more of our children the chance to know the love and support of a family is a personal crusade for us. I know that many of you have been at the meetings and the roundtables and the celebrations of National Adoption Month that we've held here at the White House. And I've been very pleased and grateful to work with so many

advocates like Wendy's founder, or Dave Thomas, who as an adopted child himself has dedicated much of his time and personal resources to promoting adoption.

With each meeting I became, along with all of you, more and more convinced that it was past time to reform our foster care system, to identify and eliminate the obstacles to change the placement procedures so that we could expedite the movement of children either home or into new homes.

We've made a lot of progress. We've helped adoptive parents carve out the time they need to care for their new children. The first bill the President signed into law was the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows new parents -- including adoptive parents -- to take time off and care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or health insurance.

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

And most importantly, we've crafted legislation to dramatically reduce the amount of time a child spends in foster care. We've said that no child would have to wait longer than 12 months -- down from 18 months -- before the court considered his or her permanent placement. For the first time, we have offered states financial incentives to move more children out of foster care and into permanent homes. And we have given states the flexibility to try new strategies to accomplish that goal.

And we set an ambitious national goal of doubling the number of children adopted annually, from 28,000 to 56,000, by the year 2002. And though there were some moments when it looked like it wouldn't pass, we fought hard to make the Adoption and Safe Families Act the law of the land in 1997. In a few minutes, the President will offer new evidence of our continued success.

But we still have more to do. Two weeks after the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, I went to California to meet with a group of young people, who were aging or had already aged out of foster care. They told me about their struggles -- about being forced out of foster homes on their 18th birthdays; about living in homeless shelters, seeking sleep in emergency rooms while trying to finish school; about getting sick and having no one to turn to for medical care or comfort. These young people are our responsibility. We cannot ignore the potential of any one of these children.

One of the young women I met that day in California is now a student at the Yale Law School. And that's why I was pleased to announce a new proposal in the President's balanced budget, to help former foster children make the transition to independence. And I'm very happy that the House, under the bipartisan leadership of Representative Nancy Johnson and Representative Ben Cardin, both of whom are with us today, has passed the bill that will allow

former foster children to remain on Medicaid until age 21 and will -- (applause) -- and will give them the extra help they need to finish high school, find work and a place to live.

Now I would call on the Senate to take action on the companion bill that is sponsored by Senators Chafee and Rockefeller. There is no reason we cannot pass this bill this year for the good of all of our children. And I hope every one of us here will do everything we can to make sure that the Senate does that, and then we can have, I think, another celebration to sign a bill that will make such a difference in the lives of older children in foster care.

The progress we celebrate today is due to the work of countless people, and many of you are here, and others are working on the front lines around our country and others are caring for children who are newly adopted in their homes.

I remember very well that a few years ago on Mothers Day, we had a roundtable for mothers and their adopted children. And at the end of the discussion, I went around the room asking the children if they had anything else to say, because some of them had not yet spoken up, and I didn't want them to leave and not have been heard. The final boy to speak looked up at the woman sitting next to him and said quietly, "I just want to thank my mother."

With that simple statement, and that adoring look, he summarized what all of us had been trying to say all afternoon. So, to all of those of you who have been the mothers and fathers that have helped move our children into homes, and into a sense of love and security, we say thank you -- for opening your homes and your hearts.

And now it's my privilege to introduce someone who has done just that -- who with her husband, Steven, and her son Sean, have just finalized the adoptions of Sarah and Brian. Please join me in welcoming Dawn Keane. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. When we have events here in this room, with people who have come to share their experiences, very often I feel like a fifth wheel. I think everything that needs to be said has already been said. (Laughter.) But I want to begin by thanking Dawn Keane for her wonderful statement; her husband, Steve; and Sean, Brian and Sarah. They're beautiful children. They did a good job at the microphone, didn't they? (Laughter.) I want to thank Olivia Golden and Pat Montoya for their work at HHS on this important issue.

I'd like to thank this remarkable bipartisan delegation from the House of Representatives here -- Dave Camp and Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin and Maxine Waters, Sandy Levin and Congressman DeLay. This may be the only issue all six of these people agree on. (Laughter.) And -- Tom's nodding his head up and down. (Laughter.)

I'll tell you a funny story -- this is a true story. The other day I was reading a profile of Tom DeLay in the newspaper. And I got about halfway through, and he was giving me the devil for something; you know, he's very good at that. (Laughter.) And he started grinding

on my golf game and saying that I didn't count my scores and all this, and I was getting really angry. (Laughter.) And then I get to the next part of the story, and it talks all about his experience and his commitment to adoption and to foster children, and the personal experience that he and his wife had. And my heart just melted. And all of a sudden, I didn't care what he said about my golf game. (Laughter.)

And I say that to make this point: The Keane family -- the Manis, the Brown, the Vasquez families who are behind me today -- they represent what we all know is basic and fundamental about our families and our country -- more important than anything else we can think of. And they open their homes and their hearts to children, and they open our hearts to them -- and to each other as we work for more stories like those we celebrate today.

I'd also like to say a special hello to the Badeau family. Some of you may remember this. Two years ago, almost, Sue and Hector Badeau joined us at the White House when I signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. They brought 18 of the 22 children they have adopted. Now, you need to know that, as if they didn't have enough to deal with, this summer they also welcomed into their home a family of eight Kosovar refugees. So if you ever need proof that there's no limit to human goodness, you can look at Sue and Hector Badeau.

I'd like for them to stand. Where are they? There you go. They've got some of their kids here. Stand up. (Applause.) Thank you. God bless you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I would also like to say just a very brief word to Hillary. You heard her tell the story of her involvement in this, but when we were in law school together, before we were married, she was talking to me about how messed up the foster care and adoption laws were in the country, how many ridiculous barriers there were. And not long after we moved to Little Rock and I became Attorney General of our state, she took a case for a young couple who had had a child from foster care for three years that they desperately wanted to adopt -- this is over 20 years ago. And together they changed the law in our state so that foster parents could be considered for adoption, something that used to be verboten in most states in the country.

So I've watched her work on these issues now for almost 30 years, and I am very grateful that one of the many blessings of our time in the White House has been the chance to make a difference on these adoption and foster care issues, and I thank her for making it possible. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say, again, I want to say a special word of thanks to the members of Congress in both parties who have come to this event today. We have had a raging, often stimulating, occasionally maddening, debate on what should be the role of government over the last five years in this town. But we have all agreed that government has a role to try to protect children, but to facilitate the most rapid, reasonable, orderly process for both foster care and for transition to adoption.

Hillary said that the House had adopted this provision to let kids coming out of foster care keep their Medicaid until they're 21. I'll just give you one more example of how these issues unify us. Within a 36-hour period, about six months ago, my cousin, who runs the public

housing unit in the little town where I was born in Arkansas -- which has 8,000 or 10,000 people -- came up to a HUD conference. And she spent the night with me and were having breakfast, drinking coffee, and she says, you know, you've got to do something about these foster kids. They keep going out of the -- they come out of the foster homes and they've got no money and they need to do some things. And then the next day, literally within 36 hours, I'm talking to these people from New York City who tell me it's maybe the biggest social problem they have now, with all these kids coming out of foster care.

So this is an issue that spans the experience of America, the whole sweep of it. And I'm very grateful -- I'm grateful that we have this consensus and I'm grateful that they've acted on it. I urge the Senate to follow suit.

Now, you've already heard about the things that we're doing to try to double the number of children we help move into permanent homes. We have new evidence that these efforts are bearing fruit. The Department of Health and Human Services has just given me a report that tracks our progress in meeting our adoption goals. It shows that the number of adoptions from the foster care system increased from 28,000 in 1996, to 36,000 in 1998. That is the first significant increase in adoptions since the National Foster Care Program was created almost 20 years ago.

Now, that's an amazing thing. That's more than -- it's about a 30-percent increase. That's a very impressive increase in two years. And we are well on our way to meeting our goal of 56,000 in 2002, doubling the number. For all of you that had anything to do with that, I say thank you. You should be very proud of yourselves.

Now, if you look at this HHS report -- and I urge those of you who are interested in it to actually get it and scan it, at least -- you will see how much this bipartisan cooperation I talked about and the work that's being done by people in the trenches to clear away the barriers is making a difference -- a stunning example of what we can do when we put our children first. You will see that we have acted on each and every one of the 11 recommendations set forth in the original Adoption 2002 report. Breaking down barriers to adoptions, ensuring accountability, rewarding innovation, supporting adoptive families themselves.

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

Today, I have the honor of presenting the first round of these awards, worth \$20 million, to 35 of our 50 states. The good news is that these states did this, using creative new approaches and exceeding their own high goals. Illinois, for example -- listen to this -- the state of Illinois increased its options by 112 percent -- 112 -- yes, you can clap for Illinois. That's good. (Applause.)

Now, the bad news, if you can call it that, is that even though we believed this would work, we didn't think it would work this well this quickly -- (laughter) -- and we didn't put enough money in to give all the states all the money to which they're entitled. So I hope we can

rectify that, because I think we all think that we want to give the states the incentives to figure out how best to do this.

But the fact is, I think all of us are very proud of what these states have done for some of their most vulnerable citizens. And I look forward to working with the Congress to make up this shortfall and get the other 15 states above their goals as well.

Today, I am also awarding \$5.5 million in adoption opportunity grants to outstanding public and private organizations in 16 of our states to help fund research and new ways of increasing inter-state adoptions, and adoptions of minority children. Together these efforts will help to accelerate the remarkable progress we've seen.

Now, again let me say, I think the big goal we ought to have for this legislative session is to get the Senate to follow the lead of the House, and schedule a vote on the Chafee-Rockefeller bill to ensure that the foster children are not cast out in the cold when their time in foster care ends. I hope -- I know if we can get it up and get it on the calendar, it will pass with the same overwhelming bipartisan support that we've seen in the House. So I urge all of you to do what you can to make sure that that is a big priority for the Senate, and I will do my part.

Together, we can help our foster children -- all of them -- first grow up in good homes, and, if they turn 18 as foster children, to make a good transition from transit to independence -- with health care, education, counseling and housing.

Now, ultimately, let me say the credit in all this does not really belong to all of the political leaders, even though they've worked very hard, all of us have together. It does not belong to all the public servants, even though there is a real new attitude, I think, in the organizations, the social services organizations, to try to do the right thing and move this along.

But none of this will work if there aren't good people in every community like the Keanes, the Manises, the Browns, the Vasquezes, the Badeaus, who are willing to give a child unconditional love and a good upbringing. They are the proof of the unlimited goodness of the human heart. All the rest of us are trying to do is to unleash it. And we need to keep right on doing that.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

10:30 A.M. EDT

time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed barriers to promote adoption.

- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton signed into law a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit. Also, with the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed by the President into law ensure that adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare systems, the Clinton administration has granted waivers to 25 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with technical support to improve court operations, grants to support local innovative demonstrations to promote adoption, and secured federal funding for the "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" program to serve children and families at risk.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Vice President
(Athens, Greece)**

For Immediate Release

November 20, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Hillary and I are very pleased that the Congress today approved H.R. 3443, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation helps ensure that young people in foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It builds on proposals in my budget to empower those leaving foster care, by providing them access to health care, better educational opportunities, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other support and services. We cannot let these young people walk their tough road alone.

Each year, approximately 20,000 18 year-olds leave our nation's foster care system without an adoptive family or other permanent family relationship. Without the emotional, social, and financial support that families provide, many of these young people are not adequately prepared for life after foster care. Unfortunately, federal financial support ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. This bill addresses that problem and will help these youth in their effort to become successful, independent adults.

I am also pleased that the Act provides additional funds for the adoption incentive payments, which are bonuses to the states for increasing the number of children adopted from public foster care. This additional funding will enable states to receive the full amount of the bonuses they have earned through outstanding performance.

Today's legislation is a fitting tribute to the late Senator John Chafee, who was a chief sponsor of the Act. A fierce champion of children, Senator Chafee paid particular attention to our nation's most vulnerable young people. I am pleased that the bill renames the Independent Living Program in his honor.

I would also like to thank the House and Senate Leadership, as well as Representatives Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, Chairman William Roth, Jr., and Senators Jay Rockefeller, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Charles Grassely, John Breaux, James Jeffords, Jack Reed, and Susan Collins for their hard work and dedication to this issue. I look forward to signing this bill into law.

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. list	[foster care event attendees] (partial) (2 pages)	nd	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Independent Living Bill Siging 12/14/99

2012-1035-S
kc984

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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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]

Ms. Amy Clay George Washington University Washington, D.C. 202-242-1150	19 years old and still in Illinois state care. Sophomore at George Washington University and intern at CWLA. Part of CWLA youth involvement initiative.
Mr. Percy Bailey St. Louis, MO P6/(b)(6)	Police officer in St. Louis. Testified on IL legislation. Part of CWLA youth involvement initiative. 9
Kristi C/o Mark Kroner <i>so much</i> Lighthouse Youth Services Cincinnati, Ohio 513-475-5680	17 years old. Currently receiving services. Part of CWLA youth involvement initiative. <i>started college / who</i>
John Gutierrez United Friends of Children Bridges Los Angeles, CA P6/(b)(6) w. 310-277-1010 xt 8200	Spoke at event in January 1999
Terry Harrak Annandale, VA w. 202-637-0377 P6/(b)(6)	Spoke at event in January 1999. Currently, Project Coordinator, Youth Involvement Initiative, CWLA
Alfred Perez (formerly with California Youth Connection) <i>was?</i> University of Michigan 734-763-2981 <i>xx</i>	Attended event in January 1999, former NFCAP representative. Met with Mrs. Clinton in 1998 when he was part of California Youth Connection. He is in the MSW program at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
Joy Warren (formerly with California Youth Connection) Berkeley, CA P6/(b)(6)	Attended event in January 1999

Ms. Jenny Velasquez United Friends of the Children Bridges to Independence Culver City, CA	If John Gutierrez cannot attend, she should be the substitute from United Friends of Children.
Angela Bell Baltimore County Department of Social Services Baltimore, MD 410-526-7569/ 410-526-2942	If Ebony Thompson is unable to come from Maryland, please substitute Angela. 17 year old currently in care who lives in a group home, is working and going to high school.
Leigh Barr Administrative/ Finance Specialist The Casey Family Program-Great Plains Regional Office 455 Sherman Street Denver, CO 80203 303-871-8201 or Kelley Cook Managing Editor ACR Bulletin American College of Radiology 1891 Preston White Drive Reston, Virginia 20191 703-648-8919 or	Leigh grew up in foster care in Austin, TX and emancipated from The Casey Family Program in Austin. Has degree in social work, has worked with kids transitioning from care and is now Casey employee. Kelley (South Dakota native) 28 years old. Alumna of The Casey Family Program –Rapid City Division.
Reggie Rollins from CT C/o Bill Pinto, IL Coordinator for CT 860-550-6471	Young man in an apartment IL program in CT who testified in March.

