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**Child Care
BUSINESS™**

September 22, 2000

Alissa Muscatine
First Lady's Press

Dear Alissa:

As Managing Editor of *Child Care Business* magazine, please consider my request for an interview with First Lady Hillary Clinton, to be featured in the magazine's **December 2000 issue**. Each issue, *Child Care Business* reaches 30,000 owners, directors and administrators of licensed child care centers nationwide. It is a well-respected publication that focuses on all issues—be it political, financial or technological—that affect the licensed child care field. The magazine is an unbiased and politically unaffiliated publication. We present as much information as we can on varying issues, and allow our readers to form their own opinions.

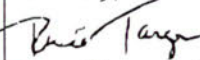
Ideally, I would like feature an interview with the First Lady and have her grace the cover of our December issue as well. The feature article could also include information from existing materials you have on hand as well.

Following is an example of the primary areas we would want to touch on in the feature:

- Why child care became such an important issue to the First Lady and what prompted her to bring child care into the political spotlight.
- Highlights of her child care-related accomplishments over the past several years, through the organizations she has developed and those she has chosen to assist.
- Her predictions on the extent of government involvement in child care and how she feels the government should or should not be involved in child care.
- How she sees her future involvement in child care, particularly in her potential role as New York State Senator.

My goal is to have the needed information for the feature and the photo that will grace our cover by October 13. This will give me time to finalize everything for our October 20 print date. Please let me know at your earliest convenience if I have been granted a phone interview, or if I can have these questions answered in some way. Obviously, if I can have a phone interview with her, I will conduct it at her date/time convenience.

Sincerely,



Renee Targos, Managing Editor
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The Magazine for Successful Child Care Centers

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 Head Shot
 on cover

Child Care BUSINESS™

The Magazine for Successful Child Care Centers

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Date: 9/22/00
Pages including this
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Comments:

I have sent to you a copy of our magazine and some further information. Please expect the magazine on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 26. Thanks.

Take care,
Renee Targos, Managing Editor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS OFFICE

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TO: Renee Largas
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DATE: 9/28 TIME: 2:30 pm
PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 4

FROM: Gayleen Akumer

COMMENTS:

Here is some information that
might be helpful.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE QUALITY CHILD CARE

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has served as the Administration's most prominent voice on behalf of children and working parents. As an advocate for families for nearly 30 years -- and having been a working parent herself -- she knows the importance of affordable, quality child care to working families. Mrs. Clinton's vocal leadership has led to a more than doubling of child care funding over the past seven years, the participation of hundreds of thousands of children in enriching and safe after-school opportunities, and a better understanding by the nation's businesses that good child care makes economic sense. Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, one of the Senate's greatest advocates for children, once said of Mrs. Clinton's leadership on behalf of children's programs: "I don't call the President, I don't call the Office of Management and Budget, I don't call the chief of staff, I call the First Lady."

The First Lady began her work on children's issues during her first year at Yale Law School. After reading an article in Time magazine about child advocate Marian Wright Edelman and her lobbying group, the Washington Research Project (which later evolved into the Children's Defense Fund), Mrs. Clinton contacted Edelman and secured an internship with the organization for the summer. After finishing law school, Mrs. Clinton spent an additional year at Yale studying children's development and laws that affect children at the Yale Child Development Center. Her experience in these early years would set the stage for a lifelong commitment to a wide range of children and family issues, including the importance of quality child care both to working families and for the healthy development of children.

While First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton served as chair of the board of directors for the Children's Defense Fund and on the board of directors for the Child Care Action Campaign in New York, and worked closely with the Carnegie Council on Children. Through each of these efforts, Mrs. Clinton helped raise awareness of the need for quality child care in the country, particularly as the percentage of women in the workforce continued to climb. She also founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, served as president of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund Program, and established the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters in the state.

These professional experiences helped lay the groundwork for Mrs. Clinton's child care accomplishments as First Lady of the United States, but no lesson taught her more about the issue than being a working mother. While she was fortunate to enjoy more options for child care than many other parents, as a working mother juggling her law practice, her duties as First Lady of Arkansas and caring for a young child, her child care arrangements occasionally broke down. At those times, she relied on friends and neighbors, but was always struck by the difficulties so many women face in finding reliable, quality care for their children.

In 1989, while serving as the board chair for the Children's Defense Fund, Mrs. Clinton traveled to France as part of a study group to draw possible lessons for the American child care system.