[003]

Ronee Collins P6/(b)(6) Auburn, WA 98092 P6/(b)(6) or c/o Ron Murphy at The Casey Family Program 253-473-9681 Xt 208	Former foster youth with The Casey Family Program --Tacoma Division. 19 years old, lives just outside Tacoma, WA. Has worked at <i>Tacoma News Tribune</i> and is currently a full-time student at Tacoma Community College.
Cynthia Brunelle Ivon PO Box 517 Greenville, RI 02828 P6/(b)(6)	20 years old and Chair of the RI Youth Advisory Board. She's in college, and has spoken on several occasions--she recently spoke at the state house when the state's higher ed bill passed. would be a good choice to speak.
Ebony Thompson Baltimore, MD C/o Kevin Garvey at UPS 301-604-4548	18 year old who grew up in foster care in Baltimore. Thriving with UPS School to Work for Foster Care Program in Maryland. She is apparently a role model.
Roberto Marte P6/(b)(6) NY, NY 10010 P6/(b)(6)	Just turned 18. Part of Green Chimneys Program in NY and part of the CWLA youth involvement initiative.

Alumni

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS THE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999

December 13/14, 1999

Today, President Clinton signs into law the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 to provide new support for young people who leave our nation's public foster care system at age 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. The Act is based on the initiative of the President and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton proposed in the FY 2000 budget.

Foster Care Youth Reaching Adulthood Face Tough Challenges. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Under the previous law, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

The Foster Care Independence Act Delivers on New Hope and Support For Youth Leaving Foster Care. The Act authorizes a total of \$700 million over five years for federal support to these young people:

- **Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program.** The Act changes the name of Independent Living Program to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program in honor of the late Senator who so effectively championed the needs of children. The program, run through the states, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. The new law doubles the program to \$140 million per year, investing \$350 million more over five years in these services. Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, which can enable young people to obtain a college education. Also, many young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. With this new law, states can use funding to provide time-limited financial assistance for these young people to help with living expenses as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The new law grants states the option to have these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. President Clinton and HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala encouraged all states to provide this critical coverage.
- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** The budget agreement also includes an increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21.

An Unprecedented Record of Accomplishment for Foster Care and Adoption. With today's new law for foster youth, the Clinton administration has capped an unprecedented record of achievement to ensure the safety of children, promote their well-being and provide them permanent loving homes. These efforts culminated with a record number of 36,000 adoptions from foster care in 1998, the first significant increase in the history of the program. Since taking office in 1993, the President has taken the following steps:

- **Enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.** Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, the landmark law made clear the health and safety of children, provided the first-ever financial incentives to increase adoptions (the first bonuses were awarded to 35 states in November), tightened the

time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed barriers to promote adoption.

- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton signed into law a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President ensured more support for families who adopt children with the \$500 per-child tax credit. Also, with the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed by the President into law ensure that adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** To test innovative strategies to improve state child welfare systems, the Clinton administration has granted waivers to 25 states, giving them more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. In addition, the Administration has provided states with technical support to improve court operations, grants to support local innovative demonstrations to promote adoption, and secured federal funding for the "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" program to serve children and families at risk.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES FIRST ADOPTION BONUS AWARDS TO STATES AND UNVEILS REPORT THAT SHOWS ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IS WORKING

September 24, 1999

Today, the President and First Lady will announce bonus awards of \$20 million to 35 states that have increased the number of children adopted from the public foster care system. These bonuses, awarded for the first time today, were first proposed by President Clinton's Adoption 2002 initiative and included in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

The President also will announce \$5.5 million in grants to innovative programs that remove barriers to adoption, and he unveiled a national progress report on adoption that documents the success of the Administration's strategy. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent - from 28,000 to 36,000 - and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. This is the first significant increase in adoptions since the national foster care program was established nearly 20 years ago.

INCENTIVE AWARDS SUCCEED IN INCREASING ADOPTIONS. In the Administration's Adoption 2002 proposal and the adoption law of 1997, the President created the first-ever financial incentive for states to increase adoptions of children from the foster care system. Today, the President will release \$20 million in bonus awards to 35 states that in 1998 exceeded their average adoption rate from 1995 to 1997. The \$20 million in bonuses provide for up to \$4,000 per adopted child, and \$6,000 for each child with special needs. In fact, the states' performance in 1998 was so strong that it would have entitled them, under the law, to an additional \$22.5 million.

INNOVATIVE GRANTS REDUCE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION. The President today also will announce \$5.5 million in new awards under the Adoption Opportunities program. This program provides grants to public and private organizations to eliminate barriers to adoption, particularly for children with special needs. This year's grants reward a variety of initiatives, including efforts to increase adoptions of minority children, targeted field research, and awards for collaborative planning to increase adoptions across jurisdictional lines.

REPORT SHOWS CLINTON ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY IS WORKING. Since taking office, the President has championed efforts to make foster care work better, to find and assist adoptive families, and to break down barriers to adoption. Today, the President will receive a progress report from the Department of Health and Human Services that documents the effectiveness of the Administration's strategy.

- **Reforming the Child Welfare System.** In 1997, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act. This landmark law was based largely on recommendations from the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, which the President requested by executive memorandum in order to meet his goal of doubling adoptions by 2002. The law expedited permanent placement decisions for children, ensured health insurance coverage for all special-needs children in subsidized adoptions, and created the bonus awards released today.

- **Making Adoption Affordable for Families.** The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, signed by the President in 1996, provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision helps middle class families for whom adoption - particularly of children with special needs - might have been prohibitively expensive.
- **Giving States More Flexibility and Support.** The Administration has granted waivers to 20 states and the District of Columbia to test innovative strategies for improving child welfare systems. In addition, it has secured new funds to support state implementation of the 1997 law and has, through the Adoption Opportunities program, supported local initiatives to promote adoption and provide post-adoptive services.
- **Using the Internet to Make Adoption Easier.** In 1998, the President directed HHS to develop Internet tools to link children in foster care more quickly to possible adoptive families. Secretary Shalala reported that HHS will launch a national web site by September 2001 to break down geographic barriers to adoption.
- **Removing Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions, passed as a part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, help ensure that the adoption process is free of delays and discriminatory practices driven by race, culture and ethnicity. These provisions strengthened the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, which the President signed in 1994.
- **Providing Supports for Child Protection and Adoption.** The Family and Medical Leave Act, signed by the President in 1993, enables working parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance coverage. The 1996 welfare reform law signed by the President also maintains child protection and adoption guarantees.

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

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOSTER CARE EVENT
The White House - East Room

(First part of speech was cut off. The following remarks are similar to her speech as delivered, but may not be exact. Please do not quote from this section.)

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Jeffords who has worked tirelessly to give all children safe places to go after school and something in life to say "yes" to.

I also want to thank Secretary Shalala for that introduction and for her extraordinary leadership on behalf of all children, especially those too often forgotten. She reminded us of how far we've come in reforming our child welfare system. And we should all be proud of those accomplishments. But today we are also gathered to talk about an issue that hasn't received the attention it deserves.

We know that we must do better by the nearly 20,000 young people who, every year, are forced to leave foster care and make it on their own. So today, I have come here to announce that the President's budget will help ensure that the end of foster care will no longer mean the end of caring for the young people it serves.

None of this would have been possible without the people in this room.

It wouldn't have been possible without my friend Tipper Gore, whose compassion and commitment have placed a national spotlight on mental illness and homelessness. Again, it wouldn't have been possible without Secretary Shalala and her staff at the Department of Health and Human Services.

It wouldn't have been possible without Terry Harrak, John Gutierrez and the other young people who walked in with Tipper and me just now. The courageous voices they have raised have educated the nation about this issue and inspired us all.

And it wouldn't have been possible without all of you who have been their biggest champions. I especially want to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Casey Family Program for their deep commitment and for helping to pull this event together.

As I look across this room, it is wonderful to see researchers, advocates, and community providers from all over the country. I don't think we've ever been privileged to host at the White House a group of people who have fought harder or longer to lift up the lives of former foster children. And all of us owe you a debt of gratitude for that.

In some ways, my own experiences with this issue started when I was a little girl. I'd ask my mother, as all children do, what it was like for her to grow up. She was never in formal foster care. But she told me about how her teen parents couldn't take care of her after she was born. How they sent her to live with her grandparents. And how, when that didn't work out, she moved in with a family and took care of their children in exchange for room and board.

My mother has often told me how grateful she is to the woman she moved in with. Because she was able to see what a real family is like. She watched what happens inside a home when children have someone to praise them when they succeed and pick them up when they fall. Someone who cares what happens to them day after day. Someone to simply love them.

Most of us remember looking forward to celebrating our 18th birthdays -- and not just because of the party. It meant we could vote. It meant we could go away to college or get a job. It meant we were becoming adults. But it didn't mean we were on our own.

But, if you ask the young people here -- or others who have aged out of foster care -- many will tell you that their 18th birthday was the start of a very tough road alone. We know young people who age out of foster care are more likely to drop out of school, land in a homeless shelter, be unemployed, come down with health problems, or have trouble getting health care.

And we know that these young people often carry with them traumatic experience of abuse and neglect, experiences of being shuffled from home to home.

More powerful than any statistic, I hope that every single elected official and every single American hears the stories of the young people here today and their peers across the country. Because there are no more powerful advocates or educators.

I hope they hear the voices of the young people here from cities such as Tucson, San Francisco and Alexandria. They carry with them stories of being homeless while trying to finish school. They come here with gratitude for all of those who reached down to lift them up. And now many are helping others to do the same.

Whenever someone wants to know why we must do more for young people aging out of foster care, I hope they'll hear the voices of Alfred Perez -- who is here -- and others active in the California Youth Connection, an extraordinary group of young men and women I had the privilege to visit with just over a year ago in Berkeley.

It was right before Thanksgiving. And, one by one, they described what it was like to leave the foster care system. One 19-year-old confessed that it was her first Thanksgiving by herself -- and she didn't have anyone to call to ask how to bake a turkey. And a young man in college talked about what how it feels when the dorms close down, when other students pack up to go home for the holidays and you have absolutely no where to go.

(The following remarks represent Mrs. Clinton's speech as delivered.)

I hope that everyone who wonders why we need to do more for young people leaving foster care will hear the voices of people like Joy Warren, who is here with us today. Joy is in

her first year at Yale Law School, my alma mater. Unlike most of the other students there, she spent her childhood in foster care, and she has been entirely on her own since age 18. For seven years, she has lived without the support that permanent families provide...and all the while, she managed to receive a college degree, work as an advocate to improve foster care, and begin law school.

I met Joy in September at a conference called Destination Future, in which current and former foster children and homeless youth came together to talk about and learn about life skills and what they could do to help others overcome the obstacles they face every day. I've just received the report from the Conference, and it contains important messages for all of us. We need more awareness about this issue. Young people aging out of foster care need medical insurance. They need training and education. And that can only happen if we make greater investments in their lives.

Now, we know that there are countless people working in states, counties, and communities to meet those challenges -- many in this room are working to do just that.

There are programs in Texas and Florida, for example, that provide college tuition to state schools for young people in foster care who are accepted. In Los Angeles County, entry-level jobs are set aside for young people aging out of the foster care system. And like other Independent Living Programs, New York's is helping young people aging out of foster care with school, jobs, housing and the other tools that they need. One of those young people, Analeah Charles, is here with us today.

We should take these success stories and make sure they are replicated throughout our country. That's why I am so pleased to announce that the President's budget over the next five years will include \$280 million to help former foster children make the transition to independence -- and make the most of their lives.

We will be increasing funding for the Independent Living Program by 50 percent -- and giving foster children more help finishing high school, getting a job, and finding a place to live.

Now in many states and communities, the rule about aging out of foster care is whether you turn 18 or graduate from high school -- whichever happens first. So there are many children who are out of foster care even though they have not yet finished high school.

We will also be offering \$50 million in new competitive grants so that the states can continue to provide economic support to former foster children living through their transition.

We want to help more community-based programs that are giving homeless youth places to live and skills to build their futures. And I am pleased to announce that we are increasing funding for the Transitional Living Program by 33 percent.

And finally, the President's budget says that young people who age out of foster care should be eligible for Medicaid until they are 21. For too many young people, foster care means insurance -- and when they leave, they lose their Medicaid coverage.

In this country, I believe no person should be in the ranks of the uninsured -- but I certainly think no *young* person should be uninsured.

Now when we do all of this -- which I hope we certainly will in a bipartisan way, bringing new leaders of both political parties and our Congress together, and with the support of all of you throughout our nation who are advocates and workers in the field of foster care -- we will have a lot to celebrate. But the main reason I believe we will achieve what I hope we can with the President's leadership will be because of the courageous young people who are with us today who represent thousands and thousands of other young people across our country.

It will be because of young people such as Terry Harrak. When she turned 18, she was a senior in high school. But she soon found herself without foster care, without a job, without a place to call home. Night after night, she slept over at teachers' and friends' homes, she slept in metro terminals, she slept in hospital emergency rooms. Day after day, she would wake up and continue going to school. And she graduated.

Now I think that the story Terry has to tell us should be heard by everyone. She is now a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow Program in Alexandria, Virginia. She has a place to live, a job and community college to attend, and people to guide and support her. She is here with us today. It is my great honor to introduce Terry Harrak.

WHITE HOUSE EVENT ON SUPPORTING TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH

January 29, 1999

FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

TERRY HARRAK, 19 (SPEAKER)

Alexandria, VA

Terry entered foster care at the age of 16 after spending several months on her own with no family support. At the age of 18, having just started her senior year of high school, Terry emancipated from foster care with no job or place to live. Despite becoming homeless, she continued to attend school full time while staying at friends' homes, teachers' homes, metro terminals, and hospital emergency rooms. Terry graduated from high school in June of 1998 and became a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow (LIFT) program of Residential Youth Services in Alexandria, Virginia, which has provided her with critical services and a place to live. Terry is currently working and attends a local community college.

Established in 1991 as a Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth, LIFT provides housing, life skills, education and employment support. Youth in the program live in apartments, participate in individual and group life skills instruction, receive counseling from caring staff, and are helped to achieve educational and employment goals.

Contact: Dr. Vera Jackson, Living Independently for Tomorrow Program (703) 548-8334

JOHN GUTIERREZ, 19 (SPEAKER)

Culver City, California

John was in foster care from the age of 12. He has lived in group homes, one foster home and in Los Angeles County's 24-hour emergency shelter for foster youth. John has no family. During the course of his high school career, John attended eight different schools and in the beginning, was known to get into trouble. Then, at the age of 17, John decided to turn his life around. By graduation, John had a 3.0 grade point average and is currently studying Art at Santa Monica City College. John holds two part-time jobs: one as an administrative assistant at a law firm and another as a teacher's aide at a middle school. At the age of 19, John is preparing to leave the transitional housing in which he currently lives to move to an apartment of his own.

John credits his two group home counselors, his girlfriend, and now his independent living social worker through United Friends of the Children Bridges, with making the difference in his life. United Friends of the Children Bridges provides transitional housing with support services, employment preparation and placement assistance.

Contact: Clare Faulkner, United Friends of the Children Bridges (310) 338-3646

ANALEAH CHARLES, 18
New York, New York

Analeah is a young adult in the care of New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS). In March of 1998, Analéah came into foster care as a voluntary placement and became a resident of a city-operated boarding house. Analéah soon began to participate in ACS's Independent Living (IL) Program and is currently an active member of the Program's Peer Leadership Council. With support from the program, Analéah has excelled academically. Determined to finish her high school education at her Catholic school, she secured a partial scholarship and pays the rest of her tuition with earnings from a part time job. Analéah plans to attend college and has participated in the IL Programs' SAT preparation and college application tutorials.

The Independent Living (IL) Program, sponsored by Administration for Children's Services of New York, assists foster care youth in their transition to adulthood. The Independent Living Program trains foster youth in the life skills they need to survive, and offers them assistance in pursuing their education, seeking employment, and locating safe and affordable housing.

Contact: Leonora Wiener, Administration for Children's Services of New York (212) 266-2100

MARGARET DUARTE, 22
Tucson, Arizona

Margaret was in foster care from the age of five. Graduating fifth in her high school class, Margaret was offered several college scholarships and decided to attend the University of Arizona where she plans to graduate with a degree in finance and accounting this May. In order to give back to her community, Margaret volunteers at the Casa de los Ninos crisis shelter, a residential facility that provides shelter to abused and neglected children. Although she has lived on her own since high school, Margaret maintains a strong relationship with her foster mother who cared for her since she was eight.

Casey Family Services helped a great deal in Margaret's transition to college and adulthood. They provided her with necessary resources, included her in workshops on independent living, budgeting and finance, and taught her how to control and deal with anger. Casey also provided Margaret with a college scholarship throughout her five years of post secondary education.

Contact: Maureen Andrews, The Casey Family Program (520) 323-0886 x239

JOE FORSYTH, 19
Shelton, Connecticut

Joe entered foster care at the age of 11 and spent time in two State foster homes, a shelter, and a residential facility. At the age of 14, Joe was placed with a foster family through Casey Family

Services. Joe worked hard in high school and was admitted into Honors level classes. He also was a two time State wrestling champion. In addition to his studies, Joe has mentored younger students and volunteered to train foster parents. Currently, Joe is attending Springfield College in Massachusetts where he studies Applied Exercise Science on a full athletic scholarship. In 1998, Joe was asked to speak about foster care reform at a policy seminar hosted by the Institute for Educational Leadership held on Capitol Hill. Joe credits his success to his foster family, who stood by him even in times of trouble, and the hard work and dedication of his high school wrestling coach.

Contact: Lee Mullane, Casey Family Services (203) 929-3837

LEAH McBRIDE, 25
Cincinnati, Ohio

Leah started in foster care at a very young age and moved into the Lighthouse Independent Living Program at the age of 18. She has completed high school, holds an associates degree, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree. Leah now works part time at Lighthouse teaching independent living skills and mentoring current program participants. She has spoken to hundreds of foster care parents, business leaders, and other community members about the needs of emancipating foster care youth. Leah also devotes time to encouraging other foster youth to set goals, be persistent in working towards them, and not to let go of their dreams.

The Independent Living (IL) Program through Lighthouse, in which Leah spent a year and a half, is designed to promote self sufficiency in youth by gradually turning over their major life responsibilities. As they learn to become self sufficient, the program allows foster youth as young as 15 ½ to live in their own apartment with intensive support and assistance.

Contact: Mark Kroner, Lighthouse Youth Services (513) 475-5680

ALFRED PEREZ, 22
San Francisco, California

Alfred was in foster care for eleven years. In his last four years in care, he lived in eleven different placements, mostly group homes. During that time, Alfred carried his belongings from place to place in a plastic garbage bag. At age 15, Alfred started participating in the Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) where he learned about life skills and employment. Alfred also became involved with the California Youth Connection (CYC), a nonprofit organization that involves foster youth in lobbying for their welfare at the local and State levels. Alfred graduated from San Jose State University in 1998, and has since joined CYC as a full time statewide outreach coordinator.

Through the Independent Living Skills Program, Alfred learned a variety of life skills, received job training, and had basic educational skills reinforced. Through his participation in the

California Youth Connection (CYC) Alfred gained leadership skills, professional experience in public policy, and learned the importance of public participation in the policy making process. Alfred met the First Lady in November when she visited the University of California at Berkeley to discuss the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

Contact: Alfred Perez, California Youth Connection (415) 398-1063

RICO SHAW, 18
Baltimore, Maryland

At the age of 10, Rico entered the foster care system upon the death of his mother. At 17, he was referred by a social worker to the local welfare to work program, the Glenarden Campus of Opportunity. Rico's "campus" career assessment focused on earning a GED and securing a job in order to join an independent living program. Rico entered into a UPS Professional Job Readiness and Life Skills training class and enrolled in a GED program. Three weeks after entering the Job Readiness class, Rico was hired by UPS. This past September, Rico moved into his own apartment and is scheduled to take the GED examination in May of this year.

The UPS School-to-Career Partnership for Maryland Youth in Foster Care provides youth emancipating from foster care with part-time jobs, post-secondary educational opportunities and support services. The program works in partnership with the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Living Classrooms Foundation to support emancipating foster care youth.

Contact: Kevin Garvey, UPS School to Work Program (301) 604-4548

JOY WARREN, 25
New Haven, CT

Joy was in foster care from the age of 13. She has two sisters, one of whom recently left foster care and one who is still in high school. An active advocate on behalf of foster youth, Joy worked with the California Youth Connection (CYC) to improve the foster care system. Joy graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and currently attends Yale Law School.

Joy credits the California Youth Connection (CYC) with broadening her perspective on the wide range of experiences foster youth have within the system. CYC also made her acutely aware of how State and national policies have a profound impact on children's everyday lives.

Contact: Joy Warren (203) 785-8075

TERRI FAYE YADEN, 21
Vienna, VA

Terri was 10 years old when she and her sister were sent to Cookson Hills, a Christian orphanage on the border of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Terri cultivated many interests while at Cookson Hills including public speaking, sign language, sports, and a commitment to public service. Terri traveled across the United States representing Cookson Hills to its financial supporters, particularly Baptist congregations. Terri is now a junior in college at Oklahoma State University majoring in Early Education. In her sophomore year, Terri organized a sign language club, which taught hearing students to sign so they could perform volunteer work within the deaf community. Terri is a three time Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) scholarship recipient and has participated in a foster youth teen leadership program called the OLIVER Project. She has represented the OFA and spoken out on foster care issues in a wide variety of forums.

The Orphan Foundation of America provides college scholarships to older youth in foster care and those who have already left. In addition to receiving scholarship money, recipients are given the opportunity to participate in a summer leadership program in Washington which exposes foster care youth to legislators and gives them a chance to share their experience while learning how policy is made.

Contact: Eileen McCaffrey, Orphan Foundation of America (703) 281-4226

Remarks at 1/29/99 event
Harrak will be at bill
signing

REMARKS BY TERRY HARRAK

Good Afternoon Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Gore, and distinguished members and guests.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my personal experience as a former foster care youth striving for independence.

At the age of 16, I entered foster care and stayed until I was 18. The foster care system provided me with structure that was not available elsewhere. In foster care I received shelter, clothing and financial support. However, in my two years of foster care I lacked the knowledge and the tools of how to be a successful, individual *after* care ended.

At the age of 18, I exited the foster care program and entered the real world where I soon realized a monthly check is not sent to your house and medical care is not provided on request.

At that point int time, I found myself homeless. I was unable to find a job simply because I didn't have an address and did not know how to fill out an application for employment.

After being provided with a list of community resources I called Residential Youth Services- also known as RYS. RYS sent me information about their independent living program called LIFT.

LIFT stands for Living Independently for Tomorrow. I am now a client of Residential Youth Service's LIFT One Project.

LIFT One helps homeless youth, ages 17-21 years of age. RYS provides apartments for youth to live in and teaches us how to care for them, teaches us how to budget and helps us get along with our roommates and neighbors.

LIFT counselors helped me fill out my financial aid application for college- a goal that a short time ago, I thought was impossible! I am now proud to say that with the help of residential youth services I am attending college with *full* financial aid.

When I first entered LIFT One, I didn't have the skills or the confidence to apply for jobs. LIFT counselors taught me how to get a job and keep it. Working at RYS headquarters I learned secretarial and receptionist skills. I am not employed in a secretarial position at a collection agency full time.

Without the help of Residential Youth Services I would still be homeless without skills to live independently in my community. That is why RYS opened a program like LIFT One for foster care youth- so you don't have to become homeless to get

help.

And now, it is with great pleasure that I introduce to you a woman who shows compassion not only for all people, but particularly for the homeless, Mrs. Tipper Gore.

REMARKS BY JOHN GUTIERREZ

Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Gore, ladies and gentleman, it is an honor for me to be at the White House today to bring attention to the plight of emancipated foster youth.

I have been in foster care since I was 12 years old and have lived in group homes, foster homes and emergency shelters. Life has not been easy and I have experienced a lot of pain and suffering during the course of these years. I attended eight high schools in four years and at times, got into trouble. I never had the opportunity to establish long lasting relationships and as much as I wanted to I was not able to return to my family. Eventually, I just gave up.

When I turned 16, I was introduced to a brand new program called United Friends of Children Bridges to Independence and learned that a group of concerned citizens in Los Angeles who had been caring for abused and neglected foster children for over 20 years had started this program to help youth who emancipate from foster care at the age of 18. The Bridges to Independence program provides support, care and love to young adults as they leave foster care. Bridges, in partnership with the California Department of Children and Family Services and HUD, provides transitional housing, social workers, job training, and independent living skills to assist youth just like myself.

In fact, I was one of the first youth to enter the transitional housing program so that I would not become homeless. Today there are almost 200 foster youth living in apartments, learning basic living skills like cooking, shopping and money management - all while learning to contribute to their communities. Bridges also has a Career Center that works with us to provide job preparation and employment opportunities.

Because of the Bridges program and the unconditional support of my social worker, Ms. Belinda Gibson, I am ready to lead an independent successful life. I am attending Santa Monica Community College, working two part time jobs, and would like to work in the Entertainment Industry.

I am most proud to be at the White House today to represent the thousands of foster youth who each year find themselves without families, homes and the help that they need to create a good life for themselves. I am grateful to you Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Gore for bringing attention to this issue and ensuring that emancipated foster youth will never be forgotten. Thank you.