France places a top priority on preparing children for school and life by ensuring that all children between 3-5 years old can attend free or inexpensive pre-schools and by preparing early childhood educators to help children develop critical social and cognitive skills. The trip highlighted for Mrs. Clinton the fundamental importance of affordable, high-quality child care to the health of the larger community.

After becoming First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Clinton redoubled her efforts to improve the nation's child care system for parents and their kids. She helped shape the President's first budget, which called for greater investments in pre-school with significantly more funding for Head Start. In 1994, Mrs. Clinton worked to promote the U.S. Department of Labor's "Working Women Count" survey, which revealed that working women's top concerns were integrating their work and family lives and finding and paying for decent child care. That same year, the Carnegie Council on Children released their seminal report, "Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children." Mrs. Clinton had long supported the work of the Carnegie task force that developed the report. In 1994, she joined the council to release the study's findings, which documented many of her concerns about the lack of adequate care in the United States.

Throughout 1995, Mrs. Clinton traveled the country learning about the struggles working families face in finding quality child care for their children. The experience would make her profoundly aware of the importance of child care to a successful transition from welfare to work. In numerous speeches that spring to organizations such as the Child Welfare League of America, the First Lady urged Congress to provide families moving from welfare to work with the safety net of job training, job placements, Medicaid benefits, Food Stamps, and child care. She would become one of the Administration's most effective advocates speaking publicly and behind the scenes to ensure that provisions for child care were included in the welfare reform bill that was signed into law in 1996.

During this same period, Mrs. Clinton completed work on her book, *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, which was published in 1996. She wrote extensively about her experiences working on behalf of children and families, current research on children's development, and examples of the types of programs that help children grow into productive and healthy adults. She has donated all proceeds from her book to hundreds of organizations that work directly to support the growth and development of children and youth.

In 1997, the First Lady began organizing the first-ever White House Conference on Child Care by continuing her research and holding numerous meetings with child care experts and advocacy groups to gather ideas. She also resumed her travels to explore how the private sector and the military were dealing with the challenges of child care, and she visited the University of Maryland and gave a major address on the issue. The White House conference, held in October of that year, incorporated many of the themes the First Lady had explored in her travels and in her many meetings with working parents. At the conference, the President and First Lady announced a series of initiatives, including: the creation of a child care working group to explore the role that businesses should play in providing child care; new outreach efforts to child care workers to help improve their education and training; a "National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact," to help states share criminal history information about child care workers; and a manual to guide local communities in improving afterschool care.

In the 1998 State of the Union address and Administration budget, the President rolled out a major child care initiative that was crafted with significant input from the First Lady. The initiative aimed to increase investments in child care and Head Start, expand afterschool opportunities, increase child care research, give parents better tools to find quality care in their communities and identify strategies to boost the caliber of care. The First Lady worked tirelessly to promote the landmark initiative, launching public service announcements on Lifetime Television; touring some of the area's most successful child care facilities; and hosting panel discussions with working families around the country. Her staff also worked with key aides on Capitol Hill to build congressional support for the proposal. Legislation developed by the House Democratic Caucus on Child Care, unveiled that spring, incorporated many elements of the Administration initiative.

In 1999, Mrs. Clinton joined the President and the Gores on a "Family Agenda" tour where she spoke on the issues of balancing family and work, improving child care, and improving support for long-term care givers. Later that spring, Mrs. Clinton visited "Just Us Kids" child care center in the nation's capital where she announced a study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on how to identify and correct hidden hazards that exist in child care centers. She also launched Lifetime's "Caring for Kids" child care campaign. Both of these efforts were aimed at empowering parents with vital information on child care.

Throughout 2000, the First Lady has continued to champion a broad range of improvements to child care, holding key meetings, hosting events, writing nationally syndicated columns and making speeches. She has continued to focus on the expansion of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, tax breaks for businesses that offer child care, support for the Early Learning Fund and the "Early Learning Opportunities Act" a proposal to improve the quality of child care, and calling attention to the link between investments in child care and reduced crime.

Mrs. Clinton's efforts over the past 8 years have left an indelible imprint on our nation's child care system. This year, Congress is expected to approve the President's request for \$2 billion in child care subsidies to serve 2.2 million children; funding for Head Start has doubled since 1993; the Head Start after-school program has served 850,000 children and is expected to grow in the next year; and in 1999, the White House secured \$10 million in the budget for research on child care. In addition, the First Lady was instrumental in the creation of an interagency task force to better coordinate afterschool resources; the launch of afterschool.gov as an information resource on after-school funds and best practices; the establishment of a national hotline for parents on child care information; the development of more effective ways to protect our children in child care by improving background checks on child care workers.