129 total
98 on this list

Foster Care
Independence Act of 1999

4¹⁵ pm : open doors
y 45 - 530

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS PROJECT

Universe of Players Independent Living Contacts

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- Youth Development Specialists - 3

Alumni ¹	Comments
10 TO COME	
Child Welfare Administrators / State Agency CEOs	Comments
ALL STATE INFO TO COME FROM HHS.	
15 TOTAL	
Child Advocate Organizations	Comments
25 TOTAL 26 25	

¹ Additional alumni contacts are available through most of the service provider organizations listed below.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. list	National Foster Care Awareness Project Universe of Players (partial) (1 page)	nd	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Independent Living Bill Siging 12/14/99

2012-1035-S
kc984

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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b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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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]

CUT TO 5 TOTAL WHAT TO CALL THIS GROUP Michael Pettit, Co-Director Shirley Marcus Allen, Co-Director Kathy Barbell, Director of Foster Care Robin Nixon, Director of Youth Services Karabelle Pizzigati, Director of Public Policy Elizabeth Meitner, Sr. Policy Analyst Maria Garin, Youth Development Training Coordinator Child Welfare League of America 440 First Street NW, Third Floor Washington, DC 20001 202-638-2952	NFCAP organizational member Kathy Barbell, Robin Nixon – NFCAP committee member
Marian Wright Edelman, President and CEO Mary Lee Allen Director, Child Welfare Division Children's Defense Fund 25 E Street NW Washington, DC 20001 202-628-8787	
Jim Clark, Executive Director National Independent Living Association 4203 Southpoint Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32216 904-296-1038	NFCAP organizational member
David Liederman, CEO Council on Accreditation 120 Wall Street, 11th Floor New York, N.Y. 10005 212-797-3000	Former Executive Director, CWLA
Della Hughes, Executive Director National Network for Youth 1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401 Washington, DC 20004 202-783-7949	NFCAP organizational members Rebecca Lane, NFCAP committee member
Carol Williams University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work P6/(b)(6) 215-898-2507 - W	

Karin Pittman International Youth Foundation 301-270-6250	
Terry Cross Director National Indian Child Welfare Association 3611 SW Hood Street, Suite 201 Portland, OR 97201 503-222-4044	
Tamara Copeland, President Director, Child Welfare Project National Association of Child Advocates 1522 K Street NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20005 202-289-0777	NFCAP committee member
Nan Roman, President National Alliance to End Homelessness 1518 K Street, NW Suite 206 Washington, D.C. 20005 202-638-1526	
Mary Ann Gleason, Executive Director Bob Reeg, Health Policy Analyst National Coalition for the Homeless 1012 14 th Street, NW Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20005 202-737-6444	NFCAP organizational member Bob Reeg, NFCAP committee member
Peter Goldberg President and Chief Executive Officer Alliance for Children and Families 1701 K Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20006 202-223-3447	The National Association of Homes and Services for Children recently merged with the Alliance for Children and Families.

Betsy Krebs Executive Director Youth Advocacy Center, Inc. 281 Sixth Avenue New York, NY 10014 212-675-6181	
Jennifer Klein 202-965-4234	
Joe Kroll Executive Director North American Council on Adoptable Children 970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106 St. Paul, MN 55104 651-644-3036	
Daniel Ritter Preston Gates Ellis and Rouvelas Meeds LLP Suite 500 1735 New York Avenue Washington, DC 20006 202-628-1700	
Mrs. Matilda Cuomo, Chairperson Mentoring USA 113 East 13 th Street New York, N.Y. 10003 212-253-1194	Strong advocate for inclusion of foster youth in mentoring programs.
Fred Kammer, Executive Director Sharon Daly Catholic Charities USA 1731 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703-549-1390	

Michael Piraino, Chief Executive Officer National Association of Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA) 100 West Harrison North Tower, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98199 206-270-0072	
Corporations	Comments
2 MORE TO COME STARBUCKS AND MCKAW CELLULAR 5 CORPORATIONS TOTAL	
Jim Gann Red Lobster 228 E. Duffy Norman, OK 73069 405-329-2413	Mr. Gann is leading an effort in Oklahoma and within his company to reach out to foster youth as employees.
Kevin Garvey Training Development Manager District Human Resources, Metro D.C. District United Parcel Services 14841 Sweitzer Lane Laurel, MD 20707 301-604-4548	NFCAP committee member Among the work Mr. Garvey oversees: school-to-work programming for Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC that specifically includes recruitment of youth in foster care.
Kent C. (Oz) Nelson Chief Executive Officer – Retired United Parcel Service 55 Glenlake Parkway, NE Atlanta, GA 30328 401-547-6600 (Annie E. Casey Foundation)	Mr. Nelson is Chairman of the Board of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
Education Organizations (K-12 and Higher Education)	Comments
5 ED ORGS TOTAL	

Nancy Safer Executive Director Council for Exceptional Children 1920 Association Drive Reston, VA 20191-1589 703-620-3660	
Robert Chase, President National Education Association 1201 – 16 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 202-833-4000	
Sandra Feldman President American Federation of Teachers 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 202-879-4400	
Dr. Donald Beless Executive Director Council on Social Work Education 1600 Duke St. Suite 300 Alexandria, VA 22314 703-683-8080	
David Pierce President and CEO American Association of Community Colleges One Dupont Circle, N.W. Suite 410 Washington, D.C. 20036 202-728-0200	
Entertainers	Comments
REMOVED ALL ENTERTAINMENT	
Faith-Based Organizations	Comments
2 FAITH BASED TOTAL	

Sister Mary Rose McGeady President Covenant House 346 West 17 th Street New York, NY 10011 212-727-4000	
Patricia O'Neal-Williams National One Church, One Child, Inc. 2811-2E Industrial Plaza Drive Tallahassee, FL 32301 904-488-8251	National One Church, One Child, Inc. is an initiative that informs African-American church congregations about the role other congregations and the larger community can plan in ensuring permanency for African-American children in foster care systems.
Foster Parents²	Comments
5 FOSTER PARENTS TOTAL	
Shirley Hedges President National Foster Parent Association 608 Hanson Street Madisonville, KY 42431 502-825-0097	NFCAP organizational member
Karen Jorgenson Administrator National Foster Parent Association PO Box 81 Alpha, OH 45301 800-557-5238 937-431-9377 (fax)	NFCAP committee member
3 MORE TO COME	
Foundations	Comments
23 FOUNDATIONS TOTAL	
Charles Benton, President and Chairman Benton Foundation 1634 Eye Street, NW, 12 th Floor Washington, DC 20006 202-638-5770	NFCAP committee member The Benton Foundation publishes the Kids Campaigns web site, which includes a special section on foster care and the <i>Take This Heart</i> project.

² Additional foster parent contacts are available through the National Foster Parent Association and most of the service provider organizations listed below.

Maxine Baker Stokes Executive Director Freddie Mac Foundation 8200 Jones Beach Dr. McLean, VA 22102 703-903-2214	
Julia Calhoun President Laurel Foundation 655 S. Orcas, Suite 210 Seattle, WA 98108 206-763-4900	
Ruth W. Massinga, Chief Executive Officer Richard Ford, President, Board of Trustees Gary Severson, Trustee Susan Weiss, Director of Advocacy Robin Freedman, Sr. Communications Officer The Casey Family Program 1300 Dexter Avenue N. Seattle, WA 98109 206-282-7300	NFCAP co-convener Ms. Massinga was Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources prior to Casey. She also served as a Congressional Appointee to the National Commission on Children.
Eileen McCaffrey Executive Director Orphan Foundation of America 380 Maple Avenue W. Vienna, VA 22180 703-281-4226	The Orphan Foundation of America provides college scholarships to foster care alumni.

CUT OUT 3 <i>WAIT TO CALL THIS LIST</i> Douglas W. Nelson, President Ralph Smith, Vice President Donna Stark, Senior Associate Talmira Hill, Program Associate John Mattingly, Senior Associate Stan Wellborn, Director, External Affairs The Annie E. Casey Foundation 701 St. Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21202 410-547-6600	NFCAP co-convenor
Susan Notkin, Director of Children's Programs Pam Stevens, Youth Development Program Director Edna McConnell Clark Foundation 250 Park Avenue, #900 New York, NY 10017 212-551-9100	
Christine DeVita, President DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation Two Park Avenue, 23rd Floor New York, NY 10016	The Dewitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation provides funding for youth development work to the Child Welfare League of America.
Theodore E. Lobman, President Stuart Foundation 188 The Embarcadero, Suite 420 San Francisco, CA 94105 415-495-1144	Stuart is NFCAP committee member
Lorraine Zippiroli, Director of the Children, Families, and Communities Program The David and Lucile Packard Foundation 300 Second Street, Suite 200 Los Altos, CA 94022 650-948-3696	NFCAP organizational member Lucy Salcido Carter, NFCAP committee member
Sandra Rudnick, Chairman of the Board Nancy Daly Riordan United Friends of Children 5721 West Slauson Avenue, Suite 120 Culver City, CA 90230 310-338-3646	

Joan Morgan Executive Director New Yorkers for Children 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1400 New York, NY 10036 212-899-5436	
Karen Hein, M.D., President William T. Grant Foundation 570 Lexington Avenue 18 th Floor New York, N.Y. 10022 212-752-0071	
Inca Mohamed Program Officer The Ford Foundation 320 East 43 rd Street New York, N.Y. 10017 212-573-4719	Program officer for youth development but has not traditionally funded child welfare
Ruby Takanishi , President Foundation for Child Development 345 East 46 th Street Room 700 New York, N.Y. 10017 212-697-3150	
Independent Living Coordinators / Foster Care Managers	Comments
(sending complete list of all state IL coordinators under separate cover)	
HHS TO INCLUDE IN LIST OF 15 STATE PEOPLE	
Judges / Legal Advocates	Comments
8 LEGAL TOTAL	

Howard Davidson, Director Kathi Grasso ABA Center on Children and the Law 740 – 15 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-662-1750	
The Honorable Richard Fitzgerald Chief Justice Jefferson Family Court 600 West Jefferson Street Louisville, KY 40202 502-595-4736	
The Honorable Ernestine Gray Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Section A 421 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, LA 70112 504-565-7326	Judge Gray has a strong interest in transition and independent living issues. She serves on the Board of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
Mary Mentaberry Project Director National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges PO Box 8970 Reno, NV 89507 702-784-441	
Abigail English Staff Attorney Adolescent Health Care National Center for Youth Law University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 211 N. Columbia Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514 919-968-8850	

Carol Shauffer Youth Law Center 114 Sansome Street, Suite 950 San Francisco, CA 94104 415-543-33379	
Mark Solar Executive Director 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 1020 Youth Law Center Washington, DC 20005 202-637-0377	
Media-Related	Comments
2 MEDIA TOTAL	
Judy Butler, Principal Podesta Associates 1001 G Street, NW, Suite 900E Washington, DC 20001 202-393-1010	NFCAP committee participants
Keith Hefner Youth Communications/New York Center, Inc. 224 W. 29 th Street, 2 nd Floor New York, NY 10001 212-242-3270	Youth Communications was founded in 1980 to train, inform and provide a voice to New York City teens through print journalism. They publish a magazine for youth in care entitled <i>Foster Care Youth United</i> .

Researchers	Comments
6 RESEARCHERS TOTAL	
Dr. Ronna Cook Westat, Inc. 1650 Research Blvd. Rockville, MD 20850 301-251-1500	Dr. Cook conducted an evaluation of the Title IV-E Independent Living Program between 1990 and 1991.
Dr. Richard Barth Frank A. Daniels Professor University of North Carolina School of Social Work 301 Pittsboro Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3550 919 962 6516	Dr. Barth's work in the area of child welfare is quite well-known and respected. He was formerly the director of the Child Welfare Research Center at UC-Berkeley. He conducted a study of the well-being of youth after leaving care in the San Francisco area.
Dr. Mark Courtney University of Wisconsin School of Social Work 1350 University Avenue Madison, WI 53706 608-263-3669	Dr. Courtney is currently conducting a three-phase longitudinal study of the well-being of youth who have aged out of the Wisconsin State foster care system.
Dr. Gary Mallon Associate Executive Director, NYC Program Green Chimney's Children's Services 327 E. 22 nd Street New York, NY 10010 212-677-7288 ext. 216	Associate Professor, Hunter College School of Social Work
Marty Zanghi University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service PO Box 15010 Portland, ME 04112 207-780-5852	

Dr. Anthony Maluccio Professor Boston College of Social Work McGuinn Hall Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 617-552-4042	
Resource Centers / Organizations	Comments
5 RESOURCE CTRS	
Cynthia Diehm Director National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth P.O. Box 13505 Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505 301-608-8098	
Karolyn Gould Executive Director South Bronx Human Development Organization One Fordham Plaza, Suite 900 New York, NY 10458 718-295-5501	The South Bronx Human Development Organization serves as a central independent living resource center for the City and State of New York.
Joan Morse Human Services Consultant 69-45 – 108 th Street Forest Hills, NY 11375 718-793-2356	Ms. Morse works with Dorothy Ansell on competency-based life skills assessment training. Has been involved in IL since the 70's and is currently a major support to numerous programs in NYC.
Sarah Greenblatt, Director National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning Hunter College 129 East 79 th Street New York, NY 10021 212-452-7049	

James Walker, Director Peter Correia, Associate Director National Resource Center for Youth Services 202 West 8 th Street Tulsa, OK 74119 918-585-2986	NFCAP organizational member Peter Correia and Dottie Ansell, NFCAP committee members NRCYS offers resources and support for child welfare, youth services, juvenile justice, and other professionals whose focus is youth, children and families. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life of our nation's at-risk youth and their families by improving the effectiveness of human services.
Service Providers / National Organizations	Comments
9 SVC CTRS	
Sue Cherney Executive Director Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth 1900 North West Street, Suite 105 Jackson, MS 39202 601-354-0983	
Janis Gurney, Assistant Director American Academy of Pediatrics 601 13 th Street NW Suite 400N Washington, D.C. 20005 202-347-8600	
Phillip Coltoff Executive Director The Children's Aid Society 105 E. 22 nd Street New York, NY 10010 212-949-4800	The Children's Aid Society is a leader in developing community schools in New York working in conjunction with child welfare and education systems.
Janet Knipe, Statewide Coordinator California Youth Connection 114 Sansome Street, #921 San Francisco, CA 94101 415-398-9036	NFCAP organizational member

Bob Mecum, Executive Director Lighthouse Youth Services 1527 Madison Road, 3rd Floor Cincinnati, OH 45206 513-475-5680	Lighthouse is a national leader in delivering independent living services.
Paul Gitelson Executive Vice President Jewish Child Care Association of New York 120 Wall St. New York, NY 10005 212-425-3333	
Joseph Whalen Executive Director Green Chimneys Children's Services Caller Box 719, Putnam Lake Road Brewster, NY 10509 914-279-2995	
Nan Dale, Executive Director The Children's Village 1 Dassern Drive Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 914-693-0600	

Ray Torres, Executive Director Casey Family Services 1 Corporate Drive Shelton, CT 06484 203-929-3837 203-926-0775 (fax)	NFCAP organizational member Lee Mullane, NFCAP committee member
State Legislators/Governors/ Policymakers	Comments
1 LISTED – THE REST TO COME FROM HHS	
(reflects only some suggested governors and not intended to be exhaustive)	
Sheri Steisel NCSL 444 North Capitol Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20001 202-624-5400	
THE REST WILL BE INCLUDED IN LIST OF 15 FROM HHS	
Think Tanks	Comments
3 THINK TANKS TOTAL	
Margaret Dunkle, Director, Policy Exchange Institute for Educational Leadership 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 310 Washington, DC 20036 202-822-8405	
Marion Pine Director Sar Levitan Center for Social Policy Studies Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy studies Wyman Park Bldg., 5 th Floor 3400 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21218 410-516-7169	

Revised: 11/29/99

Gary Walker President Public/Private Ventures One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street, Suite 900 Philadelphia, PA 19103 215- 557-4402	
Unions	Comments
NONE LISTED	
Youth Development Specialists	Comments
3 YOUTH DEV TOTAL	
Michele Cahill Vice President Youth Development Institute Fund for the City of New York 121 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10013 202-925-6675	Ms. Cahill was one of the founders of the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research. She later started the Youth Development Institute, which provides technical assistance, advocacy and policy development in the field of youth development.
Richard Murphy Director Center for Youth Development and Policy Research 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20009 202-884-8270	The Center is located in the Academy for Educational Development and has been a major national voice for promoting youth development as the framework for youth services. Mr. Murphy is also a foster parent and has a long history of involvement with foster care.
Miriam Rollins Director of Advocacy National Network for Youth 1317 F Street, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20004 202-783-7949	The National Network for Youth plays a major role in advocacy on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, as well as promoting youth development in all youth programs.
B-List	

ADVOCATE Alan A. Watahara, President The California Partnership for Children 1121 L Street, Suite 304 Sacramento, California 95814 916-444-7477	Leading statewide public education effort in California regarding young people transitioning out of foster care
Milton A. Gordon President California State University, Fullerton P.O. Box 34080 Fullerton, CA 92634-9480	
FNDTN Cindy Ballard Executive Director Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth 1000 Broadway, Suite 302 Kansas City, MO 64105 816-842-4246/ Austin office: 512-328-7850	
MEDIA Judy Ravitz, President Outreach Extensions 7039 Dume Drive Malibu, CA 90265 310-589-5180	Outreach Extensions designed and coordinated the <i>Take This Heart</i> public television outreach campaign.
William Waldman, Executive Director American Public Human Services Association 810 First Street, N.E. Suite 500 Washington, DC 20002 202-682-0100	
Jan Heffner The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Dublin, Ohio 614-764-3319	

Adele Douglas Director of Washington Office American Humane Association 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Suite 202 Washington, D.C. 20002 202-543-7780	
FNDTN Carol Goss Program Officer The Skilman Foundation 600 Renaissance Center, Suite 1700 Detroit, MI 48243 313-568-6360	

SUBTOTAL: 130

ADDING TO THE LIST:

10 HHS STAFF
10 LEG AFFAIRS
10 PHILIPINO

TOTAL: 167

GAO

United States General Accounting Office

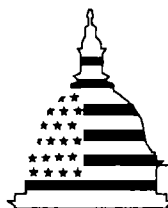
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Report to The Honorable Nancy L.
Johnson, U.S. House of Representatives

November 1999

FOSTER CARE

Effectiveness of Independent Living Services Unknown



GAO

Accountability * Integrity * Reliability



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Health, Education, and
Human Services Division

B-283530

November 5, 1999

The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives

Dear Madam Chairman:

Each year approximately 20,000 youths exit the foster care system with the expectation that they will be able to live self-sufficiently.¹ After exiting the system, many of these youths face serious problems, including homelessness, lack of employment stability, incarceration, and early pregnancy. Recently, a congressional subcommittee raised concerns in hearings that the federal Independent Living Program (ILP), designed to help foster care youths make the transition to living independently, does not give youths leaving foster care the necessary life skills to complete basic education, find and maintain employment, or otherwise live self-sufficiently after leaving care. The Congress is currently considering legislation that would double program funds and expand services for youths in foster care and those who will leave foster care.

All states provide independent living services to youths about to leave the foster care system. Because of your concerns that little is known about the level of services offered to these youths and whether the services match their needs, you asked us to (1) describe the extent of services provided under ILPs, and (2) discuss what is known about the effect of these services on youths' ability to live on their own.² In conducting this work, we reviewed relevant literature and 1998 annual ILP reports submitted by the states to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We also interviewed state and federal officials and independent living experts and visited independent living programs in four locations—Contra Costa County, California; Baltimore City and County, Maryland; New York, New York; and the San Antonio region, Texas. In addition, to obtain national information on additional services offered by state ILPs, we surveyed all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We conducted our work between January and September 1999 in accordance with generally accepted

¹When youths who have not been reunited with their families or adopted attain age 18, federal reimbursement is no longer made to states for the youths' maintenance in foster care. However, some states allow youths to remain in care, at state expense, until age 21.

²We testified on these issues in May 1999 and this report expands on that information. See Foster Care: Challenges in Helping Youths Live Independently (GAO/T-HEHS-99-121, May 13, 1999).

government auditing standards. (A more detailed discussion of our scope and methodology appears in appendix I.)

Results in Brief

States provide a wide range of services to better ensure that foster care youths are prepared to live on their own after they leave the foster care system. Those services—funded by federal, state, local, and private dollars totalling at least \$131.5 million in 1998—include assisting youths in attaining their educational goals, such as completing high school or passing the General Educational Development (GED) test and attending postsecondary schools; as well as assisting youths in finding and maintaining employment.³ In addition, youths attend classes in daily living skills, covering such topics as money management, hygiene, housekeeping, and nutrition, and receive instruction in areas that help youths interact successfully with adults, such as conflict management. Other transitional services, such as supervised practice living arrangements and after-care services, allow youths to try living on their own prior to leaving the foster care system and provide temporary assistance to ease the transition to independence. However, state and local administrators told us that their ILPs cannot always provide all of the assistance administrators and youths say is needed to help youths learn to live on their own. For example, some programs do not have fully developed links with employers to provide job leads, lack opportunities for youths to practice skills in real-life settings, and fall short on the number of supervised practice living arrangements needed for youths to become more proficient at living self-sufficiently.

Even though the federal ILP was established in 1985, few national or local studies have been completed to assess the effectiveness of independent living services in helping youths through the transition to living on their own after foster care.⁴ We identified only one national study that has been completed to date, which found that services provided by ILPs have the potential to improve outcomes for youths. In addition, although several states indicated they have completed studies that measure general youth outcomes, such as education and employment status, only a few attempted to measure the helpfulness of ILP services in youths' ability to attain self-sufficiency. While HHS is tasked with overseeing implementation of ILP, it has done little to determine program effectiveness and has no

³Some states were unable to identify the amount of additional state, local, or private funds spent on their ILPs.

⁴Although ILP was established in 1985, funds for payments to the states were not appropriated until 1987.

established method to review the states' progress in helping youths in the transition from foster care. For example, HHS primarily relies on state annual program reports for effectiveness information and has no other monitoring efforts in place. However, the content and quality of the reports vary and they contain little information on program outcomes. HHS officials told us they recognize these deficiencies and the need to improve monitoring efforts. To begin the improvement process, HHS issued a contract in September of 1998 to analyze 10 years of annual state ILP reports to determine, among other things, which states are producing good ILP reports that could be models for other states and what measures HHS can take to improve state reporting and evaluation. We are making recommendations to HHS concerning the need to enhance HHS' and states' accountability for preparing youths to live on their own.

Background

Adolescents in foster care, especially those who have been in care for a number of years, face numerous challenges in preparing to become self-sufficient adults once they leave the foster care system. Several programs help foster care youths in their transition to independent living, but only one—ILP—is specifically designed to serve this population.

The transition from the foster care system to self-sufficiency can be difficult. Research has shown that many former foster care youths have serious educational deficiencies and rely on public assistance. For example, a 1991 study of foster care youths interviewed 2.5 to 4 years after they left care found that 46 percent had not finished high school.⁵ Additionally, almost 40 percent were found to be a cost to the community through their dependence on such programs as public assistance and Medicaid. Similarly, the University of Wisconsin recently studied youths who had been out of care between 12 and 18 months, and found that 37 percent had not finished high school and 32 percent were receiving public assistance.⁶ In addition, former foster care youths often find themselves lacking adequate housing. The Westat study reported that 25 percent of the youths were homeless at least 1 night, and the University of Wisconsin study found that, after leaving care, 14 percent of the males and 10 percent of the females had been homeless at least once. Additional difficulties may further impede youths' ability to become self-sufficient. The Westat study found that 51 percent of the youths were unemployed

⁵Westat, Inc., A National Evaluation of Title IV-E Foster Care Independent Living Programs for Youth (Washington, D.C.: HHS, 1991).

⁶Mark E. Courtney and Irving Piliavin, *Foster Youth Transitions to Adulthood: Outcomes 12 to 18 Months After Leaving Out-of-Home Care* (Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin, 1998).

and 42 percent had given birth or fathered a child. Likewise, the University of Wisconsin found that 39 percent of the youths were unemployed, and that 27 percent of the males and 10 percent of the females had been incarcerated at least once.

ILP—the primary program designed to help foster care youths become self-sufficient—authorizes federal funding for states to establish and implement services to assist youths aged 16 and over in making the transition from foster care to independent living. Originally authorized in 1985 by P.L. 99-272 for a limited period, the program was reauthorized indefinitely as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-66), which also increased federal funding to the current level of \$70 million per year. A portion of the federal funds—\$45 million—is distributed to states as an entitlement based on each state's proportion of all youths receiving federal foster care maintenance payments in fiscal year 1984.⁷ States are also eligible to receive a proportional share of the remaining \$25 million in federal funds to match the funds they provide.

HHS estimates that almost 77,000 youths aged 16 to 20 were in foster care as of September 1998. While approximately 40 percent of the youths in this age range will return to their biological families, almost 20,000 adolescents per year leave the foster care system and are expected to live self-sufficiently. Eligible ILP participants include youths aged 16 and over for whom federal foster care payments are being made.⁸ At their option, states may use ILP funds for foster care youths not receiving federal assistance and former foster care youths who were in foster care after the age of 16. Likewise, states may provide services to any of these youths until the age of 21. Youth participation in ILP services is voluntary.

Other federal programs may also provide some assistance to this population, but are not designed to specifically provide services to foster care youths. For example, HHS' Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth provides funds to communities for housing and independent living services to homeless youths. A variety of other programs may also assist

⁷Under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, federal matching funds are provided to states for foster care maintenance costs. These funds cover a portion of the food, housing, and incidental expenses for foster care children from families who would have been eligible for benefits under the former Aid to Families With Dependent Children program using 1995 eligibility criteria. States are responsible for any foster care costs they incur for children not eligible for federal support.

⁸States can receive federal foster care maintenance payments for eligible children while they are in foster care family homes, private for-profit or nonprofit child care facilities, or public child care institutions. Youths become ineligible for federal foster care maintenance payments at age 18 or, at a state's option, age 19 if a child in foster care is a full-time student in a secondary school and is expected to complete the educational program prior to turning 19.

youths. For example, Job Corps, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Labor, enrolls youths aged 16 to 24 who are economically disadvantaged, in need of additional education or training, and living under disorienting conditions such as a disruptive homelife. In addition, other agencies, such as the Departments of Justice, Education, and Housing and Urban Development, have education and employment assistance programs targeted to disadvantaged and at-risk youths. Service agencies in the states may also provide assistance to youths, including educational, juvenile justice, mental health, public assistance, and substance-abuse service agencies.

The federal government provides most of the funding for ILP. In addition, HHS is responsible for assisting state child welfare systems by promoting continuous improvement in the delivery of child welfare services. In this regard, HHS central office staff are responsible for developing ILP-related policies, procedures, and regulations, and for ensuring their implementation by the states. HHS' regional office staff serve as the local ILP contacts for the states, review and approve state applications for ILP funds, and review the annual state ILP reports. Regional staff also provide technical assistance to the states and clarification on program requirements. In addition, the University of Oklahoma's National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development, under cooperative agreement with HHS, is responsible for providing ILP training and technical assistance to the states in coordination with the regional offices.

HHS issued instructions to states in December 1993 outlining allowable ILP services including education and employment assistance, instruction in daily living skills, and other support services to ease youths' transition to independent living. In addition, states must provide written transitional independent living plans based on an assessment of each youth's needs and may establish outreach programs to attract individuals eligible to participate in the program.

Multiple Services Assist Youths in Achieving Independence, but ILPs Fall Short in Key Areas

To better ensure that foster care youths are prepared to live on their own, state ILPs provide an array of services using a combination of federal, state, local, and private funds. These services include assistance with completing education and finding employment; instruction in the basic skills needed to live independently, such as money management, hygiene, housekeeping, and nutrition; and transitional services, such as supervised practice living arrangements (see appendix II). However, state and local administrators told us that their current ILPs fall short in key areas. For example, some

programs do not sufficiently seek out employment opportunities in the community and offer few opportunities for youths to participate in real-life practice opportunities or esteem-building experiences. Moreover, some programs could not provide enough housing or other transitional assistance to both youths still in care and those who have left care. To address these shortcomings, a few locations have added specialized staff and programs, such as developing partnerships with local businesses for part-time youth employment.

ILP Services Supported by Federal, State, and Other Funds

To provide ILP services, states use federal annual ILP funds of \$70 million, \$25 million in state matching funds, and additional dollars provided by a variety of sources. For example, our survey showed that 35 states reported spending additional state, local, and private funding on their ILPs totaling at least \$36.5 million (see table 1).⁹ Also, 20 states reported receiving in-kind ILP donations such as mentoring services, use of facilities for training, attorney services, drivers' education training, college scholarships, books, school supplies, clothing, computers, gift certificates, and household supplies for youths.

Table 1: Categories of Non-Federal ILP Funding

Type of funding	Range of funding among reporting states	Total funding reported
State (20 states)	\$75,000 to \$11 million	\$22.8 million
Local (7 states)	\$1,000 to \$6.5 million	\$13 million
Private (7 states)	\$1,500 to \$295,000	\$0.7 million

Because federal funds can only be used to serve youths aged 16 to 21, more than one-third of the states reported using some additional funds to provide services to some youths younger than 16. During federal fiscal year 1998, the states served a total of 2,169 youths under age 16. Our review of state annual ILP reports showed that approximately 42,680 youths aged 16 or older—only about 60 percent of all eligible youths—volunteered to receive ILP services in 1998, and officials in the states we visited noted that attracting youths to participate in the program is a challenge.¹⁰

⁹Thirty-five states reported spending additional dollars beyond the federal funds and state match, but not all of these states reported the amounts spent in each category.

¹⁰Although not all states included participation figures in their annual reports, we determined that at least 42,680 youths in 40 states received some type of independent living service during 1998.

Education and Employment Assistance Offered, but Few Pathways From Foster Care Developed

According to our review of annual state ILP reports, 41 states reported assisting youths with preparing for, or completing, education or vocational training.¹¹ Of these 41 states, 26 offered assistance, such as tutoring or remedial training, to help youths graduate from high school or receive a GED; 28 states helped youths prepare for vocational school, for instance through vocational testing or referral; and 33 states helped youths pursue postsecondary education, such as through educational planning or assessments, assistance in applying for financial aid or college admission, or campus tours.¹² Further, 21 states awarded some tuition aid or scholarships for college or vocational schools, and 20 helped pay for other educational expenses such as books, training materials, uniforms, college entrance exam fees, or college application fees.

In total, 40 states reported providing employment services to youths. Of these, 28 states assisted youths with job readiness, including instructing them in how to write resumes, how to interview for and maintain a job, and how to complete job applications; and 24 states helped youths with job search. Moreover, 18 states helped with job placement. For example, for several youths with negligible work skills, the District of Columbia contracted for job placement services that included a job coach, on-the-job assistance with work problems, transportation assistance, mentoring, and periodic group sessions.

Although all four areas we visited provided assistance with education and employment, we found that the ILPs did not provide services that fully matched foster care youths to appropriate employment pathways. For example, officials in three of the sites told us that vocational opportunities for youths were limited for several reasons. State and local coordinators in Texas indicated that few apprenticeship positions are available, while ILP coordinators in Baltimore City and New York reported a lack of vocational education programs that youths can afford and a lack of ILP funds to pay for such programs. These officials also reported that culinary arts and technology-related programs—two programs popular with foster care youths—are relatively expensive. Of the four sites we visited, only Texas

¹¹We reviewed 1998 annual state ILP reports from 45 states plus the District of Columbia. However, because no standard report format exists, states do not consistently report services offered during the previous year. We counted only those states that specifically mentioned providing a particular service either throughout, or in some portion of, the state in their 1998 report, although others may have provided the service but not included this information as part of their program description. According to an HHS ILP official, annual reports from Alaska, California, New York, South Carolina, and Wyoming were not available at the time of our review.

¹²Many of these states reported providing all the educational services mentioned.

offers statewide tuition waivers for all state-supported vocational, technical, and postsecondary schools.

Our field visits also revealed that connections between the ILP and potential employers were not thoroughly developed. For example, ILP coordinators in one location told us they did not have time to establish relationships with very many employers and that employment development efforts in their location are largely informal. State officials in California and Maryland indicated that they believe more public-private partnerships are needed to provide youths with employment opportunities. In addition, New York City officials told us that they are just beginning to devise ways to link with employers to enhance youths' job prospects. Several officials also pointed out that more staff need to be assigned to this task if it is to be accomplished.

Some locations are attempting to address these training and employment shortcomings. For instance, Maryland established a partnership between the ILP, the United Parcel Service (UPS), the Living Classroom Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This program provides employment opportunities, according to UPS officials, to expose youths to a significant and demanding first job that teaches them invaluable, transferable workplace skills. UPS supervisors work closely with youths to identify barriers and access other resources if needed (such as mentoring, counseling, or job readiness programs), and strive to instill leadership skills and develop the youths' potential. For example, the youths attend career and academic goal-setting sessions with a UPS School-to-Work Specialist. Moreover, UPS supervisors maintain close contact with youths after they have been hired to ensure their success on the job. Transportation to the work site is provided and on-site college-level classes are available, as well as opportunities to combine working for UPS with working for other area employers such as banks, grocery stores, and drug stores. UPS planned to hire 75 foster care youths during the first year of the partnership.

States Provide Assistance in Learning Daily Living Skills, but Opportunities to Practice Skills Are Lacking

In our review of annual state ILP reports, we found that 46 states report training youths in daily living skills such as money management, health and safety, nutrition, housekeeping, parenting and sexual responsibility, and interpersonal and other social skills. The four areas we visited also offer training in daily living skills. For example, in Contra Costa County, California, youths attend a series of living skills workshops that cover, among other topics, how to prepare a budget and how to open and use a

checking account. Likewise, life skills classes in the San Antonio, Texas, area meet for 8 weeks and cover core areas, including personal and interpersonal skills, health and safety, money management, and planning for the future. In New York City, life skills classes provide instruction on housekeeping, health care, interpersonal skills, food management, transportation, and family planning, among others.

Although some daily living skills are taught in a classroom setting, officials in the four states we visited stressed the importance of experiential learning, and independent living experts concurred that youths benefit from activities in which they can practice the skills learned. State and local program officials acknowledged the importance of activities that allow youths to perform—and perhaps initially fail at—daily tasks until they become proficient. According to local officials and service providers, many foster youths have learned to depend on the child welfare system for their care and thus may not have been exposed to everyday experiences other teens take for granted, such as cooking, grocery shopping, driving, or taking excursions outside their communities. To address this, Texas and California conduct a program called “Independent City”—a simulated community in which young persons are assigned an income and must apply for jobs, sign leases for apartments, arrange for utilities, open checking accounts, and buy cars.

In addition to the need to gain practical living experience, officials in three of the locations we visited reported that youths need to learn interpersonal skills, such as conflict management, communication, and decision-making. Officials report that youths who do not master these other skills may have difficulty finding and maintaining employment. To learn these skills, youths may participate in classroom-based training or in recreational events. In New York City, for example, one service provider takes youths to Broadway plays or restaurants to allow them to learn how to interact in social situations, including how to behave and how to order from a menu. After the activity, youths meet with the coordinator to discuss lessons learned. Other opportunities for youths to develop social skills, such as team-building and leadership, are provided by teen conferences, retreats, and youth advisory boards. For instance, Maryland holds an annual statewide teen conference where youths attend workshops on self-empowerment, conflict resolution, and goal achievement. Texas offers wilderness challenge and ropes courses to strengthen problem-solving and team-building abilities. Moreover, according to our review of annual reports, 22 states have youth advisory boards that work to improve policies and services affecting foster youths. The Youth Advisory Board in

Massachusetts, for example, meets with the commissioner of the social services department quarterly to express concerns and recommendations regarding agency foster care services and policies.

Further, officials in the four states we visited emphasized that youths need to be able to form and maintain relationships with others. Establishing a connection to an adult is so important, according to Texas state officials, that one goal of the state's ILP is for every young adult to have a significant adult in his or her life when he or she leaves foster care. To help youths receive this type of social support, many states use mentoring programs. According to a study of 29 child welfare programs' mentoring services, these services can take many forms: some link adult mentors to youths to assist them in making the transition from foster care to adult living, while other programs involve workplace mentoring where the employer provides jobs, monitors the work experience, and offers career development opportunities to young persons.¹³ Officials in all the locations we visited viewed mentoring programs as one method to provide youths with a vocational role model and opportunities to practice independent living skills, as well as opportunities to form connections to adults who serve as positive role models.

We found that opportunities to practice daily life tasks and to develop self-esteem were limited in some of the locations we visited. Program officials in two locations and foster care youths in three locations told us that issues such as safety regulations for group homes inhibit or prevent certain activities, such as practicing cooking. In addition, esteem-building experiences are often limited to a small number of youths. For example, local officials in Texas reported that opportunities for foster care youths to participate in postsecondary school conferences or extended outdoor activities were limited. In addition, programs offering adult mentors serve a small number of youths. For example, a foster care service provider in Texas—contracted by the state specifically to develop mentor programs—reported difficulty finding mentors.

¹³Edmund V. Mech and others, "Mentors for Adolescents in Foster Care," Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, Vol. 12, No. 4 (Aug. 1995).

Housing and Other Transitional Support Services Provide Bridges to Adulthood, but Obstacles Impede Self-Sufficiency

Transitional living arrangements allow youths to live on their own and practice becoming proficient at managing their lives while still receiving supervision and financial support. Our survey showed that more than 80 percent of the states provided transitional practice living arrangements to some youths while they are still in foster care to allow them an opportunity to experience independent living for a period of time. About 37 percent of the states offered housing to some youths after they left the foster care system. In Baltimore County, Maryland, for example, the Challengers Independent Living program seeks to provide youths with the means to cope with independence once they leave foster care. In this program, foster care youths can reside for 18 to 24 months in apartments furnished and supervised by the service provider and receive a weekly stipend to purchase clothing, food, and household supplies. They are also responsible for cleaning the apartments and doing their own laundry. Each youth's foster care payment covers the cost of rent, utilities, and administration of the program. Program staff also offer educational, vocational, clinical, and home-life support, including additional independent living skills training. Similar programs, such as the Real Solutions Transitional Living Program in San Antonio, Texas, are available to young adults who have left foster care. This privately funded program provides youths with a group living arrangement for up to 3 years, normally from ages 18 to 21, while they adjust to self-sufficiency.

Additional transitional support services provided by the states include counseling, programs for youths with special needs and disabilities, and after-care programs for youths who are no longer in the foster care system.¹⁴ Officials in the states we visited said that many youths have mental health issues that need to be addressed. Some states noted in their annual ILP reports that individual or group counseling may help address issues that act as barriers to independent living for the teen population, such as drug abuse, or may increase the youths' ability to utilize independent living skills they were taught. Thirty-one states indicated in their annual reports that they offer some type of counseling service, such as individual, group, or peer counseling. In Illinois, for example, support groups provide a forum for youths to express their feelings about being in foster care, as well as to identify issues and fears about leaving it. Seven states offered specialized programs for developmentally disabled youths and four states offered services for those with emotional or behavioral problems.

¹⁴HHS data for 1998 identified 20 percent of foster youths between the ages of 16 and 20 as having a disability.

To assist youths who have exited foster care, our survey showed that, in federal fiscal year 1998, 30 states provided formal services for a period of time after foster care, serving a total of 7,830 youths between the ages of 11 and 24. The majority of these states reported providing a full range of services, including education and employment assistance, training in daily living skills, and individual and/or group counseling. In addition, 21 states reported providing other services and assistance such as mentoring, transportation assistance, medical coverage, and clothing. Our field visits confirm that some states offer after-care services. For example, Florida reports serving former foster care youths through tuition assistance, counseling, opportunities to attend conferences and receive skills training or to serve as mentors or co-trainers, referrals to other agencies for assistance in finding a job or housing, transportation assistance, and opportunities to use the resource library.

However, we noted some concerns about these services. For example, the number of transitional living arrangements is limited. Our survey showed that 38 states served 6,320 current foster youths and 12 states served 1,787 former foster youths.¹⁵ Officials in the four areas we visited confirmed that the number of supervised transitional housing sites is very limited and that they could not provide adequate housing for both youths in care and those who have left the system. One transitional housing provider in Texas indicated that the program has space for only 6 youths, while an additional 80 to 100 youths with no place to live upon exiting foster care could benefit from this type of housing program. A transitional housing provider in a second location explained that program staff carefully screen youths for readiness to handle the responsibilities of managing their own place to live and, because of limited capacity, accept only the most promising teens into the program. In addition, some officials noted that their after-care services are limited and that they believe youths could benefit from more services than they can offer. For example, in Texas, after-care services are available for only 6 months after the youth exits care. The services consist mainly of referrals to other service agencies, visits to colleges, and a small stipend for 4 months. After-care services in Baltimore County and New York City are limited to referring the youths to other agencies that can assist them.

¹⁵According to our survey, 43 states reported providing transitional housing to current foster care youths and 19 states reported providing this service to former foster care youths in fiscal year 1998. Only 38 and 12 states, respectively, provided the number of youths served.

Information on Program Effectiveness Is Limited

Given the significant challenges that youths face in moving from foster care to adulthood, it is important to understand how effective the ILP is in better ensuring outcomes for foster care youths. However, little information is available to help in understanding the outcomes these programs achieve. HHS has not taken an active role in identifying whether state ILPs are providing services that increase youths' chances of becoming self-sufficient once they leave the foster care system or in sharing information among the states.

Few National and Local Studies on ILP Effectiveness

Few studies that address ILP effectiveness have been conducted on a national or local level. Only one national study has been completed since ILP was established in 1985. This study—conducted by Westat, Inc., with funding from HHS—found that services provided by ILPs have the potential to improve outcomes for youths. The study found that skills training in particular areas led to better outcomes (e.g., health training aided youths in gaining access to health care), although no one skill area had a consistent effect across all outcomes assessed. More comprehensive effects were achieved when youths were taught a combination of skills. Youths who received training in managing money, obtaining a credit card, and buying a car, as well as help in how to find a job and gain access to appropriate education opportunities, were more likely to keep a job for at least a year.

Two other studies are currently under way; study results are due in fall 1999. The Child Welfare League of America recently developed a state survey on independent living services to gather comprehensive information on ILP topics such as the population served, the type of foster care placement and permanency plan for these youths, fiscal information on ILP funds, ILP policies, transitional living arrangements, and model programs. In 1997, the Annie E. Casey Foundation awarded a grant to the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement at the University of Southern Maine and the National Resource Center for Youth Services at the University of Oklahoma to define the current knowledge base regarding the transition of youths out of foster care and to examine effective practices and policies which may improve opportunities for youths to become fulfilled, productive adults.

In addition, 12 states told us they had conducted follow-up studies of youths who had left foster care and 14 additional states reported they had a follow-up study under way or were planning such a study. Eight states provided a copy of completed studies; only three of these studies asked

former foster care youths about the effectiveness of independent living services they received while in care. For example, an evaluation of the Wayne County, Michigan, ILP attempted to contact former ILP participants to obtain information on their current situations.¹⁶ However, none of the former clients could be located and the study was changed to a survey of youths currently participating in an ILP or those receiving after-care services. Of the 61 youths surveyed, over 80 percent indicated that their quality of life improved after they received independent living services. Youths judged housing and health care services more effective than other services, and judged employment services among the least effective. A study of 26 youths in Nevada about 3 months after leaving foster care showed that most of the respondents believed the ILP helped prepare them to some extent for making the transition to living on their own, including preparing them to find a place to live, prepare meals, budget money, and locate community resources.¹⁷ However, 53 percent of the youths were not satisfied with their independent living services. Finally, in a 1995 North Carolina study comparing 44 ILP participants and 32 nonparticipants who left foster care between 1992 and 1995, 65 to 73 percent of the participants felt that ILP services were helpful to some extent in preparing them for independent living, although no specific area of ILP assistance stood out. Fifty-five percent of the ILP participants started living independently immediately after leaving foster care, compared to only 12 percent of nonparticipants. Similarly, 30 percent of the ILP participants were paying all their housing expenses within 1 to 3 years after leaving foster care, as compared to 19 percent of nonparticipants. According to the study, these and other housing-related findings indicate a definite, though gradual, movement toward independent living that is more pronounced for ILP participants than for nonparticipants.

We identified three additional local studies that show positive effects of ILP services and link participation in ILP with improved education, housing, and other outcomes—from Baltimore County, Harris County (Houston, Texas), and New York City. In the Baltimore County study, youths who received ILP services were more likely to complete high school, have an employment history, and be employed when they left foster care.¹⁸ In the Harris County study, the author found that graduates of the Texas ILP

¹⁶Moore & Associates, Inc., Final Report: An Evaluation of the Wayne County Independent Living Coalition, submitted to the Michigan Family Independence Agency (Sept. 1998).

¹⁷Hailu Abatena, "Independent Living Initiative Program: A Follow Up Survey Report of the Youth Released from Foster Care in Nevada in 1996" (Henderson, Nev.: Nevada Research, Evaluation, and Planning Consultants, undated).

¹⁸Maria Scannapieco and others, "Independent Living Programs: Do They Make A Difference?" Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, Vol. 12, No. 5 (Oct. 1995).

achieved full-time employment earlier and were more likely to complete high school or a GED at a younger age than youths who did not receive independent living services.¹⁹ The New York City study of independent living services provided by Green Chimneys Children's Services showed that 75 percent of the youths had completed high school or a GED, 72 percent had full-time employment when they left care, and 65 percent had savings accounts.²⁰

HHS Slow in Leading Efforts to Determine ILP Effectiveness

A 1994 HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report and a 1995 Harvard University study both recommended HHS take a stronger role in managing ILPs. However, HHS has been slow in leading efforts to determine if state ILPs improve the ability of youths leaving the foster care system to live on their own.²¹ The OIG report made two broad recommendations: (1) that HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) should restructure its ILP application and program reporting procedures to more adequately support state plans and to gain an accurate national picture of independent living efforts, and (2) that ACF should focus its management and program reporting efforts on sharing information among the states. The OIG report noted that the lack of accurate national information on independent living efforts weakens basic accountability and hinders efforts to improve programs and to determine effective practices. In addition, the Harvard study recommended that greater emphasis be placed on sharing information, with HHS' regional offices taking the lead in exchanging information among these offices and the states for which they are responsible. According to the study, only 3 of the 10 regional offices provided technical assistance to states beyond policy interpretation.

Currently, HHS has few strategies in place to review the states' progress in helping youths in the transition from foster care. HHS primarily relies on annual state ILP reports and summary statistics from these reports for information about ILP effectiveness. According to HHS staff, no additional monitoring strategies are in effect. There are two problems with relying on the annual reports to determine ILP effectiveness. First, as the OIG report noted and we confirmed during our review of annual state reports, states' approaches to program reporting and the quality of their program reports

¹⁹Jane T. Simmons, "PAL Evaluation Final Report," unpublished report submitted to Harris County (Texas) Children's Protective Services (Mar. 6, 1990).

²⁰Gerald P. Mallon, "After Care, Then Where? Outcomes of an Independent Living Program," *Child Welfare*, Vol. 77 (Jan./Feb. 1998).

²¹Office of Inspector General, "Independent Living Programs for Foster Care Youths: Strategies for Improved ACF Management and Reporting," HHS (#OEI-01-93-00090, Nov. 1994); and Kari Burrell and Valeria Perez Ferreiro, *Policy Analysis Exercise* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University, Apr. 12, 1995).

vary greatly. According to the OIG report, many state reports do not adequately address the intensity of services or the range of efforts made for youths in various placement settings. Likewise, states use various definitions of terms, which the OIG reported can result in duplicate counts and inconsistent statistics. To illustrate, the term "to be served" can mean in one state that a youth has received an assessment, while in another state it means that the youth was enrolled in a formal life skills course. Second, states are required to report certain information to HHS on the status of ILP participants 90 days after program completion—such as whether the youths are employed, have completed high school or a GED, or are living independent of public assistance. However, states inconsistently report this information and question the value of the data because they believe that 90 days may be too soon to judge youths' independence. For example, the OIG found that some states provide information on youths 90 days after discharge from foster care, while other states look at youths' status 90 days after completing the discrete ILP. Our review of 1998 annual state reports reveals that few reports address the effectiveness of services and outcomes for youths, making these reports an ineffective means of consolidating information on program effectiveness across the nation. To illustrate the difficulty in obtaining this outcome information, our nationwide survey showed that while 29 states attempt to contact ILP youths in response to the 90-day requirement, only four states reported success in contacting more than half of the former foster care youths. The majority of the states could locate only some or a few.

HHS officials told us that they recognize deficiencies in the annual state ILP reports, and that the agency needs to improve its monitoring of the program. However, because no other data currently exist with which to determine program effectiveness, HHS issued a contract in September 1998 to conduct an analysis of 10 years of annual state ILP reports so it can begin to fill the data gaps. According to project staff, this analysis represents HHS' first attempt since ILP began to summarize what states are doing with their ILP funds. Project objectives include identifying which states are producing ILP reports that could be used as models by other states, as well as what measures HHS can take to improve state reporting and evaluation.

Conclusions

The Congress has identified adolescent foster youths as an important part of the foster care population and raised questions about whether states are doing enough to prepare youths to live self-sufficiently. Unfortunately, serving the population of youths about to leave the foster care system is

difficult. Research has shown that many pitfalls are encountered by these youths once they are on their own. Information on the services foster care youths need to help them become independent is critical to the success of ILPS. However, states do not routinely receive information on what has worked best in other states and have inconsistently applied HHS regulations on following up with youths. HHS has not analyzed information from state ILPS to develop a national perspective on what services are most needed and which services are less important in preparing youths to live on their own once foster care ends. We believe HHS should take steps to build a system of reporting and monitoring tools that would provide policymakers and program officials with the necessary information to assess the effectiveness of ILPS.

Recommendations

To enhance HHS' and the states' accountability in preparing youths to live on their own after leaving the foster care system, the Secretary of HHS should develop a uniform set of data elements and a report format for state reporting on ILP so that analysis of ILP information can be conducted using consistent data and the results shared with the states; and concrete measures of effectiveness for assessing state ILPS, such as the number of youths with stable employment and housing at the time they leave foster care and at specific intervals thereafter.

Agency and Other Comments

We requested comments on this report from HHS and state ILP officials in the four states we visited. HHS, New York, and Texas provided technical comments, which we incorporated where appropriate. In addition, New York's comments mentioned the need for additional incentives to encourage youths' participation in the program. California and Maryland did not comment.

We are sending copies of this report to the Honorable Donna E. Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; state ILP coordinators; state child welfare agencies; and other interested parties. Copies will also be made available to others on request. If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please call me at (202) 512-7215. Other major contributors to this report are listed in appendix III.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cynthia M. Fagnoni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia M. Fagnoni, Director
Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues

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Abbreviations

ACF	Administration for Children and Families
GED	General Educational Development
HHS	U.S. Department Health and Human Service
ILP	Independent Living Program
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
UPS	United Parcel Service

Scope and Methodology

To identify what is currently known about the services provided by Independent Living Programs (ILP) and the effect of these services on youths' ability to live on their own, we reviewed the relevant literature on problems former foster care youths face in living independently, 1998 annual ILP reports submitted by the states to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (see appendix II)²², and studies showing the effectiveness of ILP services. We also interviewed experts on independent living services. We obtained the perspectives of representatives of the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development, the National Independent Living Association, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Casey Family Program. In addition, we interviewed officials of HHS' Children's Bureau and Family and Youth Services Bureau.

We developed a state survey to obtain national information on additional services offered by state ILPs and on additional funds spent beyond the federal dollars and required state matching funds. In April 1999, we surveyed ILP coordinators in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. We received responses from all states and the District of Columbia, and from these responses we obtained general information on (1) additional state, local, and private funds spent on ILPs, (2) the number of youths younger than age 16 served who were served and the services provided to them, (3) the extent of after-care programs, (4) the states' ability to follow up with youths after leaving care, and (5) the extent of transitional housing services. We also obtained information on outcome studies conducted by the states. We did not verify the information obtained through the survey. However, we conducted telephone interviews with state respondents to clarify answers, as needed.

To obtain information on the services offered by states to youths leaving care and the problems states face in meeting their needs, we visited independent living programs in four locations—Contra Costa County, California; Baltimore City and County, Maryland; New York City, New York; and the San Antonio region, Texas. We chose these four locations because our analysis of the literature and discussions with key independent living experts identified these localities as having ILPs that provide critical services to help youths become self-sufficient, such as postsecondary tuition waivers and well-developed employment links in the community. California and New York also have large populations of foster

²²We reviewed 45 annual state reports, plus the report from the District of Columbia. At the time of our review, reports were not available from Alaska, California, New York, South Carolina, and Wyoming. HHS subsequently received reports from Alaska, California, New York, and South Carolina, but these were received too late to be included in our analysis. Wyoming did not submit an annual report because the state did not use federal ILP funds in 1998.

care youths. In each state, we met with state ILP officials to obtain an overview of how the program is implemented throughout the state. At the local sites, we met with a variety of staff and clients, including ILP coordinators, case workers, private service providers, and current and former foster care youths. Where available, we met with youth advocacy organizations.

Figures From Our Review of Annual State Reports

Figure II.1: Specific Education Services Reported by States During 1998

States	Specific Education Services			States	Specific Education Services		
	High School or GED ^a	Vocational ^b	Postsecondary ^c		High School or GED ^a	Vocational ^b	Postsecondary ^c
Alabama	✓	✓	✓	Montana			
Alaska				Nebraska		✓	
Arizona			✓	Nevada	✓	✓	✓
Arkansas		✓	✓	New Hampshire	✓	✓	✓
California				New Jersey	✓		✓
Colorado		✓	✓	New Mexico	✓	✓	✓
Connecticut				New York			
Delaware				North Carolina		✓	✓
District of Columbia	✓	✓	✓	North Dakota		✓	
Florida	✓	✓	✓	Ohio	✓	✓	✓
Georgia	✓		✓	Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓
Hawaii	✓		✓	Oregon	✓	✓	✓
Idaho	✓	✓	✓	Pennsylvania	✓	✓	✓
Illinois	✓		✓	Rhode Island			
Indiana	✓	✓	✓	South Carolina			
Iowa		✓	✓	South Dakota	✓		
Kansas	✓	✓		Tennessee	✓	✓	✓
Kentucky	✓	✓	✓	Texas		✓	✓
Louisiana		✓		Utah			✓
Maine			✓	Vermont			
Maryland	✓			Virginia	✓	✓	✓
Massachusetts	✓	✓	✓	Washington			
Michigan			✓	West Virginia	✓	✓	✓
Minnesota	✓	✓	✓	Wisconsin	✓	✓	✓
Mississippi			✓	Wyoming			
Missouri				Totals	26	28	33

Note: Delaware and Missouri provided education services but did not specify the type of services in their 1998 annual reports.

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

^aHigh school or General Educational Development (GED) services enable participants to seek a high-school diploma or its equivalent. Tutoring is an example of such services.

^bVocational services enable youths to participate in appropriate vocational training and may include vocational testing or referral.

^cPostsecondary education services enable youths to prepare for or attend college or university. These services may include educational planning, assistance obtaining financial aid or college admission, or college testing preparation.

Source: State annual ILP reports for 1998.

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

Figure II.2: Specific Employment Services Reported by States During 1998

States	Specific Employment Services				States	Specific Employment Services			
	Job Readiness ^a	Job Search	Job Training	Job Placement		Job Readiness ^a	Job Search	Job Training	Job Placement
Alabama	✓	✓			Montana				
Alaska					Nebraska				
Arizona	✓	✓	✓		Nevada	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arkansas	✓	✓		✓	New Hampshire	✓			
California					New Jersey				✓
Colorado	✓	✓			New Mexico				
Connecticut					New York				
Delaware				✓	North Carolina				✓
District of Columbia	✓	✓		✓	North Dakota	✓			
Florida	✓	✓		✓	Ohio	✓	✓	✓	✓
Georgia	✓	✓			Oklahoma	✓	✓		
Hawaii					Oregon	✓	✓		✓
Idaho			✓		Pennsylvania	✓			✓
Illinois	✓			✓	Rhode Island				
Indiana	✓	✓			South Carolina				
Iowa		✓			South Dakota	✓	✓		
Kansas	✓	✓			Tennessee	✓	✓		
Kentucky	✓	✓			Texas	✓	✓		
Louisiana					Utah		✓	✓	
Maine					Vermont				
Maryland	✓	✓	✓	✓	Virginia	✓			✓
Massachusetts	✓	✓		✓	Washington	✓			
Michigan	✓		✓	✓	West Virginia	✓			
Minnesota			✓	✓	Wisconsin		✓	✓	✓
Mississippi	✓	✓		✓	Wyoming				
Missouri		✓			Totals	28	25	9	18

Note: Louisiana, Nebraska, and Vermont provided employment services, but did not specify which services.

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

^aJob readiness services can include information on how to prepare for a job, such as how to prepare a resume or complete job applications, or how to maintain employment.

Source: State annual ILP reports for 1998.

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

Figure II.3: Specific Daily Living Skills Training Reported by States During 1998

States	Specific Daily Living Skills Training							States	Specific Daily Living Skills Training						
	Money Management ^a	Health and Safety ^b	Locating and Maintaining Housing	Food and Nutrition ^c	Community Resources ^d	Career Planning	Social Skills ^e		Money Management ^a	Health and Safety ^b	Locating and Maintaining Housing	Food and Nutrition ^c	Community Resources ^d	Career Planning	Social Skills ^e
Alabama	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Montana ^f							
Alaska								Nebraska	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Arizona		✓	✓		✓	✓		Nevada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arkansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	New Hampshire		✓				✓	✓
California								New Jersey			✓		✓		✓
Colorado	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	New Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Connecticut		✓		✓			✓	New York							
Delaware							✓	North Carolina		✓	✓		✓		
District of Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	North Dakota	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Florida	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Ohio	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Georgia	✓	✓				✓	✓	Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Hawaii						✓		Oregon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Idaho	✓	✓	✓			✓		Pennsylvania			✓				
Illinois	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Rhode Island	✓		✓			✓	
Indiana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	South Carolina							
Iowa	✓		✓					South Dakota	✓				✓	✓	✓
Kansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Tennessee	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Kentucky	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Texas	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Louisiana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Utah	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Maine	✓				✓	✓	✓	Vermont	✓		✓			✓	✓
Maryland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Virginia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Massachusetts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Washington	✓	✓		✓			✓
Michigan		✓			✓			West Virginia		✓				✓	✓
Minnesota	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Wisconsin	✓				✓		✓
Mississippi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Wyoming							
Missouri		✓					✓	Totals	34	34	33	21	29	22	37

^aMoney management can include instruction in budgeting or opening a bank or credit card account.

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

^bHealth and safety can include information about substance abuse, hygiene, parenting, first aid, and leisure.

^cFood and nutrition can include information about how to shop for groceries or prepare and cook food.

^dCommunity resources can include information about access to resources such as medical care, legal services, transportation, and recreation.

^eSocial skills can include activities to improve self-esteem, interpersonal relationships, problem-solving, leadership, and sexual responsibility.

^fMontana reported providing daily living skills but did not identify specific training offered.

Source: State annual ILP reports for 1998.

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

Figure II.4: Specific Financial Assistance Provided by States During 1998

States	Specific Financial Assistance					States	Specific Financial Assistance				
	Stipends, Incentives ^a	Education Tuition ^b	Other Education Expenses ^c	Transportation Expenses ^d	Start-Up Assistance Items ^e		Stipends, Incentives ^a	Education Tuition ^b	Other Education Expenses ^c	Transportation Expenses ^d	Start-Up Assistance Items ^e
Alabama	✓					Montana	✓	✓		✓	✓
Alaska						Nebraska				✓	✓
Arizona	✓				✓	Nevada		✓	✓		✓
Arkansas		✓	✓	✓	✓	New Hampshire	✓			✓	
California						New Jersey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colorado		✓				New Mexico					
Connecticut	✓					New York					
Delaware						North Carolina		✓			
District of Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	North Dakota	✓			✓	✓
Florida	✓	✓	✓		✓	Ohio			✓	✓	
Georgia		✓	✓			Oklahoma		✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawaii						Oregon			✓		
Idaho		✓		✓		Pennsylvania	✓	✓			
Illinois	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Rhode Island	✓		✓		✓
Indiana			✓			South Carolina					
Iowa						South Dakota		✓	✓		✓
Kansas		✓			✓	Tennessee	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kentucky	✓					Texas	✓	✓			✓
Louisiana	✓			✓	✓	Utah				✓	
Maine		✓	✓			Vermont					
Maryland				✓	✓	Virginia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Massachusetts	✓		✓		✓	Washington				✓	✓
Michigan				✓	✓	West Virginia	✓		✓	✓	✓
Minnesota	✓			✓	✓	Wisconsin	✓	✓			✓
Mississippi	✓		✓		✓	Wyoming					
Missouri	✓	✓	✓		✓	Totals	23	21	20	20	26

Appendix II
Figures From Our Review of Annual State
Reports

^aFinancial incentives or stipends can include incentives for completing training or units of training in daily living skills.

^bThese services include tuition waivers or scholarships.

^cThese services include books, training materials, uniforms, college exam fees, and college application fees.

^dThese expenses can include fares for buses, trains, or airplanes; or gas for youths' automobiles.

^eStart-up assistance includes items such as utility deposits or household items (e.g., furniture, dishes, and linens).

Source: State annual ILP reports for 1998.

GAO Contacts and Staff Acknowledgments

GAO Contacts

David D. Bellis, Assistant Director, (202) 512-7278
Diana M. Pietrowiak, Evaluator-in-Charge, (202) 512-6239

Staff Acknowledgments

Ellen Soltow, Suzanne Sterling, Jay Smale, and Joel Grossman also made important contributions to this report.

Related GAO Products

Youth Mentoring Programs: Fiscal Year 1998 (GAO/HEHS-99-129R, May 28, 1999).

Foster Care: Challenges in Helping Youths Live Independently
(GAO/T-HEHS-99-121, May 13, 1999).

Foster Care: Increases in Adoption Rates (GAO/HEHS-99-114R, Apr. 20, 1999).

Juvenile Courts: Reforms Aim to Better Serve Maltreated Children
(GAO/HEHS-99-13, Jan. 11, 1999).

Child Welfare: Early Experiences Implementing a Managed Care Approach
(GAO/HEHS-99-8, Oct. 21, 1998).

Foster Care: Agencies Face Challenges Securing Stable Homes for Children of Substance Abusers (GAO/HEHS-98-182, Sept. 30, 1998).

Foster Care: Implementation of the Multiethnic Placement Act Poses Difficult Challenges (GAO/HEHS-98-204, Sept. 14, 1998).

Child Protective Services: Complex Challenges Require New Strategies
(GAO/HEHS-97-115, July 21, 1997).

Foster Care: State Efforts to Improve the Permanency Planning Process Show Some Promise (GAO/HEHS-97-73, May 7, 1997).

Child Welfare: Complex Needs Strain Capacity to Provide Services
(GAO/HEHS-95-208, Sept. 26, 1995).

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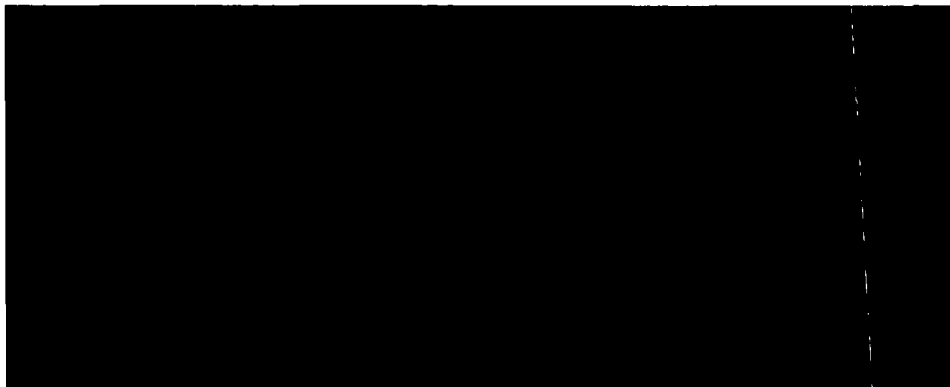
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file Independent
Living

Bill Would Help Older Foster Kids

By CURT ANDERSON AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Thousands of foster children who turn 18 would get job training, education benefits and counseling in how to live independently, under legislation approved Wednesday by the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill, which has bipartisan support in Congress and is backed by President Clinton, would double current federal grants to states for foster programs to a total of \$140 million a year to help former foster children make the transition into adulthood.

"These young people must face the difficult, often scary demands of becoming an adult ... all on their own without the safety net provided by a family," said Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., the main GOP sponsor.

"The government is the parents," said Rep. Ben Cardin, D-Md. "How many parents cut off all support to their children when they reach 18?"

The bill, which moves to the full House after the committee's voice vote approval, would help an estimated 20,000 people who leave the foster system each year, according to the Clinton administration. They would be eligible for the aid until age 21.

"I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that these young people have the tools they need to make the most of their lives," Clinton said in written statement.

Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark, D-Calif., wanted to make the former foster children eligible for mandatory coverage under Medicaid, the state-federal health insurance program, at a cost of \$400 million over five years.

But an amendment by Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, made the coverage strictly optional for the states. Archer noted that Stark's proposal was not paid for and that states opposed the move as an unwarranted federal mandate on them.

Even using the optional Medicaid coverage, Johnson said states

project coverage for about half the young people leaving the foster system.

The bill is fully paid for by a variety of financing mechanisms, one of which is also drawing some opposition. The bill would eliminate a law requiring that the federal government provide as much funding to states for child support collection programs as they did in 1995.

Rep. Jerry Kleczka, D-Wis., said this would ``penalize" many states, but he agreed to withdraw his amendment to restore the law after bill sponsors said it would cost too much at some \$60 million a year.

The measure would do two other things:

--Allow Filipinos who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II and now live in the Philippines to receive Supplemental Security Income equal to 75 percent of what they would get if they lived in the United States. To qualify, the veteran had to be serving in the armed forces before Dec. 31, 1946.

--Ensure that Indian tribes are consulted by states about the particular needs of their foster children for the expanded programs and allow them to spend unobligated welfare funds without approval by states. -----

The bill is H.R. 1802.

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Question: What are the implications of the “Petition for Rulemaking” the law offices of Covington and Burling recently filed on behalf of the City of New York. The City is requesting through the petition that USDA repeal food stamp rules that its administration feels are inconsistent with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).

Answer: The Department has a long-standing procedure which allows anyone to petition for the issuance, amendment or repeal of a rule [7 CFR 1.28]. FNS has already responded to New York City’s interpretation of the law through the April 6, 1999 formal warning that transmitted the findings of the review of the City’s operation of the Food Stamp Program in its Job Opportunity Centers. In both the advance notice and formal warning process, FNS fully considered the impact of PRWORA on the current regulations. We are convinced that, despite the PRWORA amendments, the current regulations are firmly grounded in the law.

We will respond promptly to the City’s petition. The issues raised in the petition are being addressed in a notice of proposed rulemaking currently in clearance. Moreover, we are continuing to work with the New York State agency to resolve program access issues in the City.

Catholic Charities USASM
1731 King St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314
Voice (703) 549-1390
Fax (703) 549-1656
[http:// www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org)



Fax

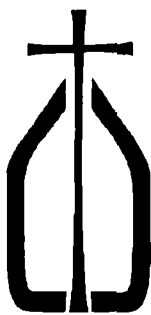
To:	Ms. Melanne Verveer	From:	Seth Turner
Fax:	2024566244	Pages:	2
Phone:		Date:	Wednesday, November 10, 1999
Re:			

● Comments

N. call
for 1

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Catholic Charities USA is the nation's largest, private network of social service organizations. Some 1,400 agencies and institutions, as well as concerned individuals, who aim to reduce poverty, support families and empower communities in the United States.



Catholic
Charities
USA

file Independent
Living

November 10, 1999

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
U.S. Senate
702 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

On behalf of Catholic Charities USA and its 1400 independent agencies, I urge you to support efforts to pass the Foster Care Independence Act before the Senate adjourns for the year.

This critically important legislation would double the amount of funding to help children who have grown up in foster homes to prepare for the responsibilities of adulthood. The bill would also allow states the option of continuing Medicaid coverage for former foster children until they reach the age of 21.

While Senate Bill S.1327 has certain advantages, it may not be possible to get to the Senate floor this week. Therefore it makes sense for the Senate to accept the House—passed bill which is eminently worthy of your support.

Episcopal Liaison
The Most Reverend
Joseph M. Sullivan, DD

Chair
Mr. Patrick J. Johnson, Jr.

Vice Chair
Ms. Kathleen J. McGowan

Secretary
Ms. Barbara A. Bacon

Treasurer
Mr. Larry Blankinship, Jr.

President
Rev. Fred Kammer, SJ

Please do not make these teenagers, who have waited so long in foster care, have to wait any longer for the health care and counseling they need so desperately.

Sincerely,

Sharon Daly
Vice President for Social Policy

1731 King
Street
Suite 200 •
Alexandria
Virginia
22314 •
Phone
(703) 549-1390
Fax:
(703) 549-1656